

APPENDIX 6 – SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 It is clear from all baseline analysis and consultation to date that Wirral Waters must help to create sustainable neighbourhoods and communities within Inner Wirral. This paper, by Regeneris Consulting, with input from Turley Associates, sets out the baseline position from which Wirral Waters will need to move forward towards creating sustainable communities supported by the right social and economic infrastructure.
- 1.2 In this first section, a comprehensive definition of a *sustainable community* is provided. This shows the range of conditions and attributes that will need to be developed in Inner Wirral over the longer term if truly sustainable communities and neighbourhoods are to be created and maintained. It is clear that a broad coalition of residents, public agencies, private sector firms and voluntary sector bodies will need to work together in order to create the conditions required. This process has already begun to respond to Wirral Waters through the partnership working and engagement that has been evident in the past 18 months.
- 1.3 This paper focuses on the development of the social and community infrastructure (facilities and services) required in order to meet the needs and improve the lives of residents and other users of the Wirral Waters site and Inner Wirral more widely. It

seeks, as far as possible, to establish a baseline position, helping partners to understand where gaps or shortfalls in the quantity and quality of social and community infrastructure required to properly serve the needs of current and future residents of sustainable communities in inner Wirral.

- 1.4 In light of these gaps and shortfalls, this paper – which forms part of a revised *Baseline Study* (Stage 2 in the SRF) – also begins to identify actions and proposals which may be taken forward by a range of partners through the SRF and supporting documents in order to trigger and deliver the scale and quality of change required to achieve sustainable communities. Further work is required, and is currently underway, to identify, explore and understand the scale and quality of change required.
- 1.5 Whilst this paper focuses on social and community infrastructure, other work commissioned as part of the development of the SRF is examining other dimensions of the sustainable community (for example, developing a strong local economy in which all can share, developing good public and other transport infrastructure).
- Sustainable Communities**
- 1.6 The development of sustainable communities is the most important social and economic development and regeneration challenge today. Creating sustainable communities in Inner Wirral, as elsewhere in the UK, will require the combination of a range of different, but complementary, factors. The development of appropriate social and community infrastructure to meet the needs of existing and future residents will play an important role in this. It is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the development of truly sustainable communities.

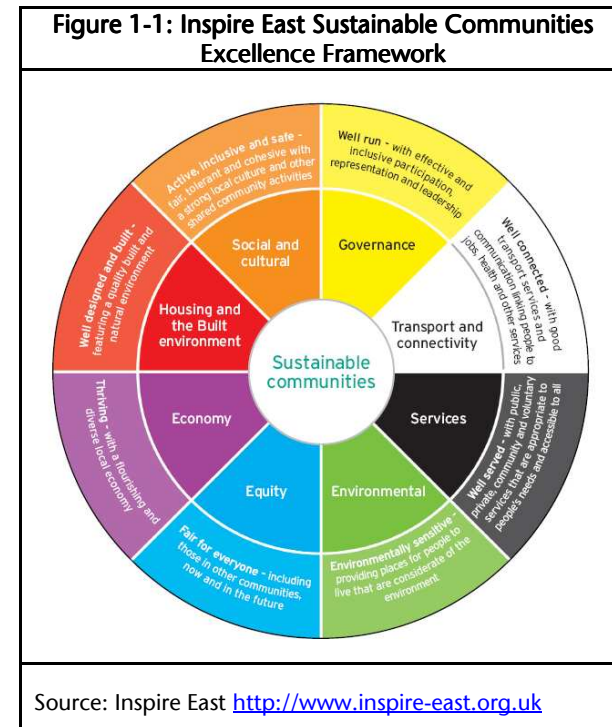
- 1.7 In working towards the development of sustainable communities at Wirral Waters, and Inner Wirral more widely, is it clearly important to understand at the outset what is meant by *sustainable communities*. A number of researchers, policy makers and practitioners have developed definitions. However, one of the most useful and accepted is the framework developed by Inspire East¹. This sustainable communities' framework has been endorsed by a number of key organisations, including English Partnerships and the Urban Design Alliance. In our view, it encapsulates almost all of the key ingredients required to develop and maintain a sustainable community.
- 1.8 The Framework is based upon eight components, which include both physical infrastructure and *softer* networks of service provision:
- Social and Cultural – active, inclusive and fair communities
 - Governance – well run communities
 - Transport and Connectivity – well connected communities
 - Services – well served communities with a range of public, private and voluntary/community services
 - Environmental – communities which are considerate of the environment in which they are located
 - Equity – communities which are fair to all, now and in the future
 - Economy – communities with thriving local economies

¹ Inspire East is the regional centre of excellence for sustainable communities in the East of England. They champion the creation of high quality places to live, work and visit, and have developed the sustainable communities Excellence Framework - <http://www.inspire-east.org.uk>

- Housing and the Built Environment – well built and designed communities.

- 1.9 Although the eight categories could be considered rather broad, the framework is also intended to be used flexibly, with local circumstances determining short and long term priorities. Thus over the longer-term it will be important that partners engaged in the development of Wirral Waters consider all of the above factors in order to create sustainable communities.
- 1.10 A focus on understanding the need for appropriate levels and quality of social and community infrastructure (which cuts across a number of the eight categories) at an early stage in the development process is important, ensuring that the development of sustainable communities lies at the heart of this development scheme. At this stage we have focused greatest attention on understanding the implications of development at Wirral Waters on **key social and community services and the facilities (or physical infrastructure) in which they are provided.**

- 1.11 Those elements of social and community provision which are typically delivered through referral to specialist services operating over a relatively wide geographical area, or else typically delivered on a peripatetic basis (for example, with specialist staff travelling out to a range of existing health and community centres across a wide area) are more difficult to map, and the benefits of doing so at this stage in the development of Wirral Waters are more limited. Of course, where there is a need to locate specialist facilities in Inner Wirral in order to be most accessible to areas of greatest need for them, it will be important to identify and understand this.
- 1.12 Although increases in the need for these more specialist or peripatetic services may help to trigger demand for new or improved facilities in Inner Wirral, we have sought to address this through discussions with key funding and management agencies who are able to take a rounded view of the current and future demands on their facilities in light of ongoing trends in the way in which services are delivered rather than by seeking to map and assess what are essentially revenue-funded activities. We identify and discuss the possible impact of these key trends throughout this report (for example, the increasing delivery of traditionally acute hospital-based health services in community settings), drawing upon a review of strategic guidance and discussions with key local agencies.
- 1.13 As revenue-funded activities, supply of more peripatetic services (such as probation services or healthcare outreach) can be relatively



responsive to increased demand², reducing the need to plan for them at an early stage. However, looking forwards it will be important to work closely with service providers and funding bodies in order to develop this more detailed understanding of and to plan for the impact of development at Wirral Waters.

² Capacity constraints are more likely to derive from difficulties in recruiting qualified staff rather than providing physical settings in which increased demand can be met.

Wirral Waters – An Overview

- 1.14 Wirral Waters is one of the largest development proposals in the United Kingdom. For Wirral and the Liverpool City Region it offers an unprecedented opportunity to establish a major new investment destination, exploiting a historic riverside site in order to reposition the sub-region in national and international investment markets. Although the parameters of the scheme are the subject of further development through the preparation of the Strategic Regeneration Framework, the Initial Vision of September 2006 demonstrated both the scale of ambition and the major economic impact the scheme will have. The Initial Vision set out the long term development of Wirral Waters (over 30-40 years), with the scheme providing a forecast:
- 15,000 units of residential development;
 - 577,000 m² of commercial development (including 450,000 m² of office accommodation);
 - A major programme of investment in public realm in order to create a distinctive and high quality riverside residential, commercial and leisure environment.
- 1.15 Commercial and residential development of this scale will have profound socio-economic impacts both locally and regionally, helping to accelerate the growth, restructuring and modernisation of local and regional economies. They will help to attract and sustain investment from businesses in new and higher value added sectors and to attract and retain a diverse and highly skilled population within the inner-core area of the Liverpool City Region.
- 1.16 Clearly, population growth on the scale envisaged will also have a long-term impact on both the volume and nature of the demands

placed upon the community and social infrastructure of the Wirral. Over time, this may result in the need for additional infrastructure and services (including infrastructure and services which are qualitatively different from those provided today) in order to promote the development of truly integrated and sustainable neighbourhoods.

The Aims of this Paper

- 1.17 Large scale developments of this nature often raise a number of concerns which will need to be addressed through the development and implementation of the Strategic Regeneration Framework. These include:
- The potential danger of major private sector investment occurring within an area without sufficient investment in local physical, social and community infrastructure to support it. This can place undue burdens on this existing infrastructure, reducing the quality of provision available for both new and existing residents and in some cases resulting in the development of communities which are isolated and/or poorly integrated with the surrounding areas.
 - The need to seek opportunities for ‘value capture’, ensuring that the uplift in capital values associated with planning permission and public infrastructure provision is used to contribute to the costs of bringing forward the community and social infrastructure required for truly sustainable and integrated communities to develop.
 - The need for a strategic review of the social and community infrastructure requirements associated with development, moving towards an assessment of the roles and responsibilities of private and public sector partners (the

latter in particular being a major and long-term consideration).

- The need to address potential social inclusion issues which could arise from the development of the scheme. It is important that the opportunities which may develop from the Wirral Waters scheme are as accessible to the widest audience possible, including new residents as well as existing residents who live in close proximity to the development site (in neighbourhoods which are amongst the most deprived nationally).

1.18 This paper therefore seeks to:

- Understand the nature of the existing social and community provision within the area covered by the Wirral Waters proposals, including an assessment of the adequacy of supply, taking into account the following factors:
 - Accessibility – the extent to which provision is readily accessible for current and future residents.
 - Usage – the extent to which there is currently a deficit or surfeit of capacity.
 - Quality – assessing the quality of provision currently available.
- Identify the key drivers which will determine the future demand and supply of community and social infrastructure (in the absence of development at Wirral Waters).
- Identify the issues that will need to be considered in developing social and community infrastructure which is able to meet the needs of local residents as the Wirral Waters scheme is developed and the size and composition of the population grows.

1.19 It is therefore an important piece of work which needs to be undertaken in order to support the development of the other strands of the Strategic Regeneration Framework. It should provide a useful baseline analysis of social and community infrastructure provision in Wirral and provide a description of the complex issues that will need to be addressed as Wirral Waters is taken forward. At this stage in our reporting, it will not be possible to arrive at quantified estimates of the impact upon and need for additional infrastructure provision, although in some cases we are able to provide a qualitative assessment or characterisation of probable impact.

1.20 Further information, dialogue and analysis will be required in order to explore these issues more fully, including:

- Further development of the vision and development strategy for Wirral Waters
- Detailed work on the probable phasing of residential development at Wirral Waters – to be undertaken by the Wirral Waters team.
- Population modelling in order to provide estimates of the growth in population and the demographic profile of new residents
- An analysis of projected demands on different components of the area’s social and community infrastructure, including iterative discussions with funding and delivery agencies in order to understand how they intend to serve both existing and projected additional demand. This will need to inform an ongoing assessment, not only of how additional needs driven solely by increased numbers of service users (residents and workers in and around Wirral Waters) will be met, but also how service providers might pursue

opportunities to secure improvements in the quality of services, and the settings in which they are provided, in order to support and complement the wider transformation of Inner Wirral and the Wirral Waters area in particular.

1.21 The remaining chapters of this report are structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2 - Social & Community Infrastructure:** An overview of our approach to mapping social & community infrastructure serving the neighbourhoods in and around Wirral Waters
- **Chapter 4 - Education & Learning:** A structured review of existing demand for and supply of nursery education and childcare, primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form education, and higher, further and adult education.
- **Chapter 5 - Health & Social Care:** A structured review of existing demand for and supply of primary care, intermediate care and acute care facilities.
- **Chapter 6 – Community Recreation & Leisure:** A structured review of existing demand for and supply of sports facilities, libraries, places of worship, and green space.
- **Chapter 7 – Key Services:** A structured review of existing demand for and supply of key and emergency services.
- **Chapter 8 – Towards an Understanding of the Impact of Wirral Waters:** Looking across each of the above *themes*, we pull together the key messages about the potential impact of development at Wirral Waters on demand for and supply of community and social infrastructure.
- **Chapter 9 – Next Steps:** A summary of the future actions required in order to assess the need for social and community infrastructure in support of Wirral Waters.

2. Social & Community Infrastructure

2.1 In this section we identify the key components of social and community infrastructure on which sustainable communities depend. We also present the framework which we have used to map social and community infrastructure within Wirral.

A Key Housing Development Consideration

2.2 There is strong and growing recognition within Government of the need to consider the impact of major new housing and mixed-use developments upon existing social and community infrastructure before development occurs and to put in place clear plans to enhance or expand provision where necessary. This requires those promoting development to work closely with providers and funders in order to understand potential impacts and to develop proposals to bring forward new social and community infrastructure and services where necessary. Although housing development will place the greatest additional demand upon community and social infrastructure, new commercial developments (which can pull in large numbers of in-commuting workers) can also have an impact on the level and nature of demands placed upon community and social infrastructure. Such schemes may generate additional and qualitatively different impacts on key services such as policing and fire and rescue, local leisure, health and education and training facilities.

2.3 Increasingly the planning system requires developers to have considered the implications which their proposals will have on the locality's current infrastructure, and to ensure that the necessary facilities and services are in place at the right stage of the

development process. In determining the level of housing provision locally and regionally, Regional Planning Bodies and local planning authorities are required by Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) to have regard to a wide range of issues, including an *"assessment of the impact of development upon existing or planned infrastructure and of any new infrastructure required"*³. PPS3 also requires planning authorities to ensure that housing is *"developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure"*⁴. A key consideration for local planning authorities in determining the broad location and specific sites for new housing development is the extent to which the proposed development offers accessibility to existing local community facilities, infrastructure and services.

2.4 The Government's Sustainable Communities agenda, which includes efforts to tackle areas of low housing demand in the North and Midlands (through Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders) and to create new and expand existing communities in four Growth Areas in the South East, places an increased emphasis on the importance of planning for and providing the social and community infrastructure required to achieve successful, attractive and sustainable communities. Similarly, guidance on the proposed New Growth Points and Eco-towns (both of which seek to bring forward significant increases in housing completions and community building) stresses the need to ensure that the potential

³ *Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, Communities and Local Government*, 2006, pp-12-13

⁴ *Ibid.*

impact upon social and community infrastructure is understood and planned for.

- 2.5 Many of the social and community challenges currently being considered in the Growth Areas, such as the Thames Gateway, and in the development of New Growth Points and Eco-towns are equally relevant to the long-term development of Wirral Waters (and Liverpool Waters) given the scale and importance of these schemes. Indeed, both proposed developments are a key part of bids for both New Growth Point and Eco-town status within Merseyside's inner core. In this section we draw upon emerging best practice from the Thames Gateway in order to define and map social and community infrastructure in Wirral.

Defining Social & Community Infrastructure

- 2.6 Before we can begin to comprehensively map and review existing social and community infrastructure serving the communities in and around Wirral Waters it is first necessary to define and specify what is to be included in *social and community infrastructure*. Previous work in the Thames Gateway Growth Area provides a useful basis for this.

Drawing lessons from the Thames Gateway

- 2.7 The Thames Gateway is the largest of four Growth Areas identified by Communities and Local Government (CLG) through the Sustainable Communities Plan to help to accommodate the economic success of London and the wider South East and to alleviate pressure on housing and services caused by economic growth of existing towns and cities. It stretches eastwards from East London to the Isle of Sheppey and covers both sides of the River

Thames and Thames Estuary, and includes extensive areas of brownfield land and degraded former industrial environment. The Thames Gateway has a population of approximately 1.6m. By 2016, it is intended that (re)development will deliver 120,000 new homes and 120,000 – 180,000 new jobs.

- 2.8 In 2005 CLG funded the development of the London Thames Gateway Social Infrastructure Framework (SIF) project⁵. This seeks to ensure that healthy, successful and sustainable communities will be developed and properly planned within the Gateway, containing the right scope and scale of social and community infrastructure in order to meet the future social needs of the area. The ongoing project provides an opportunity to identify and develop a series of best practice models for integrated delivery and operation of social facilities which can then be applied throughout the Thames Gateway area. Its purpose is threefold, matching closely the goals of partners and stakeholders in Wirral Waters. It seeks to:
- provide a mechanism that will identify the social infrastructure required alongside housing developments,
 - identify cost-effective and integrated solutions to service delivery,
 - promote socially mixed and cohesive communities that integrate new with existing neighbourhoods.
- 2.9 In recognition of the wide range of services and facilities that will need to be properly planned and incorporated into growth plans, the SIF addresses four broad social sectors:

⁵ London Thames Gateway Social Infrastructure Framework: A toolkit to guide decision making, EDAA June 2006

- Education – this includes childcare, primary, secondary and higher/further/adult education,
- Health and social care – e.g. GPs, dentists, acute care, social services,
- Recreation and leisure services – e.g. green spaces, public leisure services,
- Emergency and essential services – e.g. fire and police services.

2.10 Whilst perhaps not fully encompassing the wide range of **assets, facilities and services** which combine to form local social and community infrastructure, this framework is a very useful tool to structure our assessment of existing provision in Wirral and one which has been used and adapted in this report.

Mapping and Assessing Social & Community Infrastructure

2.11 The London Thames Gateway Social Infrastructure Framework provides a useful tool with which to define and map social and community infrastructure provision. Table 2-1 shows how we have interpreted this framework, setting out in detail the precise facilities and services we have mapped and assessed within each of the four broad social sectors. As Table 2-1 shows, we have identified fourteen separate types of infrastructure provision within these four sectors.

Source: Adapted from London Thames Gateway Social Infrastructure Framework: A toolkit to guide decision making, EDAW June 2006

Table 2-1: Overview of Key Themes & Facilities to be Mapped		
Education and Learning		
1	Nursery education and childcare	Nursery schools/reception classes (local authority); Day Nursery (private), crèches, Sure Start Children's Centres
2	Primary schools	Primary schools (infants & juniors)
3	Secondary Schools & Sixth Form Education	Secondary schools & 6th form
4	Higher, further & Adult Education	Universities, institutes, further education colleges, adult/lifelong learning centres
Health & Social Care		
5	Primary care facilities	GPs, dentists, chemists/pharmacies, opticians, mental health services
6	Intermediate care facilities (diagnosis & treatment centres)	Health centres, walk in centres
7	Acute care	Hospitals
Community Leisure & Recreation		
8	Sports facilities - leisure centres	sports/leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools
9	Libraries	
10	Places of Worship	Mosques, Christian churches, synagogue, other
11	Green Space	Parks, recreation grounds, other open space
Key Services		
12	Civic/Council and Community Services	Access to Council one stop shops/offices
13	Police stations/community desks/holding area	Police stations, police presence in area
14	Fire & Ambulance stations	Stations, community facilities

- 2.12 In preparing this paper we have sought to identify and assess the existing provision serving the Wirral Waters area within each of these twelve types of infrastructure. For the most part, this provision is either delivered or funded by the public sector (for example, education and health services). However, some important aspects of any area's social and community infrastructure are provided by the private, voluntary or community sectors (e.g. commercial leisure operations, retail). This report does not cover the demand for and supply of employment services. These services, delivered in a variety of ways and informed by the City Employment Strategy, will be key to efforts to ensure that businesses located at Wirral Waters (both in the construction and operational phases) are able to access skilled labour and that the local and sub-regional economic and employment impact of Wirral Waters is maximised.
- 2.13 At this early stage in the development of Wirral Waters we have sought to focus our attention on the core facilities and services that are funded and/or delivered by public sector partners in order to assist in the forward planning of this public provision. However, we do also identify and map important facilities, such as places of worship, which are provided by the voluntary sector. It is important to note that our analysis is primarily focussed upon *physical facilities* which exist within the area. There will of course be a number of services which are not typically **location specific**, but which are offered on a borough-wide basis, including the Wirral Waters area. Many of these services work either on a referral basis (e.g. a referral to specialist provision which may be delivered in or from key sub-regional strategic facilities, such as Arrowe Park or the Royal Liverpool University Hospital). Others are revenue supported services which operate targeted services across the borough e.g. youth support services, community officers, elderly care, offending and probation services, often on a peripatetic basis in a range of existing buildings. At this time we have not endeavoured to analyse and map all of these, choosing to focus specifically upon facilities located in close proximity to the site. However, in the future there may be some scope to discuss the relevancy of such services to the wider development of the Wirral Waters area.
- 2.14 One important consideration for this study, and for the future delivery and funding of social and community infrastructure to serve communities in and around Wirral Waters is the growing trend towards private sector funding and/ or delivery of infrastructure and services. A clear example of this is the principle guiding the ongoing delivery of Wirral MBC's strategy for leisure services which seeks to attract new private sector investment and new private sector operators, such as in the provision of swimming pools, where the offer on the Wirral has historically been dominated by public sector provision.
- 2.15 As noted briefly in Section One, in mapping and assessing the existing provision of social and community infrastructure we have sought where possible to consider the following factors:
- **Accessibility:** The extent to which provision is currently readily accessible to residents of the neighbourhoods adjoining the Wirral Waters site. In assessing accessibility we seek to draw upon any nationally or locally determined benchmarks or standards in use (for example, distances travelled) or service density (e.g. General Practitioners per 10,000 residents).

- **Usage:** An assessment of the extent to which there is a shortage of capacity or evidence of *spare* (or under-utilised) capacity within the social and community infrastructure. As above, where possible and available we seek to draw upon any nationally or locally determined benchmarks or standards in use.
 - **Quality:** Measuring the quality of social and community infrastructure available. Quality is measured in a number of different ways, for example, through assessments of the user experience or the quality of outcomes achieved (for example, in health and education). In interpreting measures of outcomes it will be necessary to have due regard to the socio-economic context in which services are delivered.
- 2.16 In some cases, evidence on the accessibility, usage and quality of community and social infrastructure is scarce and there is little scope to go beyond spatial mapping and limited quantitative analysis. In other instances, noted throughout the report, we are awaiting evidence from public sector partners which will allow us to assess infrastructure provision more fully. For example, Wirral MBC has not yet published mapping and strategic review of its leisure services (which was being undertaken in late 2007). This document will need to be reviewed once it is finalised and delivered by the Council's appointed consultants.
- 2.17 In undertaking the above analysis of existing provision we have also sought to consider how the demand for and supply of assets, facilities and services may alter in future in light of:
- **Demographic and socio-economic trends:** Taking into account the impact of the evolving demographic and socio-

economic context in Wirral, including a consideration of the potential impact of Housing Market Renewal.

- **Key changes in national and local policy on service delivery:** The ways in which assets, facilities and services are planned, funded and delivered will continue to evolve. It is important that we consider the impact of changes in approach as part of this study.

- 2.18 This analysis excludes any assessment of the impact and implications of development at Wirral Waters. As such, it represents an indicative assessment of the *counterfactual* case, providing an overview of how the demands upon and supply of social and community infrastructure are likely to develop in the absence of Wirral Waters. The approach to considering the impact of development at Wirral Waters is discussed below.

Local and Strategic Facilities

- 2.19 There are some forms of community and social infrastructure which are more embedded in close proximity to the communities in which they serve e.g. dentists, GPs, social clubs etc, and which serve a relatively *local or neighbourhood* catchment area. However, there is also *strategic* infrastructure which serves these and other communities and which will not necessarily be located in close proximity e.g. hospitals. In all instances we have endeavoured to map both local (or neighbourhood) and strategic infrastructure which, based on our overview of community and social infrastructure, plays an important role in supporting the neighbourhoods in close proximity to Wirral Waters.

An overview of our approach

2.20 As can be seen from **Table 2-1** there is a wide range of facilities, assets and services across each broad sector to be mapped and assessed. In broad terms our approach to this task consisted of the following key steps:

- **Identifying assets and facilities:** Sourcing a comprehensive list of assets and facilities.
- **Mapping:** Mapping the location of local and strategic assets and facilities serving neighbourhoods around the Wirral Waters site. Mapping the data in a Geographical Information System allows us the opportunity to assess the spatial distribution of social and community infrastructure within the context of Wirral Waters. The GIS also allows the user to demarcate areas of influence, or 'buffer zones' emanating from the area of interest i.e. the docklands. Two buffer zones of 1km width were applied within the GIS and facilities and infrastructure could then be analysed within these areas. These boundaries fully cover those neighbourhoods in close proximity to the Wirral Waters site, whilst also capturing the majority of those services or facilities which serve the local community e.g. GPs, schools. Other, more strategic, infrastructure e.g. hospitals, typically serve much wider catchment areas and are fewer in nature, so may not fall within our neighbourhood boundaries. However, as these are important to the quality of life of residents of Inner Wirral and beyond we have still mapped strategic facilities. A similar approach, mapping and assessing social and community infrastructure needs within a 1.5km buffer has been adopted in the Thames Gateway Social Infrastructure Framework.

- **Data Collection:** Collecting, reviewing and interpreting data on accessibility, usage and quality of social and community infrastructure.
- **Document Review:** Collecting and reviewing a range of documents (such as Estates Audits, Estates Management Plans and Corporate Strategies) in order to both assess current infrastructure provision and identify the future direction of management and investment in infrastructure.
- **Consultation:** A programme of consultation with key personnel in organisations with lead responsibility for the funding of social and community infrastructure provision to discuss the scope of their work and the level of service delivery currently; the development of Wirral Waters, and the potential impacts which this development could have on the way in which they deliver services in the future. A detailed aide-memoire was used to structure these consultations and the issues discussed were important in shaping the analysis within each theme in this report.

Estimating the Impact & Implications of Wirral Waters

- 2.21 The work on mapping and assessing existing provision and developing an understanding of the key drivers that will shape future demand for and supply of social and community infrastructure will provide us with a good *baseline* analysis. Moving beyond this baseline assessment in order to provide estimates of the probable impact and implications of development at Wirral Waters is the key challenge for this study. Such large scale residential development can often improve the viability of existing facilities and services, help to make the case for substantial reinvestment in order to upgrade or enhance these or tip the balance in favour of new

capital investment (for example, new schools or community facilities).

2.22 At this stage in the development of the Strategic Regeneration Framework there are a number of important gaps in the information needed to produce detailed estimates of the impact of development at Wirral Waters. Work is currently ongoing to establish the development strategy and phasing of development – when available this information will allow us to arrive at estimates of the build-up and profile of the new residential population and to use this information to assess the impact on and implications for social and community infrastructure provision. It is important to note that this will be an *ongoing* challenge with which all partners and stakeholders will need to engage throughout the development and implementation of the Strategic Regeneration Framework.

2.23 However, at this stage this paper will allow us to:

- Take stock of the existing and evolving situation. The baseline analysis presented in this paper, together with our assessment of the factors that will drive the demand for and supply of social and community infrastructure, provides us with a good understanding of the *landscape* within which development at Wirral Waters will occur. It allows us to identify existing and future pressure points within the infrastructure and to identify where further work with stakeholders will be required.
- Scope out the information that will be required (over the longer term) to develop, refine and agree estimates of the impact on and implications for social and community infrastructure.
- Characterise the potential impact on and implications for social and community infrastructure arising from

development at Wirral Waters. Although there is currently insufficient information to produce robust estimates of the impact on services and facilities we can at this stage begin to describe the nature of probable impacts associated with Wirral Waters (for example, to describe and explore the probable impacts on demand for schools, GP services etc.).

- Move forward to estimate the impact and implications of development at Wirral Waters. As the phasing and development strategy for Wirral Waters is further developed, we will be able to build upon existing work in order to produce more robust and quantitative estimates of demand implications.

Estimating Impact

2.24 The need for and the provision of new social and community infrastructure will be a function of three broad factors:

- The extent to which there is available capacity within the existing infrastructure to enabling service quality standards to be maintained or enhanced.
- Ongoing changes in the ways in which social and community infrastructure is funded and delivered (with key services being subject to ongoing reform).
- The extent, nature and timing of new population growth associated with new residential development and with growth of the local employment base.

2.25 The first and second of these factors will be addressed through our baseline assessment. Here we set out our approach to address the third of these factors (the impact associated with new population growth), drawing upon the best practice identified from the Thames Valley Growth Area and elsewhere.

2.26 The Thames Gateway SIF project provides a useful overview of what information is required in order to produce robust estimates of the impact on community and social infrastructure associated with major new residential and community development. It provides an analysis of alternative approaches (as part of a *Toolkit*) to mapping and forecasting future need to aid planning for new social and community infrastructure across the Thames Gateway. As part of this Toolkit, a Social Infrastructure Planning Model has also been created to assess the population impacts associated with new housing development.

Understanding and estimating population growth

2.27 As noted in the SIF Framework report, any attempt to project population change must be informed by two key issues, each of which are inherently difficult to project with precision:

- **The importance of understanding the *type* of new residential growth.** Different styles of housing will influence the social, economic and demographic profile of potential occupiers. Key determinants here include the nature of accommodation (e.g. the balance between houses and apartments), the number of bedrooms, tenure and the level of affordable housing. These factors can each have significant impacts both on the total population and associated the number of children per dwelling.
- **The need to consider the overall net demands upon social infrastructure.** This requires an understanding of the probable balance between new population growth in new residential units, as opposed to the churn that may occur within existing communities.

2.28 As discussed above, it will also be **vital to understand the impact that a major expansion in the size of the local employment base** will have upon the volume and nature of demands placed upon social and community infrastructure.

2.29 The SIF Framework Report provides an overview of a number of demographic forecasting approaches that have been used to inform assessments of future needs. Two broad approaches can be identified:

- **Trend-based (top-down) population projections:** There are a number of sources of population projections available covering the district of Wirral upon which we may be able to draw. These are:
 - Office for National Statistics' Population Projections: These are trend-based district-level projections of population change by age and gender over a 25 year period. As trend-based projections, these estimates are based on assumptions that future levels of births, deaths and migration will continue as they have for the previous five years. They do not take into account the potential impact of new housing developments (or employment development). As such, they will not consider the potential impact of Housing Market Renewal or Wirral Waters.
 - Liverpool City Region Economic Projections and Prospects: Partners in the Liverpool City Region have commissioned the development of baseline and scenario-based projections for the City Region (and for individual districts). These include

population projections. [We are currently exploring the availability of the detailed population required to inform this work].

- **Scheme-based (bottom-up) population projections:** The collection of evidence from other existing development schemes in order to arrive at an understanding of population profile and how this may evolve over time in order to understand the occupier profile of specific numbers and types of residential units (for example, the age profile, household size associated and *child yield* associated with one or two bed apartments). Small area Census data can also provide a useful assessment of population structure in areas where new communities have been developed (for example, Salford Quays, London Docklands) where the nature of residential development is understood.

2.30 In Section Three, we present an overview of ONS Population Projections for Wirral. As noted above, these are trend-based (based on the assumption that recent trends will continue) and therefore do not take into account the possible impact of economic development, regeneration and new housing development. We also review population projections developed as part of the HMRI programme.

2.31 At present, information on the possible development strategy to be pursued at Wirral Waters (in terms of the volume, phasing and nature of residential and commercial development) is not available. Having developed an understanding of the likely demographic characteristics associated with new residential development, the next step is to estimate the community and social infrastructure requirements that the new residential development will generate.

This can be achieved by the application of a range of standards/ benchmarks/ ratios which provide an indication of the propensity of populations to make use of particular forms of social and community infrastructure or of the targeted level of provision.

2.32 As part of this study, we have sought to identify these indicators through consultation and review of a number of sources:

- National, regional and local government guidance.
- Best practice guidance notes.
- Section 106 guidance as applied in a number of different locations. In agreeing Section 106 Agreements to date Wirral Council have only sought to specify levels of public open space to be provided.

2.33 This work will need to continue over the long term and will need to be developed in conjunction with local providers and funders of community and social infrastructure in order to agree the most appropriate indicators to use and to further explore the organisation and service area-specific factors that will affect the way in which infrastructure is planned and delivered.

2.34 This report should be viewed as the beginning of a longer and iterative process of dialogue between partners, providing an assessment of the social and community infrastructure *baseline* position. It identifies the key steps to be taken in estimating the need for additional provision in the future - based upon what we understand about the area to date and the development options coming forward for the Wirral Waters scheme - to continue to both inform and appraise development options for Wirral Waters

2.35 In the next section we provide an overview of the demographic and socio-trends against which social and community infrastructure in Wirral is currently delivered and will be delivered in future.

3. Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends

- 3.1 Before assessing existing social and community infrastructure and going on to consider how this may need to develop (both with and without development at Wirral Waters) it is important to review the key demographic and socio-economic trends which do or will impact on the volume and nature of demands placed upon social and community infrastructure in Wirral.
- 3.2 In this section we provide a brief overview of the demographic, economic and social trends currently evident within Wirral. Where appropriate we highlight conditions within *East Wirral* where Wirral Waters is located, and within with Wirral's 10% Most Deprived Super Output Areas. In doing so, we draw upon analysis presented in the Baseline Study developed as part of Phase 1 of the preparation of Strategic Regeneration Framework for Wirral Waters.

Demographic Trends

A declining population...

- 3.3 ONS Mid-Year population estimates show that Wirral has experienced a declining population since the early 1980s. Between 1981-2005 the district's population fell by over 27,000 people (-8%). Analysing the last decade (1995-2005), Wirral has experienced a drop in population of over 13,000 people. This has taken the population from 326,300 in 1995 to 311,200 in 2006, a **fall of 5%**. Population loss in Wirral slowed significantly between 1995 and 2004 and there was evidence of stabilisation (with population declining by just 500, or 0.2% per annum between 2002 and 2004). However, change in 2005 and 2006 suggests that the rate of loss has increased to an average of 1,100 per annum. Although

still relatively modest by longer term trends, this continued and accelerating population loss, despite higher levels of job creation across Greater Merseyside, is a cause for concern.

- 3.4 During a period of overall national population growth (+5%), and much more modest regional population growth (+0.4%), Wirral district has lost a significant element of its residential population. All Greater Merseyside districts have experienced some decline in population over the same period (-4%, although the period 2003 – 2005 did suggest that the rate of population loss was slowing and overall levels stabilising), no other district has experienced a higher rate of decline than Wirral.

A Changing Structure driven by the loss of younger adults ...

- 3.5 Much of the decline in population can be accounted for by residents in the 25-39 age group and children in the 0-14 group. These younger adults are key working age residents and important drivers of the economy in the Wirral, whilst their children will be important for Wirral's economic future. This decline may reflect the Wirral's inability to offer the quality of life, and economic opportunities (for example, career progression) which they require. During 1995-2005 the district lost over a fifth of its population (20.1%) in this adult age group. Although this is on a par with some other Greater Merseyside districts such as Sefton (21.5%) and Knowsley (21.6%), this change is significantly higher than both national and regional trends (see Table 5/10) and represents a major concern.
- 3.6 Wirral's child-age population, which declined by almost 9,000 children over the same period (13.3%), a decline also significantly higher than regional and national trends. The decline in child-age

population can be linked to the decline in the adult age groups, with a large proportion of these likely to be the children of the adults. The main reason behind such structural changes, over and above normal trend levels, can be associated with out-migration from the district to find employment opportunities. As will be seen later in this analysis over 40,000 Wirral residents choose to commute daily to locations outside of the district to find employment. Many other people have left Wirral and more people will consider leaving, in order to be closer to their place of work to reduce their commuting times.

- 3.7 Analysing the current (2005) demographic position it is apparent that Wirral district has an over-representation amongst middle aged (of working age) and older age adults when compared to the other benchmark areas (see Figure 5/8), despite higher propensity for health and mortality issues within this age group. However, amongst younger age groups (15-24 and 25-39) the district has a much lower proportion of residents. This reflects the changes highlighted earlier, and may be a result of migration from the district by young economically active residents who seek higher value employment opportunities and a better quality of life outside the district. Many parts of West Wirral also offer attractive residential locations that older, more established working and recently retired people may be drawn to.

Concentration of Population in East Wirral...

- 3.8 Census 2001 found that the resident population of Wirral district is 312,300. Approximately two thirds (63%) of the district's population is resident in the more urban East Wirral, with the remaining 37% of the population residing in the more rural and

affluent West Wirral. This is a consequence of the historical development of communities in Wirral based upon employment opportunities available on this side of the peninsula, related to ship-building and other port-related activity, but also service sectors supporting a growing population.

- 3.9 It is interesting to note that the majority of the most deprived SOAs in Wirral (50 SOAs in total), those within the top 10% most deprived nationally, are within East Wirral and they account for approximately a **quarter** of the district's overall population (77,000). Therefore, the statistics highlight that a significant proportion of the district's population reside in areas experiencing **severe** multiple deprivation. This includes communities in close proximity to the Wirral Waters site.

A Population lacking in diversity...

- 3.10 Wirral does not have a very diverse ethnic mix amongst its resident population. According to the 2001 Census, White residents account for over 98% of the district's population. There is a similar picture across Greater Merseyside as a whole, with only Liverpool district having a more diverse population structure, whereby White residents account for approximately 94%, a position more in line with regional (94%) and national (91%) trends. Greater Merseyside as a whole, bar large levels of immigration from Ireland, has experienced low-levels of migration of people from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia when compared to other urban centres nationally.
- 3.11 The district's non-white community accounts for fewer than 2% of the overall resident population (5,500 people). Although the district's non-white community is relatively small, it is disproportionately resident within the most deprived SOAs in the

district - approximately 28% of non-white residents live in such areas. This area's overall population structure mirrors that of the district as a whole with White residents accounting for 98% of the population.

Future demographic change

- 3.12 Sub-national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics allow us to consider how the population level and profile within Wirral is expected to continue if recent trends on births, deaths and migration continue relative to national population trends. These projections suggest that Wirral's population will grow from 313,500 in 2004 to 323,400 in 2029, an increase of 9,900 or 3.2% (compared to 12.1% in the England and 7.4% in the North West).
- 3.13 Although total population is project to grow by 3.2% this will mask major changes in the demographic profile of Wirral which will have a significant on the nature and volume of demands placed upon social and community infrastructure, as well as having profound labour market and economic implications. It is projected that population over 50 years of age in Wirral will grow (net) by some 21,000 people from 117,000 people in 2004 to 139,000 in 2029 (an increase of 18%. Moreover, the population over 65 (and therefore beyond working age) will grow more rapidly still, increasing by 24,000 or 42%.
- 3.14 Net population change in almost all age bands below 60 years of age is expected to be negative, with strong percentage growth projected within the age band 25-29 (14% or 2,100 people) and modest growth in the 20-24 age band (1% or 100 people).
- 3.15 The number of people of school age (defined here as 5-19) is expected to fall by 8,000 (or 12%) to 55,000, with the sharpest decreases occurring in pupils of secondary and further education age. The number of 10-14 year olds is expected to drop by 13% (-2,800 people) and the number of 15-19 year olds by 19% (-4,100 people).

Table 3.1: Projected Population Change in Wirral 2004-2029, by age group			
	Population 2029 (000s)	Change 2004-2029	
		<i>000s</i>	<i>%</i>
0-4	17.1	-0.1	-1%
5-9	18.3	-0.7	-4%
10-14	18.7	-2.8	-13%
15-19	17.7	-4.1	-19%
20-24	16.5	0.1	1%
25-29	16.9	2.1	14%
30-34	18.4	-0.2	-1%
35-39	20.6	-1.8	-8%
40-44	21.5	-1.7	-7%
45-49	19.1	-2.1	-10%
50-54	16.4	-4.5	-22%
55-59	19.3	-2.5	-11%
60-64	21.5	4.4	26%
65-69	20.8	5.4	35%
70-74	17.7	3.6	26%
75-79	15.7	3.7	31%
80-84	13.7	4.7	52%
85+	13.5	6.5	93%
ALL AGES	323.4	9.9	3%
Source: Sub-National Population Projections, Office for National Statistics.			

3.16 An alternative source of population projections is the *New Heartlands* Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programme. A series of economic, population and household size projections have been prepared⁶, modelling change under a number of different scenarios. No demographic profile data is provided. For population these scenarios are:

- An ONS base scenario (unadjusted, trend based Sub-national Population Projections, as above although based on data from 2003).
- An *Impact of Expected Positive Economic Performance* scenario for combined HMRI districts (Wirral, Liverpool and Sefton).

3.17 The authors of this study note that under the ONS base scenario the population of Wirral is expected to grow by 1% between 2005 and 2015 (from 314,000 to 317,000), in contrast to the other HMRI districts. During this period Wirral is expected to receive net migration of some 5,400 people. A high proportion of these in-migrants are likely to be the young adults (in their 20s) showing projected growth in Table 3.1 above.

3.18 Under the *Positive Economic Performance Scenario* above, stronger economic growth is expected to stimulate additional net in-migration of 8,000 people into the three HMRI districts combined over and above that modelled in the base scenario. This results in total population growth of 0.5% in the three HMRI districts combined.

3.19 Additionally, Liverpool and Wirral Councils are, in partnership with Peel, seeking New Growth Point (NGP) status for their inner areas. This would represent an enhanced commitment and partnership with Government to reversing population decline and securing significant population growth, to the extent of least 20% above the emerging RSS figures. If NGP status is confirmed, population growth is likely to exceed even the *Positive Economic Performance Scenario* for the HMRI districts.

Labour Market Conditions

Improvements in Economic Activity at a district level...

3.20 At a district level there have been improvements in the levels of economically active⁷, and consequently, inactive residents. Wirral has experienced a drop in economically inactive residents of 4.4% points between 2000-2006. There has been a similar fall across Greater Merseyside (-3.5% points) reflecting, in large part, the expansion of employment opportunities in the sub-region. However, both economic activity and inactivity rates are still lagging behind those of regional and national benchmarks. For Wirral to begin to match national rates of economic activity a further **13,000** working age residents would need to come out of economic inactivity in the district.

⁶ 'Housing Consultancies Work Package 1: Forecasting', Amion Consulting, 2005.

⁷ Economically active refers to all those in employment or wish to be in employment. Economically inactive refers to those people who are neither in employment or unemployment e.g. those who look after a home or who are retired or otherwise not available for/ seeking work).

⁶ 'Housing Consultancies Work Package 1: Forecasting', Amion Consulting, 2005.

Strong growth in district's employment rate...

- 3.21 Wirral has experienced sustained and strong growth since 2000 in its employment rate. In 2000 just under two-thirds of the districts working age population was in employment. By 2006 this had increased to almost 72% of residents – a rise of 6% points. During the same period there had been a significant increase in employment rates across Greater Merseyside (increasing by 5.8% points). Employment rates in both Wirral and Greater Merseyside have grown at a quicker rate than both regional (1.7% points) and national (0% points) employment rates.
- 3.22 Increases in employment rates in the sub-region reflect the positive changes taking place, and renewed confidence by businesses expanding or new businesses being attracted to Greater Merseyside. However, as explained above employment rates in Wirral district and the sub-region, despite narrowing the gap, still lag behind regional and national rates. For the Wirral to catch up with employment rates at a national level, the district would need an additional **15,700 people** in employment – clearly a substantial increase.

But acute concentrations of inactivity, especially in the most deprived areas...

- 3.23 The Census 2001 does however begin to paint a different picture of economic inactivity **within** the district. East Wirral has a slightly higher overall economic inactivity rate compared to West Wirral, and the district as a whole. Of those residents who are classified as inactive, East Wirral has a higher proportion who state that the reasons they are inactive are as a result of having to look after the

home or dependents (17.9%), or through permanent illness or disability (25.2%).

- 3.24 These issues become even more acute when census data is analysed for the most deprived SOAs in the district – with the majority of these SOAs located within East Wirral. In the most deprived SOAs almost **half** (47%) of all residents are classified as being economically inactive. Almost a **third** of residents (31.6%) here have a permanent illness or disability which makes them economically inactive, whilst over a fifth (22.1%) of residents stated that they were economically inactive due to looking after their home or dependents. The majority of these residents will be single-parent families, or middle-age to older adults who can no longer work due to poor health, or who have to look after relatives suffering from illness.
- 3.25 Some inactive residents, particularly those inactive due to permanent illness or disability, are also likely to be the most difficult to engage with in order to encourage them to find employment or training. They are also more likely to have become **“detached”** from the labour market through long periods without employment. Therefore, although more generally Wirral has experienced improvements in its economic activity rates, the evidence suggests that there are areas within Wirral which are still performing poorly, with residents missing out on the economic opportunities developing in the district and across the sub-region as a whole. The requirement for training and skills initiatives will be of up-most importance in the most deprived areas of the district, to encourage inactive residents back in to the labour market.

Education and Skills

Relatively Good Levels of Educational Attainment...

- 3.26 Wirral has a high proportion of its working age population holding higher level qualifications. Almost 24% of residents have achieved NVQ 4+ qualifications (Degree level standard), although despite this strong performance the district still lags slightly behind regional (24.2%) and national (26.2%) levels. The majority of highly qualified residents will tend to live in the more affluent areas of the Wirral, with a high proportion commuting to work outside of the district.
- 3.27 In terms of other qualifications over 46% of working age residents have achieved NVQ 1-3 qualifications, positioning the district on a par with other benchmark areas. However, like Greater Merseyside as a whole (21.1%), there are a significant number (17.9%) of working age residents who have **no qualifications**. This is high, relative to the national average of 14.1%. Such a high level of working age residents (32,700 individuals) with no formal qualifications contributes to the relatively low-value profile of job opportunities developing in the district, as business investors increasingly require a more qualified workforce.
- but significant low attainment & a skills deficit persist in certain areas.**
- 3.28 To understand the qualifications context at a sub-district level it is necessary to use data from the 2001 Census. This shows that there are concentrations of low levels of qualifications in the district. Similar to other indicators in this report, it is in the most deprived SOAs in the district where the issues of low levels of qualifications are concentrated.

- 3.29 A high proportion of working age adults who reside in the district's most deprived SOAs who do not have any qualifications. Using Census terminology, this means that 43% of the population, or **22,500 people**, have not attained at least 1 GCSE/O-Level or NVQ/GNVQ Level. This compares to 29.4% in Wirral and 28.9% nationally. Considering the breakdown of qualifications at a district level, the Census data highlights the concentrations of **low attainment** and a **skills deficit** concentrated in this area of the district, previously **masked** at the district level. Only one fifth of the resident population within these most deprived SOAs have GCSE equivalent qualifications (Level 2), whilst only 13% of residents have attained A-Level (level 3) or Degree level (level 4/5) qualifications.

A mix of both good and poorly performing schools...

- 3.30 Secondary School performance in the district, measured by the proportion of 15 year olds achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (including maths and English), has been **improving** in recent years. In 2003 43.5% of pupils had achieved this level which was higher than the national average of 41.9%. However, by 2006 this had increased to 46.3% when the national average was 45.3%. Over 92% of pupils pass 5 GCSEs at grades A*-G, whilst approximately 97% of pupils attain at least one qualification from school.
- 3.31 Despite this improvement over the four years across the education authority, there are only a handful of secondary schools which are excelling, with high standards of achievement at GCSE level e.g. Birkenhead High School (96.0%). **Eight** out of thirteen of the district's schools are located in East Wirral, with a number of poorer performing schools located within, or near to, the district's most deprived SOAs. The poor level of performance within these schools

also mirrors the messages taken from the Census qualifications and skills data; reinforcing the assessment of these most deprived SOAs as areas with low levels of attainment and a large skills deficit.

- 3.32 Other school attainment measures such as Key Stage 3 results for 13-year old children in the district suggest that on the whole, in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science, Wirral schools are performing well. Both Maths and Science Level 5 results match the England average of 70% of students achieving this level, whilst attainment in English exceeds the national average of 74% at 77% in Wirral schools. A similar picture emerges at primary school Key Stage 2 level with schools matching national levels of attainment across the main subject areas.
- 3.33 Despite success across the district it is clear that not all schools and their children are achieving good results. After GCSEs (post-16) children have the opportunity to study for A-Levels or further qualifications. Wirral however suffers from a high level of 16-19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training - the so-called NEET group (9.9% of 16-19 year olds or approximately 700 young people). Despite efforts from organisations such as Connexions, the district suffers from a higher than average level of disengagement from education, training or employment within this age group. A high number of NEETs in Wirral are resident within some of the most deprived areas of East Wirral.

Health

High Incidence of Long Term Limiting Illness...

- 3.34 Over a **fifth** (22.5%) of Wirral's resident working age population has a long term limiting illness⁸ according to the 2001 Census. The Census response in Wirral demonstrated that its residents have a higher propensity for limiting illnesses in comparison to regional and national trends. Such illnesses can have a detrimental effect on the working-age population, with employers having difficulty finding and retaining fit and able employees, whilst also proving a barrier for people who would like to be in employment.
- 3.35 West Wirral had a lower proportion of residents who categorised themselves as having a limited illness. However, as the Census defines working age population up to 74 years old, this question does take account of age-related illnesses too. The starkest message however is in **East Wirral** (23%), and in Wirral's **most deprived SOAs**, where approximately **28%** of the working age population have a long term limiting illness. As stated above this will be a key consideration for investors in Wirral. An active and healthy resident population is an important factor in terms of delivering local jobs to local people – a key policy driver within regeneration and economic development strategies.

Average Levels of Life Expectancy...

- 3.36 Life expectancy data is only available at a district level from ONS. In Wirral estimates of life expectancy suggest that residents have, on

⁸ This question in the Census asked people to assess whether they had a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limit their daily activities or the work they can do.

average, a similar life expectancy, to people across the region and nationally – with modest differences above or below the average number of years. Another measure, Standardised Mortality Ratios⁹, suggest that mortality rates in the district are slightly higher than the national average. However, within Greater Merseyside, Wirral's mortality ratio is one of the lowest compared to Liverpool and Knowsley's district.

...But High levels of Health Deprivation...

- 3.37 However, this relatively positive position at a *district level* appears to mask the higher mortality rates which occur within particular areas of Wirral. Using one of the datasets from the Health domain in the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation, it is possible to assess mortality issues at a sub-district level – both East and West Wirral and SOAs.
- 3.38 The dataset used is the 'Years of Potential Life Lost' (YPLL)¹⁰. This is a direct age and sex standardised measure of **premature** death (i.e. under the age of 75 - the national life expectancy) available at an SOA level.
- 3.39 East Wirral contains SOAs which experience high levels of 'potential lost years' per 1,000 of population. Many of Wirral's most deprived SOAs have the highest 'potential lost years' ratios across the district.
- 3.40 Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) has identified some of the main causes linked to high levels of premature deaths within Wirral, and within these most deprived areas of East Wirral:
- Their research suggests that for men coronary heart disease, digestive disorders (including cirrhosis), self harm and lung cancer linked to smoking;
 - For women coronary heart disease is also a problem, as well as digestive disorders (including cirrhosis), self harm and lung cancer.
- 3.41 Despite initiatives to educate Wirral residents about the dangers of smoking, alcohol and poor diet, the conditions identified by the PCT are the main reasons why residents in some parts of East Wirral die younger. Further investment is required in educating people about healthier lifestyles, however changing cultural and attitudinal perceptions and values can be a long process, sometimes generational.

⁹ Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) compare the actual number of events in an area with the *expected* number of events based on mortality rates of a reference population (e.g. England & Wales). The SMR is a ratio of observed to expected number of deaths. The dataset enables comparison of mortality information across a range of areas. This measure makes allowance for the differing age structures of the population in different areas of the country.

¹⁰ This indicator gives more weighting/prominence to the effects of premature death per 1,000 of population. Therefore if an area's population suffers from higher levels of people dying younger, the area has a higher number of years lost compared to the average death rate of 75 years old i.e. if a resident dies at 60, 15 potential years of life will have been lost.

Key Messages

- 3.42 The following key messages can be drawn from this review of the demographic, economic and social trends currently evident within Wirral.
- Wirral has experienced a major reduction in population over the long term, with population falling by 27,000 or - 8% between 1981 and 2005. Just under half (13,000) of this population loss has occurred in the last 10 years alone (1995-2005).

- Despite this rapid loss there is now (mixed) evidence that population loss is slowing and that population levels are stabilising. A significant factor in this is increased levels of in-migration.
- Looking forwards, (and discounting the impact of any upturn in economic performance or improvements in the supply of housing and quality of life), population in Wirral is projected to grow by 3% between 2005 and 2029 (substantially slower than national and regional growth rates). A significant driver of this growth is expected to be in-migration amongst young adults aged 25-29.
- Life expectancy in eastern parts of Wirral is significantly lower than the western Wirral and national averages, particularly within the most deprived areas of Wirral. This is associated with higher levels of morbidity (ill-health). A number of conditions, often tied to lifestyle factors, such as coronary heart disease, digestive disorders (including cirrhosis) and lung cancer play a key role in this and in shaping the nature and the volume of demands made upon health-related infrastructure. It also heightens the importance of ensuring that Wirral is able to offer adequate and attractive opportunities for physical activity.
- However, as elsewhere, the population profile is expected to age significantly, with much greater increases in the over-65s (42% compared to 3% population growth). This will have profound implications on the volume and nature of demand on key aspects of social and community infrastructure, most notably in terms of health and social care. It will also have significant impacts upon the nature of housing sought in Wirral.
- In recent years there has been a significant reduction in the number of primary school-aged children in Wirral, resulting in ongoing review and rationalisation of provision. In future this is expected to continue and to knock on into the 10-19 age group and to affect demand for secondary and further education (assuming unchanged participation rates).
- Parts of Wirral, including around the Wirral Waters site contain extensive areas of intense deprivation. One effect of this deprivation is lower educational attainment at all stages. Despite this, educational attainment in Wirral as a whole is above average. Not surprisingly, poor and below average performance is centred on those schools serving a catchment population drawn from the most deprived areas in Wirral. These are focussed on eastern Wirral and often within close proximity to the Wirral Waters site. However, this area also contains a number of schools which are achieving strong educational outcomes (both in terms of attainment and value-added).
- Wirral, particularly in the eastern parts of the district where deprivation is most intense and concentrated, has relatively high levels of worklessness and economic inactivity. In part, this high level of inactivity is both a reflection of and a future source of health and fitness issues within the population.

4. Education and Learning

4.1 In this section we present the emerging results of our mapping and analysis of existing social and community infrastructure provision within the *Education and Learning* theme. This covers the following:

- Nursery education and childcare
- Primary schools
- Secondary schools and sixth-form education
- Higher, further and adult education.

4.2 In doing so, draw upon available evidence on the Accessibility, Usage and Quality of existing provision as discussed in Section 2. We also consider the key demographic, organisational and policy drivers which will determine the future demand for and supply of facilities and services.

4.3 As part of this study we undertook a series of strategic consultations with key agencies responsible for the planning and funding of Education and Learning infrastructure in Wirral, meeting with the following key individuals:

- Howard Cooper, Director of Children’s Services, Wirral MBC
- David Armstrong, Children’s Services Senior Strategic Manager – Assets & Finance, Wirral MBC
- Chris Batman, Children’s Services Head of Planning & Resources, Wirral MBC
- Sarah Howarth. Adult Learning, Wirral MBC
- Simon Pierce, Wirral Area Director, LSC Greater Merseyside

- Neil Maguire, Economic Development Manager, LSC Greater Merseyside.
- John Watts, Business Development Executive, Wirral Metropolitan College
- Amanda O’Shea, Chief Executive, Scientiam/Wirral Metropolitan College

Context

4.4 Education and learning provision in Wirral is, like many places, primarily the domain of the local authority, which is responsible for Children’s Services, and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who are currently responsible for the planning and funding of 14-19 years diploma/vocational education and adult learning provision. This mapping exercise focuses upon educational provision across this spectrum from early years, primary, secondary, 6th Form and Further/Adult Education.

4.5 Looking across the Education and Learning theme, our mapping work identified the following within Wirral:

- 137 schools in Wirral, serving a school population of over 50,000 pupils
 - Of these 100 are primary schools, 27 of these classified as Aided.
 - 22 secondary schools, of which four are Aided, with two of these also designated as foundation schools (former independent aided schools).
 - Four Catholic secondary schools, two of which are grammar schools.

➤ 11 special schools.

- Sixth form provision at 17 of these secondary schools, as well as Birkenhead Sixth Form College and Wirral Further Education College.
- Adult and community learning across facilities in Wirral, including the Further Education college (Wirral Metropolitan College).
- Further and higher education provision (including Access courses) delivered by Wirral Metropolitan College from their three main campuses (Conway Park, Twelve Quays and Carlett Park) and a range of outreach centres.
- Over 20 nursery service providers.

Key Drivers

4.6 As with all forms of community and social infrastructure the nature and volume of demands for education and learning facilities and services, and the ways in which that demand is met, are not static. The planning, funding and delivery of infrastructure and services under the *Education and Learning* theme is subject to ongoing change and evolution. Providers must respond to ongoing changes in population, public expectations of infrastructure and services and ongoing central and local government reforms.

4.7 In this section we provide an overview of the key drivers that are and will continue to affect the demand for and the provision of infrastructure irrespective of any increases in demand that may result from development at Wirral Waters. We consider the following:

- Demographic Change

- Organisational and Policy Change.

Demographic Changes

4.8 As noted in Section 3, the population of Wirral is ageing with increased numbers of older adults and retirees living within the borough. The ageing of Wirral’s demographic profile is projected to continue and to accelerate. Between 2004 and 2029 the total population of Wirral is, on the basis of recent trends, projected to rise by 3%, whilst the population aged 65+ is projected to increase by 42%.

4.9 The birth rate in the borough has been falling over the last decade. This will continue to have a fundamental influence on the way in which education providers plan for and deliver services as these reduced cohorts work their way through the primary, secondary and further education systems. To date, this has manifested itself most clearly in the primary sector but will in future impact on the secondary and further education sectors more strongly. Between 2004 and 2029 the total school age population (defined here as those aged between 5 and 19) is expected to fall by 8,000 (or -12%) to 55,000, with the sharpest decreases occurring in pupils aged 11-18. The number of 10-14 year olds is expected to drop by 13% (-2,800 people) and the number of 15-19 year olds by 19% (-4,100 people).

4.10 With lower birth rates there have been declining numbers of children and young people within Wirral to fill, and make optimum use of existing education facilities. The rate of fall is highest in the **east and north** of the peninsula – areas in close proximity to Wirral Waters. Primary school pupil roll numbers are estimated to have fallen by 2,300 places between 2003 and 2008, with 23,200 pupils



estimated to be on the roll in 2008. Compared with total capacity within the primary school system of 29,950 places, the borough has an 11.3% surplus of primary places¹¹. With Audit Commission guidance advocating rationalization of infrastructure when surpluses are greater than 10%, primary school facilities have undergone a thorough review in the last four years.

- 4.11 Occupancy in secondary education facilities has reached its peak in recent years at 98%. However, with smaller cohorts currently passing through the primary system currently this level of occupancy is also likely to fall in the near future.
- 4.12 Over the last four years Wirral MBC has been working on programmes to manage the decline in pupil numbers, encouraging schools to work in partnership, and undertaking area by area reviews, assessing the impact of under-occupancy on education service delivery. The Council uses a national DfES methodology to estimate yearly occupancy rates. This system estimates the 'Net Capacity' of schools based on the usage of available workplaces within a school. Areas are assessed in cycles, with those assessed four years ago ready to be assessed again next year as the Council has almost completed its first round of reviews.
- 4.13 The Council's area reviews are part of a rationalisation programme and take into account other issues as well as occupancy (e.g. academic performance, location of the school), and there are particular thresholds, or rules of thumb, which need to be met for infrastructure to continue to be financially viable). For example, any

primary school with a roll of less than 100 pupils, or a secondary school with a year cohort of less than 100 would be considered under-occupied and financially unsustainable going forward.

- 4.14 Within this framework, the Council have already responded to this demographic change by rationalising primary school provision, closing five primary schools in recent years. Politically and operationally, rationalisation is a very delicate path to tread for the Council. As will be highlighted later in this chapter, the rationalisation programme has been run in-line with renovation and capital expenditure programme which aims to upgrade educational infrastructure in order to meet modern teaching requirements. In the secondary sector in particular, the complex mix of education provision (state, religious, single-sex, grammar school) within Wirral makes the process of rationalisation more difficult than in some other areas.
- 4.15 Clearly, significant increases in in-migration to Wirral – as a result of improvements in economic performance, the quantity and quality of housing and wider quality of life - may result in increased demand. As noted in Section 3, modelling work commissioned by New Heartlands suggests that improved economic performance will result in 8,000 additional residents (above trend) across the three HMRI districts (Wirral, Liverpool and Sefton), from which additional demand for education and learning services would be generated. We are however, based on the information received to date, unclear about the likely distribution across the three areas of the additional residents.
- 4.16 The latest school organisational plan for Wirral (2003-2008) outlines the view from the Council that despite Wirral's attractiveness for

¹¹ Information taken from Wirral Education Authority, School Organisation Plan 2003 – 2008

new housing investment, on both green and brownfield sites, as well as the ongoing housing market renewal pathfinder programme, any demand from new housing development would **not require** the building of additional schools in the foreseeable future. Although this document did not take account of the Wirral Waters development, this view was still borne out through our consultations with Wirral MBC, based upon the information they have of the scheme to date. Clearly, in taking this work forward, it **will be important to provide further details of the nature and phasing of development at Wirral Waters and the volume, nature and timed build-up of the resulting growth in population.**

- 4.17 In consultation, senior officers of the Council indicated their view that although there was potential for increased requirements for primary places, and further down the line secondary education from some of Wirral Waters' residents, they believed that there is sufficient capacity within the current schools system in close proximity to the development to meet the potential increase in demand. However, officers are keen to work with the developer to understand more clearly how the level, nature and timing of population change resulting from development at Wirral Waters may influence their decision making.

Organisational & Policy Changes

- 4.18 All of the key public services have been and continue to be the subject of ongoing reform and none more so than those within the *Education and Learning* theme. One of the most important *strands* of reform in recent years is the increasing importance of the local education authority in providing central co-ordination of services directed at children and young people. The central goal of

Government has been to offer services which are **less fragmented** at the point of delivery, and which better meet the needs of children and young people.

- 4.19 The development of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda by government was key to this ethos, developing services such as Sure Start and Extended Schools, which brought together **multi-disciplinary** teams of professionals to provide 'wrap-around services' with the aim of delivering better outcomes for children and young people. The local authority has a number of statutory obligations as a result of the 2004 Children's Act in terms of educational provision. For example every child in Wirral must have access to childcare and nursery education of at least 12.5hrs per week, new school class sizes must not exceed 30 pupils. The local authority has to work closely in partnership with all schools to deliver these initiatives.
- 4.20 The recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 has highlighted further changes which will shape education and learning provision within Wirral, with the local authority identified to take on a funding role for post-16 education, a role currently afforded to the LSC.
- 4.21 The LSC are also altering their priorities, shifting towards raising the numbers of Level 2 and 3 qualifications. To do this they are working towards a work-based learning model of training and education for adults, seeking to meet employers' needs through the Train to Gain programme at employers' sites, whilst also targeting worklessness. The LSC are of the view that there is **little demand** for capital investment in new facilities within Wirral as much training is now undertaken on employers' sites or in the community. However, the investments which the LSC are making are in rationalising provision

and replacing/renovating older infrastructure which is reaching the end of its lifespan.

- 4.22 The development of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) as a mechanism to fund infrastructure improvements in schools is one way in which the local authority, working in partnership with schools and the private sector, have been able to finance a large scale capital investment programme in recent years. The rationale for using PFI has been driven by the need to remedy the decades of under-investment in the borough's schools, replacing mobile classrooms, improve antiquated facilities, help to rationalise the schooling stock across Wirral, and improve facilities e.g. sports facilities, which can also benefit the local community.
- 4.23 The Council has entered into a £55m, nine school PFI agreement (8 secondary and 1 primary) which is to run through to 2031. Each school has received investment, whilst a brand new school has been built in **close proximity** to Wirral Waters, Weatherhead Girls High School, which has been fitted out to a high modern standard, and is now located close to the boys school, Mosslands. Combined with targeted capital investments at three of the borough's aided secondary schools, and Capital Challenge investment at another two secondary schools, this has resulted in a significant improvement in provision, remedying many of the issues identified in the most recent asset management plan¹².
- 4.24 The Building Schools for the Future programme will make investment in schools in Wirral further, with Wirral due to receive funding for their schools in 2016 (BSF Wave 12). Their position

within wave 12 reflects the good quality of Wirral's school infrastructure and the success which they have had with the implementation of their current PFI scheme.

- 4.25 Following the recent Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration, responsibility for the funding and planning of all 14-19 education and training will rest with local authorities (with responsibility for 16-19 years transferring from the LSC, the latter retaining responsibility for adult education and training).
- 4.26 Adult and community education and learning in Wirral is delivered from a range of centres with the community. The local authority Lifelong and Family Learning Service owns/ controls two centres – one in Rock Ferry and one in Leasowe – and makes extensive use of facilities owned and operated by partners in order to provide a skills development and *learning for leisure* offer. These include schools, colleges and community centres. Our consultation with officers suggests that the community buildings from which services are delivered in and around the Wirral Waters site are old and relatively poorly maintained
- 4.27 This multi-use and multi-occupancy model will be central to the way in which adult and community learning services will be provided in future, reducing costs and overheads by combining activities, providing for more vibrant and well-used centres, and helping to ensure the sustainability of higher quality facilities. Increasingly central government funding for adult and community education, allocated by and channelled through the Learning and Skills Council, is directed towards skills to enhance employability

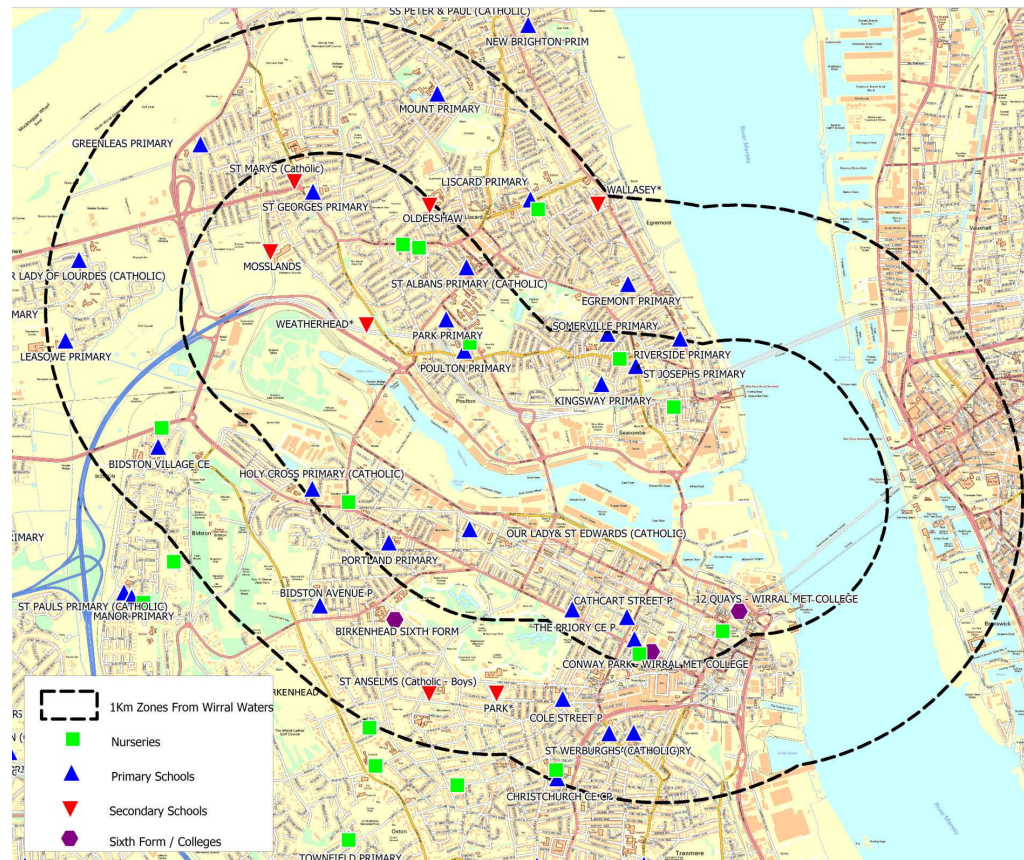
¹² Wirral MBC School Asset Management Plan, 2002-2006

and workplace progression. As a result, fees are charged to help cover the cost of all leisure learning.

Mapping Existing Infrastructure

- 4.28 As discussed in Section 2, it is important to distinguish between local and strategic community and social infrastructure, the former being latter being that which serves a wider population across a number of districts. For *Education and Learning*, we have focused our mapping and analysis on local infrastructure, being those facilities that are located in within 2km of the Wirral Waters site (see below) and which could therefore readily serve the needs of new residents at Wirral Waters.
- 4.29 We note that Wirral has a range of secondary schools, including community and foundation grammar schools, and for which pupils may travel greater distances. However, we believe that our approach of reviewing provision with 2km of the Wirral Waters site provides a good basis on which to assess the accessibility of *education and learning* facilities for the future residents of Wirral Waters.

Figure 4-1: Education and Learning Facilities in close proximity to Wirral Waters



Source: Education Information mainly sourced from Wirral MBC School Organisation Plan. 'Digital Mapping Solutions' from Dotted Eyes. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019918

Nursery education

- 4.30 All children are entitled to a free nursery education place, with this entitlement typically commencing at the beginning of the term after their third birthday. This covers 12.5 hours per week (five sessions of 2.5 hours) for a period of 33 weeks. Parents are able to purchase additional hours of care if they wish to do so. The free entitlement can be taken at a local authority children’s centre, nursery school or class or a pre-school playgroup or day nursery registered with the local authority to offer an early years curriculum.
- 4.31 Table 4.1 below provides a summary of nursery schools and schools offering nursery classes within 2km of Wirral Waters. This excludes private nurseries, including those that are registered with Wirral Council to provide an early years curriculum, and other day-care centres.

Table 4-1: Nursery Education, excluding private centres
Nursery School
Brentwood Nursery School, Wallasey
Schools with Nursery Classes – Birkenhead Community Schools
Cathcart Street
Cole Street
Portland
Woodlands
Schools with Nursery Classes – Voluntary Controlled Schools
Bidston Village CE
Christchurch CE
Schools with Nursery Classes – Voluntary Aided Schools
Holy Cross Primary
St Joseph’s Primary
St Laurence’s Primary
St Werbaugh’s Primary
Schools with Nursery Classes – Wallasey Community Schools
Egremont Primary
Kingsway Primary
Liscard Primary
Poulton Primary
Riverside Primary
Our Lady of Lourdes
Source: Wirral MBC.



4.32 Only one of these nursery education providers have to date been inspected by OFSTED, making it difficult to form a view about the quality of nursery education in the area. This provider is:

- Brentwood Nursery School: Inspected in 2003, the Nursery School achieved an overall rating of 9 out of 10. At the time of inspection it had a total roll of 60 children.

4.33 Private nursery and daycare provision is well spread out, both north and south of the Wirral Waters area of influence. Using Thompson Directory data we have identified 10 private nurseries within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. There are national standards which all nursery care providers must meet to be licensed to be carers for children. Nurseries are inspected by OFSTED (the Office for Standards in Education), but currently there only limited reports which are available which do not present us with a complete overview about quality of care. The supply of this private nursery and daycare provision is or should be relatively *elastic*, responding relatively closely and quickly to increases in demand (although the local authority may need to send signals to the market to encourage timely provision).

Primary Education

4.34 There are 26 primary schools within the Wirral Waters area of influence (i.e. within 2km) of the site. Across these schools there is a broad mix of schools with varying levels of occupancy, attainment, and recent investment. Primary schools in this area of the Wirral are located within areas of severe deprivation, some of the worst in England. Consequently the challenges which these

schools face are often much more severe, both in terms of academic attainment and pastoral care, than schools in more affluent or middle-class areas.

4.35 In assessing the performance of schools in this area (as part of our assessment of quality), it is important to consider both absolute performance (measured here by average point score at Key Stage 2) but also the *contextual value-added* score. This is a supplementary measure which is intended to allow a fairer comparison between schools by taking into account the nature of the school's intake. For KS2 value added, a measure of 101 means that on average each of the school's pupils made one term's more progress between KS1 and KS2 than the median - or middle value - for pupils with similar KS1 attainment. A score of 99 means that the school's pupils made a term's less progress.

4.36 **Table 2-1** below presents data which has been sourced from the latest documentation sourced from Wirral Council, as well as information from DfES. Average occupancy of primary schools across the Wirral Waters area is currently at just over 80%, indicating that there is substantial available capacity at present. On current capacity estimates this equates to approximately 1,370 unfilled places. Some schools are significantly under-occupied (and are threatened with closure), whereas a small number of other schools are over-subscribed. Ongoing and projected reductions in the size of Wirral's primary school age cohort will result in additional spare capacity.

4.37 As outlined earlier, the Council is reviewing school occupancy and performance on a year by year basis to see where rationalisation can occur. In the context of the Wirral Waters development and

housing market renewal objectives, it is clear that the physical infrastructure of Wirral's Primary schools would have the capacity to cope with significant increases in demand resulting from increases in catchment population. However, it will be important for Wirral MBC to have a better understanding of the likely phasing and quantum of development coming forward at Wirral Waters, and the demographic impact of that development, in order to inform their ongoing school rationalisation programme. Such information may have a bearing on the longer-term viability of a number of schools currently or projected to operate below threshold levels in the short to medium terms.

- 4.38 In terms of both absolute attainment and contextual value added, the majority of schools appear to be underperforming. Only 10 of the 26 schools within 2km of the Wirral Waters site meet the national average in terms of Key Stage 2 attainment. Of those schools which do perform at this level, it is unsurprising that these are schools which have higher levels of occupancy i.e. are more popular amongst parents. Only 6 of the 26 schools meet or exceed the national average for contextual value added (i.e. the progress children make between Key Stage 1-2), with pupils in a number of schools making significantly less progress than the national average for pupils with similar KS 1 attainment.

School	Percentage Occupancy	Ave Point Score Key Stage 2	Value Added KS1-2
EGREMONT PRIMARY	57.9	25.9	99.1
KINGSWAY PRIMARY	66.5	25.8	98.0
POULTON PRIMARY	72.6	30.6	99.5
SOMERVILLE PRIMARY	87.0	27.8	98.7
RIVERSIDE PRIMARY	78.2	27.2	99.6
PARK PRIMARY	81.8	27.3	99.6
ST JOSEPHS PRIMARY	60.8	29.2	98.5
GREENLEAS PRIMARY	103.1	30.3	101.2
MOUNT PRIMARY	99.3	28.2	98.9
LISCARD PRIMARY	102.6	27.1	98.8
ST GEORGES PRIMARY	100.4	29.3	98.9
ST ALBANS PRIMARY (CATHOLIC)	85.7	28.1	98.6
LEASOWE PRIMARY**	61.9	25.6	96.8
OUR LADY OF LOURDES (CATHOLIC)	64.7	25.8	98.9
BIDSTON VILLAGE CE	81.7	N/A	N/A
BIDSTON AVENUE PRIMARY	88.6	28.0	99.6
CATHCART STREET PRIMARY	66.2	23.3	97.8
COLE STREET PRIMARY	70.9	26.5	100.1
PORTLAND PRIMARY	81.4	25.3	97.5
THE PRIORY CE PRIMARY	92.3	28.1	100.9
ST LAURENCES (CATHOLIC)	43.3	26.9	100.0
HOLY CROSS PRIMARY (CATHOLIC)	95.2	25.4	98.6
OUR LADY& ST EDWARDS (CATHOLIC)	103.8	27.8	100.4
WOODLANDS PRIMARY	83.9	25.9	99.1

CHRISTCHURCH CE CP	76.9	N/A	N/A
ST WERBURGHS (CATHOLIC)	84.3	26.6	101.2
All 26 Schools (Average)	80.4	27.2	99.2
<p>Note: Green shading - Performance above the England Average – Avg point score 27.8; Value Added 99.6. Grey shading – schools threatened with closure as part of the LEA area reviews. ** PFI Project Source: Wirral MBC School Organization Plan; DFES</p>			

4.39 **Table 4-3** below provides a summary of the results of the most recent OFSTED inspections at primary schools within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. This shows that despite the often challenging nature of the local catchment area and some underperformance (in terms of both absolute attainment and contextual value added) many of the schools in the area are assessed as GOOD.

Table 4-3: Summary of OFSTED Inspections of Primary Schools within 2km of the Wirral Waters site

	Inspection Date	Overall effectiveness	Achievement and standards	Personal development and well-being	Teaching and Learning	Curriculum and other activities	Care, guidance and support	Leadership and management
Bidston Avenue Primary School	Jan-07	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bidston Village	No inspection identified							
Cathcart Street Primary	Sep-06	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Christchurch CE	No inspection identified							
Cole Street Primary	Jun-06	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Egremont Primary	May-04	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	-	Good	Good
Greenleas Primary	Oct-07	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Holy Cross Primary	Oct-05	Good	Satisfactory	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Kingsway Primary	Jan-06	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good
Leasowe Primary	Jan-05	-			Good			Good
Liscard Primary	Jun-04	Effective	Satisfactory		Good			Good/Satisfactory
Mount Primary	Mar-06	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Our Lady of Lourdes	Jul-07	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Our Lady & St Edwards	Dec-06	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding	Good	Good
Park Primary	Jun-06	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good
Portland Primary	Sep-04	Effective	Good		Good	Good	Good	Good
Poulton Primary	Jun-07	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Riverside Primary	Jan-05	Effective	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Somerville Primary	Apr-05	Effective	Good	Very Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Good
St Albans Primary	Feb-07	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
St George's Primary	May-05	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very Good	Good
St Joseph's Primary	Mar-06	Inadequate	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Inadequate
St Laurence's	Oct-05	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Outstanding	Good

St Werbaugh's	Mar-03	Effective		Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Very Good	Good
The Priory	Nov-06	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
Woodlands Primary	Jul-07	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Source: OFSTED.								



Secondary Education

- 4.40 It is clear from our initial overview that the secondary education landscape in Wirral is complex, with a mix of comprehensive secondary, Catholic secondary, grammar schools, and independent secondary education, including some single sex provision. Across Wirral's 22 secondary schools, attainment is above the national average.
- 4.41 Secondary School performance in the district, measured by the proportion of 15 year olds achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (including maths and English), has been improving in recent years. In 2003 43.5% of pupils had achieved this level which was higher than the national average of 41.9%. By 2006 this had increased to 46.3% when the national average was 45.3%. Over 92% of pupils pass 5 GCSEs at grades A*-G, whilst approximately 97% of pupils attain at least one qualification from school.
- 4.42 As discussed above, occupancy in secondary schools across Wirral is high. At 98% the secondary system is effectively at full capacity and there are a number of schools operating above capacity. These include Grammar schools and a number of faith-based (Catholic) schools which have proven popular with parents due to their levels of attainment. Officers regard this as the *high water mark* of occupancy as the largest cohorts pass through the primary and into secondary education. The reduction in pupil numbers currently affecting primary schools will shortly begin to affect secondary schools. This reduction in the total roll will, on the basis of recent trends, be long-term. As noted above, the number of 10-14 year olds is expected to drop by 13% (-2,800 people) and the number of 15-19 year olds by 19% (-4,100 people) between 2004 and 2029.
- 4.43 There are seven secondary schools located within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. Together they provide a total of 9,930 school places. Occupancy is relatively high (at 85%), with 1,485 places currently unfilled across all years. Occupancy does vary significantly between these schools (as shown in **Table 4-4**). The majority of these schools have adopted and developed specialisms, in either Sports, Technology, Business or Arts.
- 4.44 All seven of the schools within 2km are rated by OFSTED as satisfactory or higher (two are very good or outstanding). However, only two of the schools achieve higher than national average of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C. Four out of the seven schools achieve higher than average levels of teaching effectiveness or contextual value added (CVA), reflecting the ability of these schools to ensure that pupils make good progress whilst at school.
- 4.45 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) investments have been important in improving the built quality of three of the secondary schools in the Wirral Waters area. A new school has been developed (Weatherhead), whilst investments in renovation and extensions have been made in the other two.

Table 4-4: Secondary Schools with 2km of Wirral Waters					
School	Percentage Occupancy	Specialism	OFSTED rating (most recent)	% achieving 5 GCSEs A-C	Contextual Value Added
PARK**	82.6	Sports	Satisfactory	16	1000.8
ST ANSELMS (Catholic - Boys)	78.6	Technology	Very Good	80	1011.7
MOSSLANDS	91.0	Technology	Satisfactory	40	989.1
OLDERSHAW	62.6	Business & Enterprise	Satisfactory	25	996.5
WALLASEY**	88.9		Satisfactory	16	994.6
WEATHERHEAD**	91.7	Arts	Good	54	1001.3
ST MARYS (Catholic)	93.4	Arts	Outstanding	30	1029.0

Note: England average 5 GCSEs 45.8%

CVS measures effectiveness of education between KS2-4. Scores above 1000 represent schools where pupils on average made more progress than similar pupils nationally, while scores below 1000 represent schools where pupils made less progress

** PFI project

Source: Wirral MBC School Organization Plan; DFES; OFSTED

Further Education

- 4.46 Sixth form provision and post 16 education is provided through the sixth forms centres at some secondary schools and through sixth-form colleges and the further education college (Wirral Metropolitan).
- 4.47 Wirral Metropolitan College is the leading provider of further education (FE) in Wirral. It provides a wide range of education and learning. This includes courses leading to a broad range of vocational and academic qualifications. As noted above, Wirral Metropolitan has two campuses within close proximity to the Wirral Water site:
- Twelve Quays: Situated at Shore Road, Birkenhead, the Twelve Quays campus is a modern facility located in an area adjoining the Wirral Waters site.
 - Conway Park: Located at Europa Boulevard, Conway Park, Birkenhead, a short distance to the south of the Wirral Waters site (between the site and Birkenhead Town Centre).
- 4.48 In 2005/6 the College had a total of 33,500 FE enrolments, making it the second largest provider in Merseyside. Total FE enrolments have increased by 8.8% (2,700) from 30,800 in 2001/2. It offers vocational training in all of the sectors covered by UK Sector Skills Councils.
- 4.49 Together with local schools and employers, the College will play an important role in the roll-out and delivery of the new Specialised Diploma qualification aimed at 14-19 year olds. In partnership with Southport College, Alder Training and Knowsley Community College, Wirral Metropolitan has been awarded Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in Health and Social Care. It also operates as a CoVE for the Construction Industry (and will be well placed to help ensure that the local employment impact of Wirral Waters is maximised in the construction as well as operational phases).
- 4.50 The College also provides access courses (to help people gain access to higher education) and delivers a number of higher education programmes (including Foundation Degrees) through partnership arrangements with a number of regional universities, including:
- Liverpool Hope University
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - University of Chester
 - Liverpool John Moores University
 - Edge Hill University, and
 - University of Liverpool.
- 4.51 The College has invested £16m in its three campuses in recent years. Looking forwards, the College is currently considering rationalising its facilities, closing its Carlett Park and Conway Park campuses and consolidating activity in a new facility closer to its main student catchment of Birkenhead and Wallasey. There may be the option for the College to relocate activities in either the Woodside area or within the Wirral Waters site. The College is hopeful that this new facility could be operational by 2011/12.
- 4.52 It is our understanding that LSC are not currently investing in capital programmes to improve the **capacity** of education infrastructure in the Wirral, but as outlined earlier they are investing in providing quality **improvements/enhancements** for post 16 education, replacing new for old and rationalising provision where appropriate.

Looking Towards the Future

- 4.53 Our discussions with the Director of Children’s Services and his team at Wirral MBC, along with our analysis of current infrastructure suggest that early years and school age education infrastructure within Wirral generally, and the area in close proximity to Wirral Waters more specifically, is in a state of on-going change and improvement. The PFI programme which has been running across Wirral has helped to deliver contemporary school infrastructure, whilst other capital investments have helped modernise and improve facilities, accelerating the rate of investment in school stock significantly.
- 4.54 The Council’s area review rationalisation programme, which is an on-going process, is helping to reduce under-occupancy in the borough’s primary school sector, targeting those schools which are financially unsustainable (or at risk of becoming unsustainable). To date the issue of overcapacity is most pronounced in the primary education sector but over time will begin to be felt in the secondary sector within 5-10 years (where occupancy across Wirral is currently at a strong level). There are some primary schools within close proximity to the Wirral Waters site which have been identified as significantly under-occupied and requiring some form of rationalisation intervention. The Council have been working with these schools to attempt to overcome these issues and plan for the future. At present we are aware that there are some schools within the local area which are threatened with closure (see Table 4.2 above), although the Council will always look at alternatives prior to this.
- 4.55 However, the Children’s Services Directorate at the Council recognise the importance of the redevelopment of Wirral Waters to the overall regeneration of Inner Wirral. Their rationalisation programme will need to take account of the phasing dynamics of residential development at the site, whilst also taking into account the potential for new births and in-migration of families of young children as a result of the development. The current and evolving challenge of under-occupancy within Wirral’s primary education sector suggests that there is **sufficient scope**, despite rationalisation, to accommodate a significant phased increase in the school-age population of this area of the Wirral.
- 4.56 The situation in the secondary education sector is less clear, complicated by Wirral’s varied offer of schools. Overall, secondary school occupation appears to be at a level which may be considered close to optimal, although occupancy in some schools is low whilst others are over-subscribed and/or running above capacity (both in Wirral as a whole but also within close proximity to the Wirral Waters site). However, the reduced cohorts currently moving through the primary sector will, in the short-to-medium terms, reach secondary school age, suggesting that occupancy across the secondary sector in Wirral will fall. Looking forward over the longer term, population projections suggest that without a significant increase in inward migration to Wirral, the number of children of secondary school age is set to fall significantly, resulting in reduced occupancy. Although some schools have relatively low occupancy and/or are seeking to address performance issues, whilst others are in very strong demand, the available evidence suggests that Wirral will have adequate capacity to meet projected demand. Indeed, over time Wirral is likely to have significant available capacity to meet demands associated with a significant level of in-migration. It will be important to test this more thoroughly when evidence on the likely build-up of population at Wirral Waters is available.
- 4.57 Wirral will benefit from Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme, a government programme with the aim is to rebuild or

renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period. Wirral's schools will receive investment from this national programme as part of wave 12, in 2016.

- 4.58 Following the Leitch Review of Skills, the LSC's mainstream funding is focused strongly on driving up the proportion of the workforce (or those entering the workforce) holding NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in order to enhance employability, productivity and progression. The key change associated with this is the roll-out of *train2gain*, a programme designed to stimulate and serve employer demand for training and higher level skills. Training for these qualifications is workplace-based, typically delivered at the employer's premises although sometimes at College sites or in other locations. Looking across the sub-regional Further Education sector, the LSC do not anticipate funding substantial investments in **new** (net additional) buildings/ facilities at College sites, with the increasing emphasis on workplace-based delivery and demographic projections which point to falling student rolls (despite efforts to drive up participation), although will continue to invest in renewal and modernisation of the sub-regional college estate. Possible exceptions to this may be the funding of new sector-specific facilities which provide *real world working environments* in which students can train. It will be important to explore this through further discussion with the LSC.
- 4.59 Wirral Council are aware that they will need to respond to the demands which residential development at Wirral Waters may bring upon their services. This will be important for the longer term planning of nursery, primary and secondary education, and post-2010, further education and the full range of 14-19 provision. Officers will seek to factor in the demographic impact of Wirral Waters within their short, medium and long-term planning. One potential way forward is to develop a mechanism or set of

protocols, agreed with service providers across Wirral, to help communicate news and information about the scheme as early as possible as important issues emerge. The development of a **social infrastructure partnership group** could be one way in which communication lines between the developer and service providers are strengthened for the benefit of all parties. A similar wide-ranging partnership group was established in the Thames Gateway area. Originally led by the health authorities, this group grew to include a range of service providers. It has helped bring social infrastructure issues to the forefront of this large scale regeneration project, by working with government as well as developers.

- 4.60 Under the emerging City Employment Strategy (which will consider employment and skills needs and opportunities across the Liverpool City Region) and the planned development of the City Region Employment and Skills Board, the planning and programming of skills and action on employability will be undertaken across a wider geographical area. Partners will seek to ensure that the provision of skills and employability action is demand-led, reflecting the needs of major employers and growth sectors across the City Region.
- 4.61 With the proposed development of Wirral Waters, Liverpool Waters and the wider *Ocean Gateway* concept, Peel's development projects will act as a major driver of both short and longer term change and growth in local and regional economies. In discussion, the LSC identified an opportunity for Peel to participate in this sub-regional planning and governance. For example, market analysis or foresight on key potential sectors developing within Wirral Waters would enable agencies to plan more their offer more effectively.

5. Health & Social Care

5.1 In this section we present the emerging results of our mapping and analysis of existing social and community infrastructure provision within the *Health & Social Care* theme. This covers the following:

- Primary care facilities (e.g. General Practice, dentists etc.)
- Intermediate care facilities (e.g. Health centres)
- Acute care (Hospitals)

5.2 In doing so, we draw upon available evidence on the Accessibility, Usage and Quality of existing provision as discussed in Section 2. We also consider the key demographic, organisational and policy drivers which will determine the future demand for and supply of facilities and services.

5.3 To date we have undertaken consultations with the following individuals at both the Hospital Trust and the Primary Care Trust:

- Nicola Bunce – Estates Manger, Wirral Hospital Trust
- Tina Long, PCT Director of Strategic Partnerships
- John South, PCT Director of Primary Care & Provider services.

Context

5.4 Health and Social Care services and infrastructure are largely supported via the NHS and the local authority. In Wirral the Primary Care Trust (PCT) co-ordinates and funds primary care health services (e.g. GP's, dentists, and pharmacies), whilst the Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust¹³ delivers acute

and secondary care health services (e.g. hospitals). The PCT also plays an important role in delivering other services through its Health and Wellbeing community teams, providing advice on healthy living, mental health and physical activity, with an emphasis on targeting those people living in the most deprived communities. Many of these services are primarily offered to residents across the PCT area on a referral basis e.g. mental health, health rehabilitation services, and as such are not location specific services.

5.5 The local authority provides a wide range of social services for the population of Wirral (e.g. fostering, transportation, homecare), whilst being an active partner in the Wirral Health & Social Care partnership, with the NHS Trusts also playing an active role in this organisation.

Hospital Trust

5.6 The Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust manages two acute main hospitals and provides some services from other centres, including two community hospitals:

- Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton, which has approximately 900 beds and provides a complete range of acute health services for adults, children and babies.
- Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington, which has approximately 200 beds for elective surgery (planned operations), rehabilitation services and care of older people.
- The Hospital Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital, and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. However, the Primary Care Trust are owners of these properties.

5.7 Arrowe Park Hospital is a relatively modern hospital completed in

¹³ The Hospital is affiliated to the University of Liverpool as part of its medical teaching programmes.

1981 and is the borough’s main acute hospital. It provides key services such as Accident & Emergency, Maternity, Intensive Care, amongst a range of other surgical provision. The latest Hospital Trust Estates Report¹⁴ states that the buildings at Arrowe Park are structurally sound and will continue to meet needs over the long-term. The hospital is located near Upton, and is accessible via road (including the M53 motorway) and bus links from across Wirral. Clatterbridge Hospital was once the borough’s main hospital prior to the development of Arrowe Park. The hospital infrastructure there is relatively old, with the Trust offering more limited services to patients.

Primary Care Trust

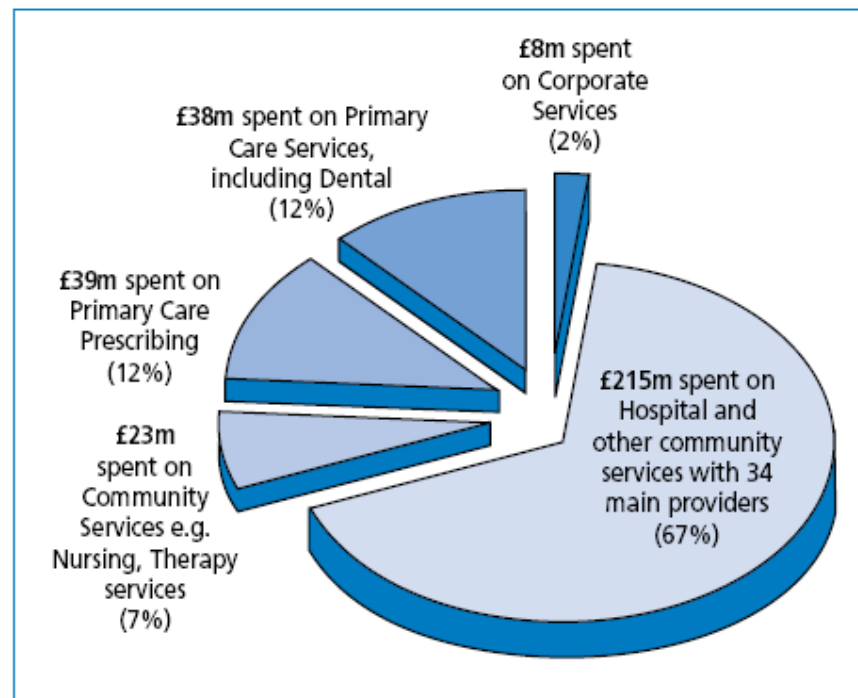
5.8 Wirral Primary Care Trust is currently half way through a ten year programme of healthcare delivery reform. The PCT is aiming to radically change the way healthcare is delivered in Wirral, and to ensure that their services are responsive to the needs of the people and delivered closer to their homes¹⁵. The PCT is responsible for all primary care services within the Wirral area. This is very wide ranging and includes services such as GPs, dentistry, pharmacy services, health education, community mental health services.

5.9 The PCT has three main responsibilities in respect of the people of Wirral¹⁶:

- To improve health and to reduce inequalities.
- To provide primary and community services,.

- To commission a range of healthcare services from a number of NHS and Private Hospitals.

5.10 The PCTs budget for 2007/08 is approximately £385million. Estimates on what the PCT spends this on are illustrated below:



¹⁴ Wirral Hospital NHS Trust Estates Strategy, 2007-2012
¹⁵ Wirral PCT – Strategic Commissioning Plan, 2008-2013
¹⁶ PCT Local Delivery Plan, 2005-2008



Key Drivers

Demographic Change

- 5.11 As noted in Section Three, many parts of eastern Wirral, including areas in close proximity to the Wirral Waters site are disproportionately affected by early mortality and higher levels of morbidity (ill-health). This places additional burdens on the health infrastructure and on health care providers, as well as helping to shape the nature of the health facilities and services required in Wirral. Much of this additional burden is associated with conditions with strong links to a range of lifestyle factors.
- 5.12 Again, as noted in Section 2, demographic change is likely to have a significant impact on the demand for and supply of key health services. The long-term reduction in the number of births and young children projected for Wirral will clearly reduce demand for a range of services (e.g. pre and neo natal, paediatric medicine) whilst the rapidly ageing profile of Wirral's population will result in major increases in demands for geriatric services and for social/personal care. It is projected that population over 50 years of age in Wirral will grow (net) by some 21,000 people from 117,000 people in 2004 to 139,000 in 2029 (an increase of 18%. Moreover, the population over 65 will grow more rapidly still, increasing by 24,000 or 42%.

Organisational and Policy Change

A focus upon Communities

- 5.13 The Government's White Paper, *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say* (2006) sets out a vision to provide people with good quality social care and NHS services in the communities where they live. The White Paper emphasises the importance of offering patients greater

choice in how they access healthcare services, and reflects on the need for a flexible system of healthcare which can be 'more personalised' and 'fit into people's busy lives'. This policy is now permeating its way through healthcare provision across England and will have a profound impact on the way in which services are designed, delivered and experienced over the longer term.

- 5.14 Across England PCTs and the Hospital Trusts are working together to ensure that, where possible, healthcare service delivery is brought nearer to communities they serve. By bringing services nearer to home it reduces some of the burden on people visiting hospitals for certain procedures or tests which could be performed at a local clinic. With an ageing demographic, preventative and local care is becoming of more paramount importance. This shift also helps lift the burden placed on secondary care health providers, enabling them to concentrate on other important healthcare service issues. The financial restructuring of NHS financial systems within the PCT and the Hospital Trust, now makes it less financially attractive for GPs, and hence the PCT, to refer through to hospitals to the same extent as in the past. The government are using fiscal measures within the internal NHS system to encourage PCTs to deliver community orientated services which can lessen the burden on hospital services.
- 5.15 In Wirral community based commissioning of healthcare services is clearly evident and rising in importance. An increasing number of out-patient services are being delivered at community hospitals (Victoria Central Community Hospital in Wallasey and St Catherine's Hospital in Birkenhead), whilst investments by the PCT in modern GP and health clinic services in contemporary facilities which have flexible uses i.e. space can be utilised by a range of healthcare occupations. A more detailed outline of changes in local healthcare service provision is explored in the mapping infrastructure section

of this chapter.

Joined-up Service Provision

- 5.16 The White Paper focussed upon creating choice for people in their local communities. However, to do this most effectively it has been critical that service providers from across the spectrum of health and social care align their activities where reasonably possible. Partnership working has been, and will continue to be, extremely important in this. Only when service providers work collectively together can well-structured local services start to be delivered, and improved health infrastructure and health outcomes be accessed and realised by communities.
- 5.17 Joined-up service provision is regarded by policy-makers as one of the most effective ways, for both users and providers, to deliver and experience services at a community level. Partnership arrangements can be wide-ranging and include a diverse mix of service providers e.g. dentists, drug counsellors, pharmacies, GPs etc. It is within these parameters that providers get a better understanding on what each other do, and how best to strategically align certain services or infrastructure.
- 5.18 As well as partnership arrangements amongst providers, the role of healthcare provision in regeneration activity, particularly through programmes like Neighbourhood Renewal, is another way in which healthcare services can better target those in communities with the greatest need for support. The White Paper emphasises the importance of ensuring that services are improved through the modern facilities in the right locations (in close proximity to areas of need and accessible by public transport), and offer the services which best meet the issues affecting the community. This is of

critical importance in communities across Wirral, including those in close proximity to the Wirral Waters site.

Private Finance

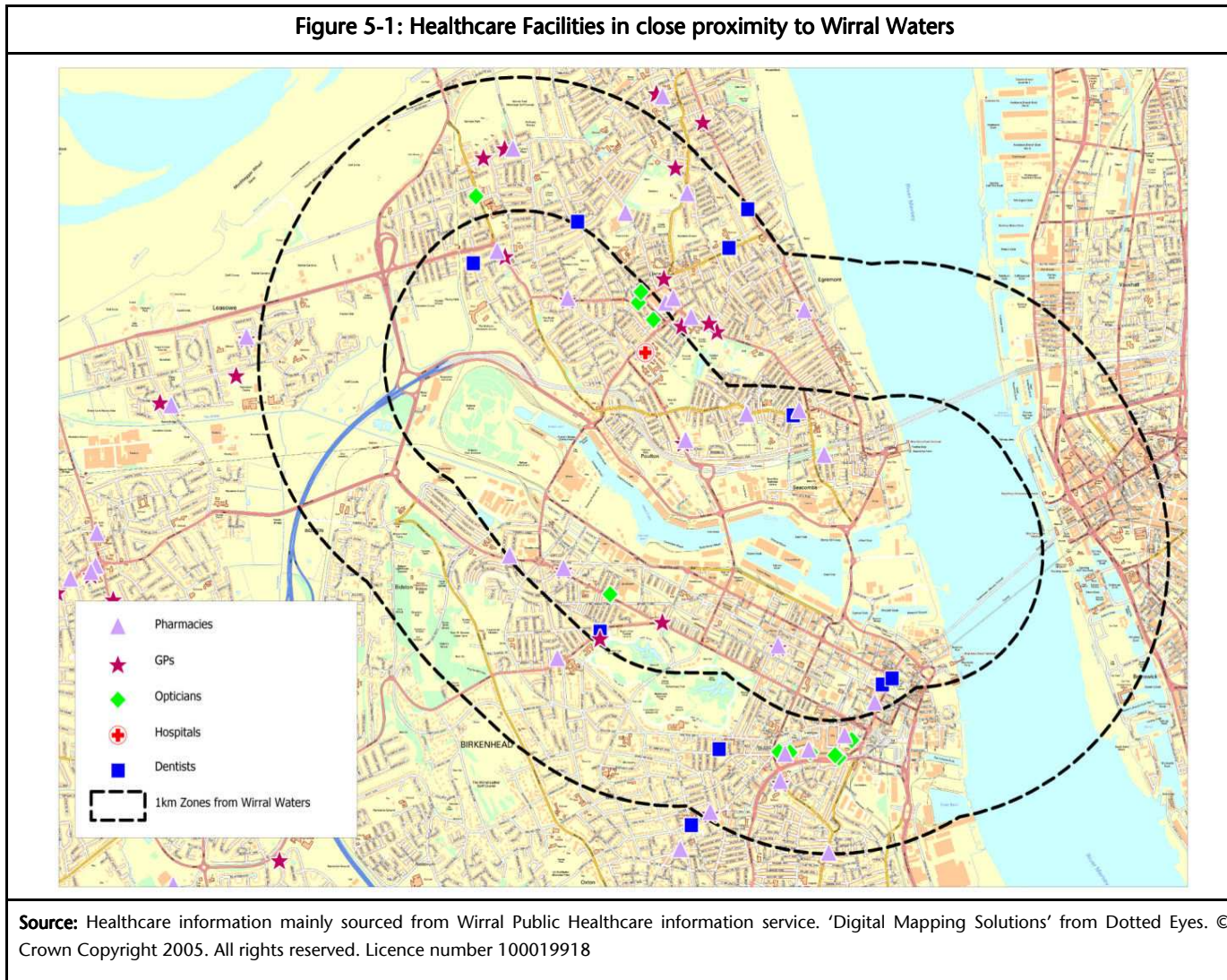
- 5.19 As with other areas of public sector capital investments over the last ten years e.g. education investments, the government's preferred model of funding large investment programmes has been through private finance. The private finance initiative (PFI) is a mechanism which allows the government to carry less risk over the short-term in relation to the building of the infrastructure, with a private sector organisation/developer owning the asset for a set period of time e.g. 30 years. The private sector organisation then charges a rental on the use of the building over the length of a specified contract. In short, the government is able to deliver high quality, modern services and infrastructure in a relatively short period of time to address issues, although over the longer term the cost of delivering the infrastructure is typically much higher.
- 5.20 Healthcare is no different in this respect. With an emphasis on renewing and improving the quality of healthcare infrastructure PCTs are gradually moving away from holding older infrastructure assets e.g. old clinic buildings, surgeries etc. Such assets can be a drain on their resources through their on-going maintenance and administrative costs. PCTs are now encouraging GPs, dentists and other providers to work with private developers and organisations to deliver modern and effective buildings and infrastructure which will enable the PCT to offer services to the public which located in buildings which are fit for purpose. Most PCTs are finding that this model of funding is enabling them to reduce their asset management costs, whilst also providing communities with healthcare infrastructure which meets their needs. Evidence of

Wirral's approach to financing infrastructure improvements is explored in more detail in the following section.

Mapping Existing Infrastructure

- 5.21 As noted in Chapter 2, *Health and social care* is a wide ranging theme. With the data which has been made available to us, we have based our analysis on core health care service providers. These include:
- Hospital provision
 - GP Services
 - Pharmacies
 - Dentists
 - Optometrists
- 5.22 The following analysis does not include some forms of social care provision which could be considered within this definition e.g. mental health services, care homes etc. Although these are important services, information was more difficult to collate in these areas, and it was clear that a focus on the areas of provision outlined above would address the 'core healthcare infrastructure' which residents' access.
- 5.23 **Figure 5-1** illustrates healthcare services and facilities which fall within close proximity to the Wirral Waters development. This particular map takes into consideration a wider area of influence to ensure that hospital provision, particularly at Arrowe Park is included in the analysis.

Figure 5-1: Healthcare Facilities in close proximity to Wirral Waters



Source: Healthcare information mainly sourced from Wirral Public Healthcare information service. 'Digital Mapping Solutions' from Dotted Eyes. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019918

Hospitals

- 5.24 Arrowe Park hospital is located approximately 4-5 miles from the Wirral Waters development (depending upon which area you are travelling from). It is the main centre for hospital related care services in Wirral. It houses the Accident & Emergency facility and intensive care units, along with approximately 900 beds on its wards. This hospital, along with Clatterbridge (which is towards the south of Wirral) provides the key services which residents who currently live in close proximity to the development site would use.
- 5.25 In line with the current policy shift towards reducing in-flows of patients to hospitals, as well as treating more cases in facilities in closer proximity to communities, the Hospital Trust also manages the X-ray facilities, outpatient services and day hospital at Victoria Central Hospital, and the Radiography Department at St Catherine's Hospital. The Trust also fund a small level of elderly rehabilitation beds at Victoria Central. However, it is the Primary Care Trust who are owners of these hospital facilities.
- 5.26 The Healthcare Commission, England's healthcare watchdog, is responsible for the independent regulation of healthcare for both the NHS and private sector in England and assesses hospital trusts by their overall quality of services as excellent, good, fair or weak. The overall Rating for the Hospital Trust across its site is '**Good**', providing a good quality of service to patients¹⁷. Whilst there is some room for improvement across the Trust's, it is clear that the Trust is making positive strides forward to address some the issues which the commission has been monitoring e.g. waiting times for A&E, MRSA incidents, quality of facilities.

- 5.27 Wirral Hospital Trust is working alongside the PCT on their plans to redevelop community hospitals at Victoria and St Catherine's hospitals. More detail on these plans follow in the PCT section below, however the key value of working together on these developments are that patient care and service delivery will benefit from improved facilities which are located at the heart of communities, both north and south of the development. These hospitals will provide modern infrastructure to meet the needs of both current residents, whilst also having the **flexibility** and the **scope** to expand to accommodate further growth if and when required.

Primary Care Services

- 5.28 Wirral PCT is responsible for a range of primary care services which are delivered within the communities surrounding Wirral Waters, primarily Birkenhead and Wallasey. Our analysis of primary healthcare infrastructure is again based upon 1km zones from the development site. It should be noted that other infrastructure may be located just beyond these zones (see **Figure 5-1**), and they may play a role in supporting both existing and future residents. However, for the purposes of this mapping exercise the analysis has only examined infrastructure within the specified zones.
- 5.29 The Healthcare Commission also monitors PCT performance across the country. Wirral PCT as an entity was established only relatively recently (last 2 years) so performance cannot be tracked back over several years. However, the latest performance assessment from the Commission states that the quality of services offered is '**Fair**' (below Good and Excellent), whilst patients rated the services offered by

¹⁷

http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/patientsandthepublic/searchforhealthcareproviders.cfm/widCall1/customWidgets.content_view_1/cit_id/10955

the Trust as **'Satisfactory'**¹⁸. There is clearly scope to improve upon these ratings across Wirral. As this section will explore, efforts are currently on-going to raise the quality and range of infrastructure, especially in those communities in close proximity to Wirral Waters.

- 5.30 However, the recent PCT Commissioning Report (2008-2013) outlines that Wirral, in comparison to the regional average, has **6% more GPs** per head of population, with General Practices generally providing **good access** as measured by appointment availability. The document also states that Wirral GPs provide high quality care, with this measured by the national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), and they are in the top 25% in England. Although this report provides an overview at a Wirral wide level, analysis is not provided on a smaller area basis (e.g. Inner Wirral).
- 5.31 However, the following table present an overview of our analysis on the current levels of provision for GP and medical centre infrastructure within the Wirral Waters locality i.e. within 2km of the proposed development. There are approximately **17 surgeries and medical centres** which serve the communities of Birkenhead and Wallasey who live closest to the docks.

18

http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/patientsandthepublic/searchforhealthcareproviders.cfm/cit_id/10879/widCall1/customWidgets.content_view_1

Table 5-1: General Practitioners and Medical Centres within 2km of Wirral Waters		
GP Practice	Postcode	Area
Cloughton Medical Centre	CH410DD	Birkenhead
Cavendish Medical Centre	CH418BU	Birkenhead
Devaney Medical Centre	CH435RE	Birkenhead
Miriam Medical Centre	CH418FG	Birkenhead
Vittoria Medical Centre (Edwards)	CH413RH	Birkenhead
Whetstone Medical Centre	CH412TF	Birkenhead
Central Park Medical Centre	CH440AB	Wallasey
Earlston Road Surgery	CH455DX	Wallasey
Egremont Medical Centre	CH448AT	Wallasey
Field Road Health Centre	CH453HE	Wallasey
Grove Road Surgery	CH453HF	Wallasey
Liscard Group Practice	CH445UL	Wallasey
Manor Health Centre	CH454JG	Wallasey
Martins Lane Surgery	CH441BA	Wallasey
Somerville Medical Centre	CH444AA	Wallasey
St. Hilary Brow Group Practice	CH442AG	Wallasey
Wallasey Village Group Practice	CH453NL	Wallasey

Note: Grey shading indicates that development/investment has been identified in the PCT Local Delivery Plan, 2005-2008 for this centre. Other schemes are understood to have come forward since this document was published. Source: Healthcare information mainly sourced from Wirral Public Healthcare information service

- 5.32 Discussions with the PCT have indicated that there has been an **extensive** programme of infrastructure rationalisation and improvement over the last 3-5 years. The PCT were aware that much of their infrastructure was out of date, inflexible (e.g. old converted houses), and ever more expensive to maintain. Many of the PCTs older centres were sold off to private providers (approximately 20 centres across Wirral), whilst the PCT are now increasingly renting back space from developers and GPs to buy-in the services which local communities require. As noted earlier, a rental model is far easier to manage in terms of asset management issues, whilst the patients also benefit from more modern facilities in their neighbourhoods.
- 5.33 The PCTs commissioning strategy also outlines some of the reasons why there has been a need to upgrade and rationalise healthcare infrastructure. These strategic priorities highlight the need to address inequalities across Wirral, to bring services more directly towards communities, and to work in partnership with the hospital trust to reduce admissions, and shape secondary care service delivery closer to where they are needed:
- To target resources to reduce health inequalities and narrow the gap in life expectancy and infant mortality between different areas in Wirral
 - To develop primary and community services, to reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and provide more community based alternatives to hospital care
 - To develop an agreed vision for the unique and important role of Wirral Hospital Trust in providing healthcare on Wirral.
- 5.34 There is evidence that some of the GP facilities to the south and north of the docks in the Birkenhead and Wallasey areas (e.g. Victoria Medical Centre) have developed, with private finance, new centres which offer not only GP services but space for a range of other services (e.g. community nursing, minor day case work, dispensing pharmacies etc. These new centres have seen several GP practices aligning within an area to provide a more comprehensive offer to the communities which they serve. The PCT advise that since 1997 there has been £21.4m invested in improved primary care premises on Wirral. Schemes to the value of £16.6m are currently underway, whilst funding has been agreed for additional schemes to the value of £9.5m. Discussions are ongoing regarding a potential additional £42.6m. If all these schemes come to fruition it will mean that by 2010 there will have been £90m invested in primary care premises in Wirral over a 13 year period.
- 5.35 It is important to also highlight the other primary care services which are currently available to residents who live in close proximity to the development. **Table 5-2** highlights those opticians and dentists which are located within 2km of the development. There are approximately nine opticians located in this 2km area, with a high concentration of these located within Birkenhead town centre. Dentists are more evenly spread across the area with services provided by nine practices across various residential areas. Recent information of pharmacy provision shows that there are approximately 24 pharmacies within 2km, with a mix of independent and national pharmacy providers.
- 5.36 There have been no audits of quality, which we are aware of, for these types of services. It is therefore difficult to develop conclusions on their services or the extent to which access to NHS services is good.

Table 5-2: Opticians and Dentists within 2km of Wirral Waters			
Opticians within 2km	Postcode	Dentists within 2km	Postcode
Boots Opticians	CH41 2ZL	Poulton Road Dental Practice	CH44 9DQ
Brumpton Opticians	CH41 8EN	Manor Road Dental Surgery	CH45 7LX
Crown Optical Centre	CH41 6EB	N J Mawdsley	CH43 4XF
Eye Style	CH45 3LR	F J McGowan	CH45 4PT
Eye 2 Eye	CH41 2PH	T McGrath	CH41 0DA
Frederick Howard Opticians	CH45 4NW	Hamilton Square Dental Practice	CH41 6AZ
Optisavers Ltd	CH41 2XY	Wallasey Village Dental Practice	CH45 8NY
Rayner Opticians	CH41 2XZ	T F Varley	CH41 1AD
Rayner Ltd	CH45 4NE	A F Slee	CH45 7PF
Wallasey Specsavers Ltd	CH44 5XX		
Specsavers	CH41 2XX		
Source: Healthcare information mainly sourced from Wirral Public Healthcare information service			

Looking Towards the Future

- 5.37 The over-riding message from the Hospital Trust is that they **do not** believe that the proposed development at Wirral Waters will have a fundamental impact upon the way in which it delivers its services, although it seems clear that such a major increase in population will affect demand and future supply for particular types of medical services. The type of people who are likely to live in the developments, based upon what they know of the scheme to date, are thought likely to be 20's to mid-30's professionals, and therefore unlikely to have the types of on-going health issues which require hospital attention, and are more likely to be well educated and make healthier lifestyle choices. The evidence from this demographic typically shows that their most likely attendance at hospital will be for A&E or out of hour's emergency care services, although their use of other services will also impose greater demands (e.g. obstetrics).
- 5.38 The Hospital Trust is eager to continue the shift towards delivering certain services away from hospitals and towards facilities within communities. This will help them focus on their core services within hospitals, whilst also allowing residents to have services which are more accessible, and of a high quality and standard. The Trust is actively working with the PCT to ensure that this is the case and to align their priorities for service delivery in local areas.
- 5.39 However, the Primary Care Trust is the key organisation which will determine the progress that Wirral makes in delivering higher quality local healthcare facilities and an increased range of services in community settings. Discussions with PCT Directors suggest that the proposal for Wirral Waters and its additional 20-25,000 additional residents over its build period would **not raise major capacity constraints** for the PCT. As highlighted earlier the PCT area

already has 6% more GPs per head of population than the regional average, whilst on average the PCT state that there is currently typically 1 GP for every 1,800 residents (in line with General Medical Council guidelines). Taking into account the recent investments in medical facilities, and those proposed for the future, a confident picture emerges which suggests that this area of Wirral could **cope** with the increase in population envisaged. However, the nature and balance of the population likely to be attracted to Wirral Waters is such that provision may need to be qualitatively different in order to meet their expectations and to help the area attract and retain residents. Further consideration may need to be given to the increased demand for PCT and Acute services linked to increases in the daytime population of the Wirral Waters area (i.e. the demands that workers at Wirral Waters may generate).

- 5.40 As explored in the *Key Drivers* section above, private finance is playing an extremely important role in delivering modern healthcare facilities in Wirral. This is not only in the rationalisation of GP and medical centres, but also in the redevelopment of community hospitals which are operated by the PCT. The PCT already has plans to invest in **two schemes**. One is to develop Victoria Central hospital through a £13m scheme into a modern walk-in clinic with a range of services available for patients, including secondary care services such as X-ray and minor injuries which the Hospital Trust provides in a community setting. This is expected to be delivered by 2009. The second is a proposal to redevelop St. Catherine's Hospital through a £30m scheme to bring local GP practices together in one main facility. This proposal is at an early stage, but it could potentially be delivered by 2010. In both schemes there will also be space for additional service providers, as well as **flexibility** to accommodate more GPs and services if required in the future due to the impacts of demographic changes.

5.41 There is an increasing number of examples in which the development of modern, multi-use healthcare facilities have been delivered as a central or component part of wider regeneration schemes (or in which regeneration outcomes have been an important consideration in project design). We are aware of several recent schemes within the North West which have included the development of modern healthcare facilities in close proximity to areas of deprivation as part of the wider social and community infrastructure offer within an area. These include:

- The development of a new primary care centre in Ashton-under-Lyne was part of a £27m investment by Tameside and Glossop PCT in modern healthcare facilities across their area. Funding through LIFT¹⁹ was secured to develop a new centre in Ashton as part of Ask Development's St Petersfield regeneration scheme in the St Peters ward (one of Ashton's most deprived and in the top 4% nationally). The St Petersfield scheme is intended to deliver a major new urban business quarter, in close proximity to the town centre and these areas of deprivation. The PCT was given the clearance by the Department of Health to begin its LIFT scheme due to the high levels of deprivation and health inequalities locally, and the opportunity to provide modern healthcare facilities at a site which was accessible to local people.
- Ancoats in East Manchester now has a £6m NHS primary care centre at the heart of its community. Funded through LIFT, the PCT has worked collaboratively with the Urban Regeneration Company, New East Manchester, to develop a 25,000ft² health practice, housing a number of health service providers. The Ancoats area of Manchester is considered one of the most deprived areas nationally in

¹⁹ LIFT – NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust. LIFT funding enables a joint venture to be established between health providers and the private sector to develop modern, one-stop facilities for patients in local communities.

overall terms, and health inequality in particular, is a major challenge. Despite this, the area is and will continue to undergo considerable residential growth. As a consequence of this demand this centre is now providing modern healthcare facilities to all residents, both from existing communities, and those residents from many of the new residential schemes which have been developed in the area.

- A new multi-purpose health and community centre (St Peters) has been developed in Burnley, East Lancashire, as part of the wider regeneration of the town centre. Working alongside other partners, including Burnley Borough Council, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT used LIFT funding to develop a modern, multi-purpose centre which accommodates health, social care, leisure and community services for local residents. The Centre is intended to tackle Burnley's poor levels of health, as well as raise the quality of infrastructure available to residents in the local area, with previous provision considered fragmented and of a low quality. The design and quality of the multi-storey building has been regarded as an early and important step in the redevelopment of Burnley Town Centre, providing a higher quality development against which others brought forwards through the new master plan and Area Action Plan for the Town Centre.

5.42 Taking into consideration these issues and Wirral PCTs rationalisation and an increasingly community based approach to delivering services, there will be a need to carefully **manage** and plan for impacts on health infrastructure and services as a result of growth in residents and day-time users at Wirral Waters. Whilst the PCT are working with providers to deliver modern and flexible medical care space, a major issue for the PCT will be how they will plan their resourcing and staffing to support future population growth. This is where the PCT would like, going forward, a better understanding of the development plans for Wirral Waters (i.e.

phasing and nature of development). To summarise, the following bullet points outline the above issues and other issues which the PCT would like to explore with the developer as this planning process moves forward.

- The PCT welcomes the ambition and vision of the scheme to regenerate this area of Wirral. As stated the PCT is confident that local infrastructure (possibly with some incremental growth and shifts in the scale of provision for certain services) could meet the future increases in residential population which have been suggested as a result of the development. However, further information and dialogue will be required by the Trust if they are to have the necessary information to plan their resources in an effective manner.
- The PCT would therefore welcome the opportunity to participate in a **strategic** way. This could be in the form of a partnership arrangement to facilitate information exchange and planning, similar to arrangements proposed by consultees from the education theme. The PCT view this as an extremely useful way of keeping open lines of communication between all parties, and allow the PCT to have early sight of any plans.
- Participation in the planning process will also enable the PCT to ensure that they have relevant services available at their centres, both older and newer centres, to meet future needs. For example, the development of out of hours services may well be a fundamental requirement of those residents who move to this area due to their occupations.
- The PCT would like to have a better understanding of Peel's ambitions for working collaboratively on healthcare infrastructure within the development site, or adjacent to the area. This could be in the form of sites and premises which could be leased for multi-functional, multi-user healthcare facilities, or as part of wider community and

social infrastructure offer in the development e.g. alongside education or other provision.

6. Community Recreation & Leisure

6.1 In this section we present the emerging results of our mapping and analysis of existing social and community infrastructure provision within the *Community Recreation & Leisure* theme. This complements the larger scale, wider and generally more commercial leisure and recreation aspects reviewed in Section 8 of the Baseline Study. At this stage, and drawing on the approach deployed in the Thames Gateway (see Section 2), this focuses upon the following:

- Sports facilities
- Libraries
- Places of Worship
- Public green space

6.2 In doing so, we draw upon available evidence on the Accessibility, Usage and Quality of existing provision (again, as discussed in Section 2). We also consider the key demographic, organisational and policy drivers which will determine the future demand for and supply of facilities and services.

6.3 To date we have consulted with Jim Lester, Director of Leisure Services at Wirral Council, who holds responsibility for the planning and delivery of public sector funded leisure provision within Wirral.

Context

6.4 The major provider of recreation and leisure facilities for communities across Wirral is Wirral Council. The Council's Leisure Services Department has responsibility for the marketing, planning, delivery, maintenance and/or operation of the following types of leisure asset:

- **Parks and country parks:** Wirral has a substantial and diverse estate, including the historic and recently renovated Birkenhead Park, Arrowe Country Park, Wirral Country Park, beaches at West Kirby and Hoylake and a range of attractive coastal areas.
- **Libraries:** Wirral has a total of 24 libraries located in communities across Wirral.
- **Leisure centres:** Wirral Council operates nine sports and leisure centres, including Europa Pools (Birkenhead), the Oval (a facility of regional significance in Bebington), Wirral Tennis Centre (Bidston), Woodchurch Leisure Centre (Woodchurch) and Grange Road West Sports Centre (Birkenhead).
- **Museums, art galleries and theatres:** Wirral Council has responsibility for five museums within the district. These are: Wirral Museum, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead Priory and St Mary's Tower, Birkenhead Tramway and Wirral Transport Museum and Shore Road Pumping Station.
- **Community centres:** A range of community centres are located in community centres around Wirral.

6.5 Local leisure and planning policy has sought to direct new leisure facilities towards the existing urban area and into locations where they are readily accessible by public transport. As noted in local planning policy ²⁰ (focusing on sport and recreation) and via our discussions with the Director of Leisure Services it would appear that the distribution and range of indoor leisure facilities is generally good, reflecting levels of historical investment in new facilities. For example, the City Lands (City Challenge) programme delivered a number of important new/ upgraded facilities, including:

²⁰ Policy REC 1: Principles for Sport and Recreation, Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

- Wirral Sports and Indoor Tennis Centre at Bidston
- Birkenhead Cricket Club Indoor Cricket Centre
- Europa Pools swimming complex.

- 6.6 Whilst Wirral as a district is relatively well served by indoor sports and recreation facilities, the Council keeps the quality, usage and distribution of all leisure facilities under regular review. Although the Council has an extensive estate, parts of this estate are now somewhat faded and/or in relatively poor condition as a result of long-term revenue funding constraints. Consultants have recently been commissioned to undertake a full review of Wirral Council's leisure facilities and services and to identify key strategic principles for future provision in the district. We intend to draw upon this output in the future, although currently the report has not been released by the Council
- 6.7 Other important facilities are managed and operated by the private, voluntary and community sectors as well as other parts of the public sector. For example, Wirral's cultural leisure offer is greatly enhanced by facilities such as the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight, funded by National Museums Liverpool.
- 6.8 In addition to their primary function, places of worship often play important roles in the social life of the community. This includes the provision of a range of community, sports and leisure activity. Our work has not sought to capture this activity, although it is undoubtedly an important contribution to the overall leisure offer available in local communities.

Key Drivers

Demographic Change

- 6.9 The ongoing and longer term demographic changes identified in Section 3 will clearly have an impact on the long-term planning and delivery of leisure services in Wirral, affecting the volume, type and location of provision. However, the nature, scale and timing of this impact is currently unclear and is being addressed as part of the above strategic review. We will seek to draw upon this assessment as and when information becomes available.
- 6.10 For most of the facilities and services provided by the local authority and others there are very few clear or established statutory or indicative minimum or optimum standards or benchmarks against which to assess the adequacy of provision, for example, accepted ranges of population to be served by a sports centre. In planning services, a wide range of factors are taken into account by funding and delivery agencies, including:
- The quality and scale of individual assets – for example, the widely varying size of collections or IT facilities at different public libraries, or the volume, quality and range of sports facilities available at different sports and leisure centres.
 - The demographic characteristics of the local population
 - The need to support wider goals – for example, the need to provide additional sports or cultural facilities as part of wider efforts to tackle deprivation, the need to drive up rates of participation in sport in order to tackle health inequalities
 - The level, scale and quality of provision in neighbouring areas
 - The current and expected future level and accessibility of private sector provision.

- Competing wider Council priorities – like all local authorities Wirral Council continually faces competing demands for increased investment in a wide range of services and infrastructure (e.g. education, social care, housing).

6.11 Given the absence of clear standard or target levels of provision, in order to better understand the potential impact of development at Wirral Waters it is important to understand the key drivers that will shape the character and nature of local provision.

6.12 Although there are few clear standards or target levels of provision for leisure services, some do exist. In 2001, Government introduced Public Library Service Standards, with a three-year phase-in period. These standards were an attempt to help to create a clear and widely accepted definition of a Library Authority’s longstanding statutory duty to ‘comprehensive and efficient service’ and to set (for the first time) a performance monitoring framework for public libraries. These standards were updated and revised in December 2007. Table 6.1 below shows Wirral’s performance in 2006/06 against these new targets, showing that Wirral’s libraries are accessible (as measured by the proportion of the population within 1 and 2 miles of a library) and that the service provided (measured by the ability to meet requests for books within a specified period) is good. Usage (as measured by the number of visits per 1,000 residents) is slightly below the newly introduced targets, at 5,833. Wirral Council has an active programme of action to help promote increased library usage, which will respond to target.

Target Description	Target	Wirral 2005/06
Proportion of Households living within specified distance of a static library – Metropolitan districts		
<i>1 mile</i>	95%	96.6%
<i>2 miles</i>	100%	100%
Aggregate scheduled opening hours per 1,000 population for all libraries	128 hours	Not yet measured
Requests		
<i>Percentage of requests for books met within 7 days</i>	50%	57%
<i>Percentage of requests for books met within 15 days</i>	70%	72%
<i>Percentage of requests for books met within 30 days</i>	85%	85%
Number of library visits per 1,000 population (target) – Metropolitan districts	6,000	5,833
Source: Public Library Service Standards, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.		

Organisational and Policy Change

6.13 Wirral Council is and will continue to be the leading funder and/ or provider of community leisure facilities. However, over the next few years there are likely to be some important changes in Wirral’s policy on the level, nature and delivery of facilities and services. The



ongoing study referred to above will play a key role in informing the direction of Wirral Council's policy towards and provision of community leisure infrastructure and services in future.

- 6.14 However, at this stage it is possible to identify a number of the key strategic principles which will shape policy and provision in Wirral in future years. We briefly discuss each of these in turn below.

Reducing the estate – fewer facilities of better quality in better strategic locations

- 6.15 Wirral Council currently owns or controls a large estate, used for a range of community leisure functions. However, a significant proportion of this stock is aged and identifying sufficient revenue funding to maintain and renovate the estate has been a long-term challenge. Consequently, significant parts of the estate can be described as tired or faded. In a number of cases, most notably Birkenhead Central Library, buildings are no longer adequate for modern needs or have had to be partially closed in order to avoid health and safety difficulties.
- 6.16 In future, investment in new infrastructure will be guided by the need to reduce the size of the estate (reducing the overhead burden), improve the quality of provision in the remaining facilities and ensure that key facilities are located in strategic locations (where they are able to better serve the modern requirements of the wider population). For example, over the longer term, Wirral Council is expecting to reduce the total number of library buildings from 24 to perhaps 12 or 13, investing in new facilities and upgrading the quality of the overall offer.

An accelerated move towards multi-functional buildings

- 6.17 Allied to the above principle is the aim of increasing the number of (new or existing) buildings which perform multiple functions. It is hoped that this smaller number of multi-functional premises will be more vibrant, more sustainable and better used facilities which act as strong focal points for local communities.
- 6.18 This shift towards multi-functional buildings, able to meet a wider range of community needs is a national and ongoing trend. It is perhaps most advanced in public library provision, with library buildings increasingly providing or accommodating a wider range of services and activities over and above their core or traditional role, including IT suites, *learnirect* centres, providing public meeting rooms for visiting or peripatetic services. Similar principles guide policy in other areas, for example Wirral's adult and community education services increasingly seeks to use other Council or non-Council facilities to deliver sessions.

Responding to the growth of private sector provision

- 6.19 Wirral Council can be regarded as making relatively extensive provision for leisure services. In addition to facilities developed with mainstream funding, Wirral has procured and/ or adopted a range of additional cultural and sporting facilities which were developed with regeneration funding (e.g. the *City Lands* City Challenge Programme, Objective 1 programmes and so on).
- 6.20 Historically, private sector investment in leisure facilities in the Wirral appears to have been relatively modest. It is unclear why this should be the case, although the following factors may have played a role:
- A relatively weak economic context: Wirral, eastern Wirral in

particular, has performed relatively poorly in economic terms. This had an impact on the quality of built environment in many locations, results in below average earnings (in eastern Wirral) resulting in reduced purchasing power and extensive areas in which deprivation is relatively intense. These factors may have helped to deter substantial private sector investment in the leisure sector on the Wirral.

- Wirral's geographical characteristics: In choosing investment locations, leisure industry funders and operators look for locations that can offer them suitably large catchment areas. As a peninsular, Wirral is perhaps less able to pull in leisure spend from people living in neighbouring areas (although there are a number of important exceptions to this, in which the quality of Wirral's offer acts as a strong pull factor). Similarly, the proximity of eastern Wirral and accessibility to Liverpool (and Liverpool city centre) may also reduce operators' estimates of effective market potential.
- The presence of an active local authority: Cultural and sports facilities have played an important part in efforts to tackle deprivation and secure regeneration in Wirral over a long period of time. This has included both neighbourhood and community focused facilities and larger, strategic investments such as Europa Pools. The legacy of an active public sector *may* have shaped private operators' views on market potential.

6.21 However, in recent years, there has been evidence of an upturn in private sector interest in investment opportunities in the Wirral. Most notable here are Neptune Development's scheme for New Brighton and proposals to develop and exploit Wirral's *golf coast* offer (e.g. building on investment at the Royal Liverpool golf course in Hoylake and the subsequent additional profile generated by its hosting of the British Open in 2006). Neptune's scheme at New Brighton consists of:

- Dredging and refurbishing the Marine Lake and providing a new pontoon and sailing school facilities
- Refurbishing the Victorian shelters
- Café bars fronting onto a new pedestrian plaza including a performance area
- A Morrison's foodstore in a two-storey building with leisure and commercial use on the upper level
- A six-screen, 1,100 seater cinema
- A 60-bed budget hotel.
- A main car park
- A Health and Fitness Club
- An outdoor Lido/Spa.

6.22 In future, it will be increasingly important to ensure that Wirral Council's investment in leisure complements rather than duplicates or deters private sector investment, whilst ensuring that Wirral's strategic goals for leisure (e.g. to improve community health and support regeneration) are also supported.

Greater engagement with and delivery by the private sector

6.23 In addition to the need to ensure that public sector investment in leisure complements that of the private sector, future policy will also need to reflect the need to secure greater engagement with the private sector in the procurement and operation of leisure facilities. Like all local authorities Wirral Council will need to ensure that future opportunities to make use of private sector resources and expertise are maximised, both in the development and operation of facilities. In future, this may necessitate entry into forms of public-private partnership.

Increasing community management of facilities

- 6.24 Wirral Council are keen to promote the management and adoption of parts of the leisure estate by local community groups. In future, we expect this to be an important goal of the Wirral's estates management approach over the longer term.

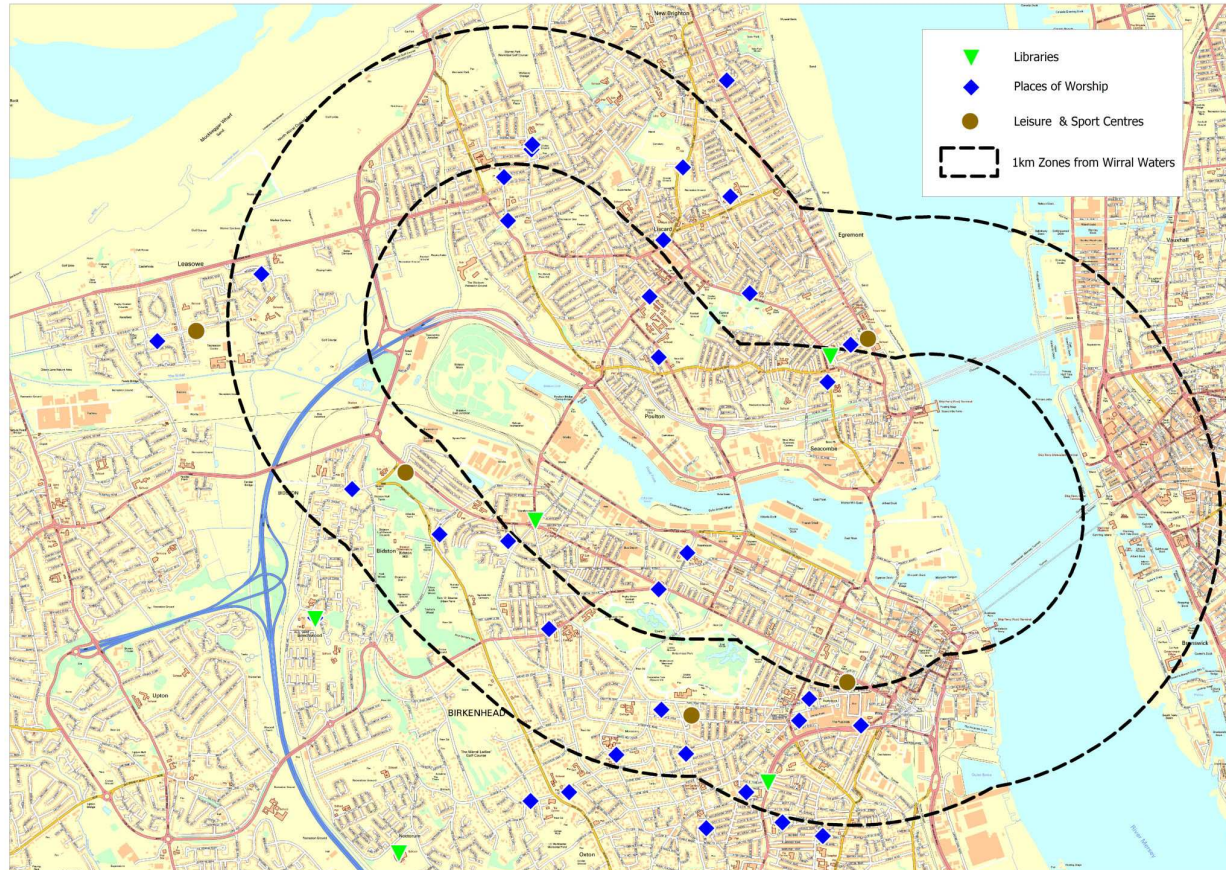
Mapping Existing Infrastructure

- 6.25 Below we present an overview of the existing provision of sports facilities, libraries and places of worship within or serving the area in and around the Wirral Waters site. We seek to concentrate on the facilities located within 2km of the Wirral Waters site.
- 6.26 Although the public sector is the primary provider of facilities identified, we have sought to identify, where possible, facilities operated by the private, community and voluntary sectors. However, many local leisure activities may also be provided through the operation of local clubs, using existing buildings such as community centres, schools and church halls. Our analysis does not seek to capture this activity at this stage.
- 6.27 Figure 6-1 below shows the location of key leisure facilities that have been mapped within a 2km zone of the Wirral Waters site. These include:
- **Four Wirral Council sports and leisure centres:** There are four Wirral MBC affiliated sports and leisure centres located within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. The majority of these facilities are within the Birkenhead area, on the southern side of the docks. The facilities provided in these locations include swimming baths, gym suites, and racquet sports.
 - **Three libraries:** Wirral MBC has three libraries within the 2km zone around the Wirral Waters site. Two of these

libraries are located in the Birkenhead side of the docks, whilst the third is located in Seacombe on the north side.

- **Many places of worship:** The local area is also well served with places of worship. There are approximately 26 within the 2km area near to Wirral Waters. Places of worship are also typically centres for some community activities, and have facilities which can accommodate a variety of community groups and associations.

Figure 6-1: Leisure and Other Services in close proximity to Wirral Waters



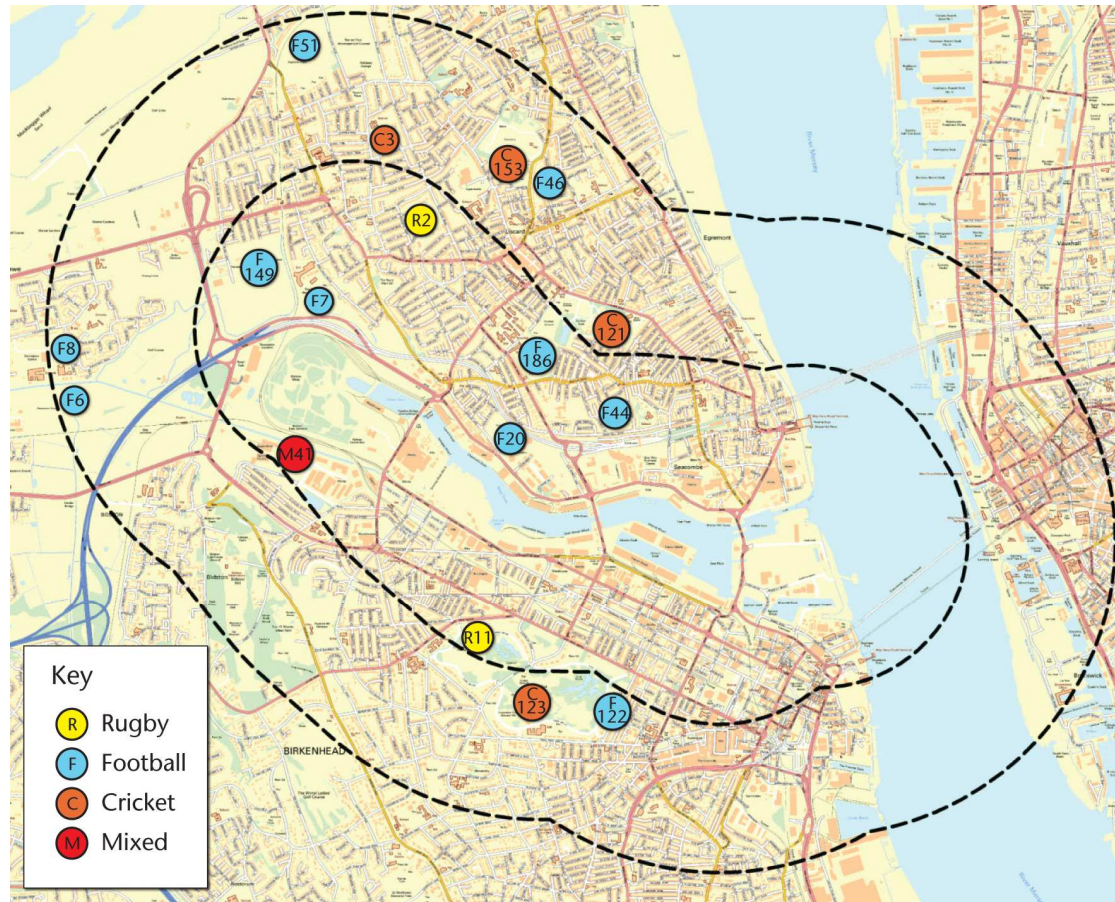
Source: Thomson Database; Wirral MBC. 'Digital Mapping Solutions' from Dotted Eyes. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019918

- 6.28 Table 6.2 below provides an overview of the leisure & sports and libraries facilities identified within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. As noted above, Wirral Council have commissioned a strategic review of its leisure provision. This report will seek to assess the quality, usage and fit with modern needs of all key leisure services and facilities provided, operated or used by Wirral Council.

Table 6.2: Leisure & Sports Centres and Libraries located within 2 km of the Wirral Waters site		
Leisure and Sports		
Name	Location	Comment
Europa Pools	CH41 6RN	A flagship, strategic asset providing a 25 metre swimming pool, fitness suite, a <i>tropical lagoon</i> leisure pool, together with flume rides, a wave pool and geysers and water cannons
Grange Road West Sports Centre	CH43 4XE	Grange Road West Sports Centre is situated on the outskirts of central Birkenhead. The building was originally used as a Territorial Army Drill hall until the Council took ownership of the site in 1969, when it was converted to a sports centre. The centre has a large sports hall, which is used for a variety of sports including trampoline, handball, football and badminton. Additional amenities include a weights room, an activity and fitness room.
Guinea Gap Baths and Recreation Centre	CH44 6PX	Guinea Gap Baths and Recreation Centre is situated on the riverside at Seacombe, close to the Wallasey Town Hall. The centre has two swimming pools, one a leisure pool with a conservatory overlooking the River Mersey, the other a 25-meter training and recreation pool. There is a fitness room with sauna and sunbeds, multi-sport activity hall and outside facilities for five-a-side football.
Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre	CH43 7AA	The centre has six indoor and seven outdoor championship standard courts and is home to the Wirral-wide Tennis Development Program. In addition to tennis, the centre has a Progressive Fitness Suite and multi-activity sports hall available for badminton, aerobics, step and many other sporting activities. The centre has its own creche and catering facilities as well as an artificial grass pitch and two grass playing areas.
Libraries		
Name	Location	Comment
Birkenhead Central Library	CH41 2XB	The current Central Library building in Borough Road was opened in 1934. In recent years the building has had to be either fully or partially closed as a result of health and safety concerns. It is also considered to have poor parking, poor access to public transport and poor access for the disabled. A full range of strategic options, including relocation of the central library to a more central location is being considered.
Seacombe Branch Library	CH44 6LT	In addition to lending library function, the library has 12 computer workstations. A range of activities are held at the library, including computer courses, councilor's surgeries, adult reading groups, child reading and story time groups, and police surgeries. DDA compliant
St James Branch Library, Birkenhead	CH41 7AL	10 computers are available for public use with access to the Internet. Adult and child reading projects are operated from the library. Sure Start and the Northend Neighbourhood College are also based in St James Centre and a cafe facility is available.

- 6.29 In addition to the above, there are numerous **Playing Pitches** in the vicinity of Wirral Waters. These were assessed by the Council in its 2004 Assessment of Playing Pitches. Translating the information within Assessment onto 1km and 2km catchments from Wirral Waters highlights a number of facilities that already exist. This are plotted on figure 6-2 below. Table 6.3 provides a qualitative assessment of these facilities in the vicinity of Wirral Waters.
- 6.30 As can be seen from the information contained within Table 6.3, playing pitch provision in the local area varies widely in terms of quality. Issues include a quantitative deficiency at certain facilities e.g. Leastowe Road Leisure Centre, drainage problems affecting pitch quality at Wallacre Recreation Ground and Birkenhead Park, poor quality changing facilities at Birkenhead Park RUFC and Rycroft Road Playing Fields, parking and access problems at Oldershaw RUFC and The Delph Recreation Ground and problems relating to crime and vandalism at Central Park. However many local facilities do score well on a number of fronts, which is reflected in the level of satisfaction that users report. For example Harrison Park and Wirral Sports Centre are considered to be overall high quality facilities, whilst changing facilities at the Delph and Wallacre Recreation Grounds score highly.

Figure 6-2: Playing Pitches in close proximity to Wirral Waters



Source: Thomson Database; Wirral MBC. 'Digital Mapping Solutions' from Dotted Eyes. © Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019918

Summary of Playing Pitch Assessment in 2km radius of Birkenhead Docks

Pitch Ref	Facilities	WMBC Owned	Community Use	Facility Grading	Qualitative Assessment
Wirral Sports Centre (M41)	2x senior football pitches 1x ATP (floodlit)	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 5/5 Changing Facilities Quality – 5/5	Opportunities to provide greater access to facilities as pitches are under utilised
Birkenhead Park Rugby Union FC (R11)	2x senior rugby pitches. 1 floodlit and with spectator stand	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	Lies on the edge of Birkenhead Park. Further development of the facility is constrained by the park's conservation status. Pitches are overused and there are drainage problems to resolve. Changing rooms are considered to be too small and of poor quality. Club has identified demand for an additional floodlit pitch for training purposes.
Birkenhead Park (F122)	3x senior football pitches	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality 1/5 Changing Facilities Quality 2/5	Drainage and low grass coverage are particular issues. Users have commented on poor maintenance of the facility.
Birkenhead St Mary's Cricket Club (C123)	1x Cricket Pitch	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	High quality facility currently leased to a private club. Pitches have good grass coverage and levels. Ancilliary facilities are considered adequate and in good condition
Leastowe Road Leisure Centre (F6)	5x mini-soccer pitches	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	Pitches recently redeveloped (September 2002) though there is space for further expansion to satisfy increasing demand.
Leastowe Road Recreation Ground (F8)	1x senior football pitch 2x junior football pitches	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality 3/5	Drainage is a problem on the junior pitches resulting in the cancellation of c1/3 of all matches. No changing facilities and usage could be increased if drainage and levels issues were addressed.
Poulton Victoria AFC (F20)	1x senior football pitch	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	Pitch is of a high quality and is floodlit. At the time of the report, an application was due to be submitted for new changing facilities as existing provision was of low quality.
Rycroft Playing Road Field (F44)	2x senior football pitches	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 3/5 Changing Facilities Quality – 2/5	Quality generally considered to be poor by users, though drainage is adequate. No car parking is provided causing congestion problems on adjacent roads. Changing facilities are of a poor quality

Oxton Road (F186)	2x mini-soccer pitches	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	No changing facility currently in place
Oldershaw RUFC (R2)	2x senior rugby pitches	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	Car parking is currently inadequate to serve the facility.
Wallacre Recreation Ground (F7)	3x senior football	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 2/5 Changing Facilities Quality – 4/5	Recently reduced from 5 to 3 pitches, putting pressure on those remaining which are over used. Drainage is generally poor and overall pitch quality is rated as unacceptable by users. Changing facilities are generally of good quality.
Central Park (C121)	3x senior football 2x cricket	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 2/3 Changing Facilities Quality – 3/5	Quality of facilities is poor with problems relating to levels, drainage and the size of pitches confirmed by users. Vandalism is also confirmed as a problem.
The Delph Recreation Ground	2x junior football 2x mini-soccer	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 2/5 Changing Facilities Quality – 4/5	Reports of uneven pitch surface, though drainage is adequate. Changing facilities are reported to be of a poor quality by users and parking can be problematic on match days
New Brighton Cricket Club (c153)	1x cricket pitch	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	Facility generally considered to be of a high quality though not all the club's teams are able to play their home matches here suggesting that there is demand for expansion.
Wallasey Cricket Club (C3)	1x cricket pitch	Yes	Yes	Not assessed	High quality pitch, though not all the club's teams are able to play home games on the site. Parking is inadequate resulting in congestion on adjacent roads and a high number of complaints made by neighbours.
Harrison Park (F51)	2x senior football pitches	Yes	Yes	Pitch Quality – 4/5 Changing Facilities Quality – 4/5	High quality facility. Levels and drainage are considered to be good. There are maintenance problems with the facility, mainly related to the presence of litter and dog fouling. Parking can be problematic on match days

- 6.30 Of particular note is that there is an identified latent/future demand of 1 senior and 1 junior rugby pitch, and 0.5 senior and 2 junior football pitches generated by clubs based at Birkenhead Park. A requirement of 0.5 senior football pitches is identified for a club based at Central Park. Additionally, the existing Central Park facilities are inadequate, with users suggesting that two of the three football pitches are unacceptable. There is also an issue with the size of all of the pitches. Inadequacies in terms of the quality of existing facilities exists around Wirral Waters, as does demand for further pitches.
- 6.31 Birkenhead Park is an important asset for Wirral Waters. Section 2 of the Baseline Study identified that certain projects have been delivered in Birkenhead Park through public funding.
- 6.32 An **Open Spaces and Recreation** Audit is being undertaken by Wirral Council as part of LDF evidence base. This should be available during 2008 and will allow a more informed understanding of local green space issues at Wirral Waters i.e. in addition to Playing Pitches. The existing function of Bidston Moss has already been identified in the Baseline Study, together with the Masterplan proposals by Groundwork and Newlands for major leisure/recreation improvements to the Moss.

Looking towards the future

- 6.33 As we have seen, there are few clear statutory requirements to guide the provision of leisure facilities and there are many different local factors that need to be taken into consideration by local authorities and others when determining what level and quality of provision to make. Local authorities, as the main providers of community leisure investment, have wide scope to determine what should be provided and where. Key factors in these decisions

include local population size and characteristics, the need and opportunity to use investment in leisure facilities to support efforts to address wider goals (e.g. combating deprivation) and the need to balance additional investment in leisure against other local authority spending areas (such as education and social care).

- 6.34 As noted above, Wirral Council have appointed consultants to undertake a strategic review of its provision and to identify key principles which will need to be considered in the development and implementation of future leisure strategy. A detailed audit of existing provision, setting out the quality, levels of usage and suitability of facilities has recently been undertaken for Wirral Council in December 2007. However, Wirral Council has not to date been in a position to make this report available, and as such it has been difficult to arrive at a firm view about the capacity of existing provision to accommodate additional demand associated with development at Wirral Waters.
- 6.35 However, our work to date suggests that local authority provision in Wirral is relatively strong, reflecting Wirral Council's corporate decisions to invest in leisure and the availability of substantial non-mainstream regeneration funding which has been used to support additional investment in leisure. The Council needs to keep existing provision under review, taking into account the quality of facilities, their suitability for modern needs, financial sustainability, and their location. The ongoing strategic review will therefore be a vital study. However, it is clear that in some parts of Wirral Council's leisure estate, including some aspects of provision close to the Wirral Waters site, there are a number of ongoing and emerging problems, including:
- **Unsuitable locations:** the strategic review is likely to conclude that some reconfiguration and relocation of provision is required in order to optimise usage and quality

of services.

- **Poor physical condition:** significant parts of the stock of facilities are somewhat faded, or else have begun to suffer more serious challenges, represented a growing maintenance and refurbishment challenge and cost.
- **Financial sustainability:** Allied to the above point, some facilities, given their condition and level of usage, have relatively poor financial sustainability. Increased overheads associated with the maintenance and operation of a large stock of buildings represent a cost which could otherwise be invested in new services and facilities.

6.36 We have identified a number of key strategic principles which are likely to inform the level, nature, management and delivery of leisure provision that Wirral Council will make in future. When seeking to assess the level and nature of impact associated with development at Wirral Waters on the demand for and supply of leisure facilities it will be important to take these principles into account. They include:

- A need to reduce the overall size of the estate whilst investing in better facilities at key strategic locations
- A growing emphasis on multi-functional and multi-user buildings
- Encouraging private sector investment in leisure facilities and ensuring that future public investment complements private sector provision, whilst ensuring that key social goals are met.

6.37 Clearly, development at Wirral Waters will have an impact upon demand for leisure facilities in Wirral, both through increasing the residential population but also the *daytime* commuter population, some of whom will also generate additional demand (e.g. for five-a-side football facilities, swimming pools etc.). Although it is not yet

possible to identify the probable scale of this impact (without information on phasing and the scale and type of demographic impact), it may be expected to generate the following types of impact:

- **Geographical:** Over the medium to longer terms, by supporting a sustained increase in the population of inner Wirral, Wirral Waters should trigger an upturn in the rate of (public and private) investment in neighbouring communities. With longer-term improvements to public transport, Wirral Waters may emerge as a key strategic location able to meet selected leisure needs for much of the borough.
- **Viability of existing facilities:** By increasing the population base within inner Wirral, Wirral Waters has the potential to reinvigorate existing facilities, helping to make the case for further revenue and capital investment in leisure provision and ensuring their long-term sustainability.
- **Triggering the need and opportunity to provide new facilities:** As above, by delivering a major increase in the user population, Wirral Waters may help to tip the balance in favour of new (public and private) investment in new leisure facilities.
- **Qualitative:** As a result of development at Wirral Waters, public and private sector leisure facilities delivered in and around the site may be qualitatively different from those in the area today.

6.38 In terms of greenspace and playing pitches, there are clear opportunities for the improvement of existing playing pitches (particularly drainage) and facilities such as security, changing rooms and car parking, together with other environmental enhancements for local green spaces. The provision of further facilities will be explored in consultation with the Council through the Masterplanning process. A key objective for Wirral

Waters will be to seek to create linkages and connections to Bidston Moss, Birkenhead Park and Central Park.

- 6.39 Bidston Moss and development at Bidston Dock provide opportunities for mutual complementarity through landscape design and recreation functions.
- 6.40 As a general principle, the redevelopment of the dock estate for mixed-use development will seek to provide high quality public realm and recreation facilities, for a wide range of users, including children, youths and adults.
- 6.41 Of course, Wirral Waters can and should also play an important role in efforts to enhance the wider leisure offer of Wirral. In addition to more localised or neighbourhood leisure impacts (e.g. generating a need for investment in new local facilities), Wirral Waters should also act an important leisure industry investment destination in its own right. Peel have retained leisure industry specialists to help develop proposals for new, nationally and internationally significant leisure industry developments at Wirral Waters. Consultants are considering the scope to attract both new private sector investment, but also additional public sector investment (for example, future lottery funding) in order to create a strong leisure destination.

7. Key Services

7.1 In this section we present the emerging results of our mapping and analysis of existing social and community infrastructure provision within the *Key Services* theme. This covers the following:

- Civic and community services
- Police services
- Fire services
- Ambulance services

7.2 In doing so, we draw upon available evidence on the Accessibility, Usage and Quality of existing provision as discussed in Section 2. We also consider the key demographic, organisational and policy drivers which will determine the future demand for and supply of facilities and services. We then consider the implications of the Wirral Waters development on this area of service delivery.

Context

Civic and Community Services

7.3 There has been a shift in the last decade towards delivering civic and community services closer to communities in order to improve levels of service accessibility for the end-user. In Wirral the Council have focussed upon delivering a *One-Stop Shop* product across the borough, enabling many of the council's services (e.g. housing, benefits, council tax, environmental issues) to be accessible within one building.

7.4 The Council has been operating this system since November 1997 and now operates 13 one-stop shops across the borough. The rationale of accessibility and higher levels of customer satisfaction has meant that all of the shops are located near public transport

routes, in central locations, utilising mainly existing well-known and council buildings, as well as placing them in libraries and sports centres.

7.5 In each shop there are also free telephone links to all Council departments and a wide range of general advice and information leaflets, including local community and leisure information, and public transport guidance. The Council also work in partnership with voluntary and community groups in close proximity to the shops, ensuring that a range of services (e.g. Age Concern, Citizens Advice Bureau) can utilise the community facilities to reach out to local neighbourhoods.

Police Service

7.6 The funding, planning and delivery in the local authority district of Wirral is the responsibility of Merseyside Police and the Merseyside Police Authority. The Police Service in Wirral is organised around eight neighbourhood areas, with ten police stations located across the borough. Most Police Stations are open daily during the week up until early evening, with some weekend services available. The two largest stations in Birkenhead and Wallasey are open seven days a week, with Wallasey open till Midnight and Birkenhead station offering a 24hr service.

7.7 There are eight neighbourhood policing teams in Wirral. *Neighbourhood policing* has been identified as the appropriate approach to take in ensuring that communities feel safer, and to ensure that criminality is reduced at a local level to improve residents overall quality of life. (Further detail on this approach to neighbourhood policing is provided within the following section).

7.8 Wirral's eight neighbourhood teams are focussed upon particular priorities which reflect the main policing issues identified through both wide public consultation and via local partnerships which have

been developed in local areas. Over and above standard day-to-day policing each neighbourhood is also policed according to their own particular priorities, providing the opportunity for targeted responses by the Police to tackle issues which are affecting the lives of the local residents.

7.9 Although parts of Wirral are considered to be relatively affluent (predominantly the western side of the peninsula), the eastern side of the peninsula contains some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England. One of the contributing factors to these neighbourhoods' overall deprivation levels (as measured by the index of multiple deprivation) is the extent and concentration of criminal activity. Approximately **8%** (17) of the borough's SOAs are within the top 10% **most deprived** nationally as measured by the IMD Crime domain. The majority of these SOAs are located in close proximity to the Wirral Waters site. Higher levels of violence, burglary, and anti-social behaviour are particular issues within these neighbourhoods.

7.10 Despite this, recent statistics for Wirral suggest that the Police are having a positive impact on reducing crime across the borough:

- Recorded crime on the Wirral is down by 26% compared to the same period last year, and it is at its lowest since 2001.
- Robberies have fallen by 26% compared to last year.
- There have been 856 fewer violent crimes committed from April to October (2007) compared with the same period last year.
- House burglaries have reduced by 22% in the last 12 months.

- Levels of anti-social behaviour have reduced by 14% over the last year²¹.

Fire Service

7.11 The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service provide fire and rescue services across Wirral. There are three fire stations located in Wirral, all on the eastern side of the peninsula, located in areas with high concentrations of business and residential communities.

7.12 In terms of performance, the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has been ranked, by the Audit Commission as part of its 2005 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (most recent), as a service which is performing at an '**Excellent**' standard. The service was the highest ranked out of all fire and rescue services in England, reflecting the wide ranging and comprehensive services it offers to the communities which it serves.

7.13 However, the Merseyside service has, like all services across England, had to review and modernise the way it delivers its services and the way it operates, in line with the 2003 White Paper *Our Fire & Rescue Service*²². The key modernising functions which the White Paper sets out include:

- The roll-out of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) – this is about assessing local risks and ensuring that the right level of resource is in the right place, at the right time. Previously resource planning had been based upon historic fire standards
- A renewed focus on communities - The service will have a focus upon communities being the front-line service to assist in disasters and emergencies.

²¹ <http://www.merseyside.police.uk/html/wirral/commander/areacommander.htm>

²² <http://www.frsonline.fire.gov.uk/publications/article/15/79>

- New service levels - New national service levels were to be established which ensured a value for money service which was consistently and effectively managed across the country.
- Reforming the way in which staff work within the service e.g. working hours, employment terms and conditions.

7.14 These modernising reforms have been translated into actions in recent years through *The Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004*. The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have a statutory duty to publish Integrated Risk Management Plans, which are large scale risk assessments of the communities which the service covers. The latest plan, which covers the period 2007-2010, enables the force to manage and operate their services in accordance with the risks which they have identified through local knowledge and through their data and intelligence sources. The plan also highlights how the service is aware of the need to upgrade infrastructure such as stations and their locations, ICT infrastructure and equipment.

Ambulance Service

- 7.15 Ambulance services are provided across the North West region by the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Ambulance services across the country have recently gone through a period of rationalisation and change, largely driven through a need to modernise the operations and management of the service in meeting the needs of its users. In 2005 the publication of *Taking Healthcare to the Patient: Transforming NHS Ambulance Services* outlined national service improvements. This document highlighted the importance of raising the performance of the service, particularly:
- Improving the speed and quality of call handling, offering better clinical advice and working more effectively with partners.

- Providing an increased range of mobile healthcare services.
- Continue to improve the speed and quality of emergency care services.

7.16 The North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust performance is measured by the Healthcare Commission. The most recent measures show that the Trust has some room for improvement in the way it delivers its services across the region. The Trust received a 'Fair' score in terms of the quality of services it provides which is based upon a mixed performance in meeting core and national service targets.

Key Drivers

Demographic Change

- 7.17 Merseyside Police operate a **Resource Allocation Model**²³ to facilitate their decision making on providing an 'even and effective allocation of resources to each Basic Command Unit (BCU) - there are six BCUs in Merseyside, with Wirral being one of these.
- 7.18 The resource allocation model is based upon information which the Police have collected relating to both 'need' and 'demand', as well as taking into account the professional judgement of the force's chief officers. The information which the model uses is sourced from a variety of socio-economic and spatial datasets, whilst also using recent (monthly) crime datasets. In brief the model considers these issues within each area:
- Need considers:
 - Resident and daytime population

²³ Merseyside Police & Merseyside Police Authority - Strategic Overview: Local Strategy Plan 2005/08 and Local Policing Plan 2007/08

- Deprivation
- Geographical area.
- Demand considers:
 - Volume of crime
 - Volume of calls for service
 - Volume of disorder incidents.

7.19 Merseyside Police utilise the model every six months to ensure that each BCU and neighbourhood is adequately resourced to meet emerging issues, and to ensure that the quality of police services are at the right level. The model is relatively sensitive to the changes in crime statistics within local areas; however some of the socio-economic statistics are relatively backward looking (several years out of date) and are less sensitive to change. Nevertheless, the model does take into account the views of chief-officers, and can be adjusted to consider significant changes which can take place within localities. For example the Police Service would need to be clear on the phasing of development for Wirral Waters, the mix of uses proposed, and the likely population changes if they are to have the ability to use their resource model effectively in the future.

7.20 The Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service uses their Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) process²⁴ as their main resource planning tool. As part of this process they have developed a sophisticated GIS model which draws on a number of data sources and information to determine the level of risk within different communities across their force area. These include:

- Census information

- Historical incident data
- Index of multiple deprivation data
- Community Fire Safety initiative data
- Nature of local industries
- MOSAIC lifestyle data
- Resource levels (staff, equipment)
- Road network data.

7.21 Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service have been refining this model each year to reflect new data, and to take account of demographic and development changes which take place across Merseyside. The model is regarded by the Force as being a flexible tool and responsive to changes in the way people and businesses use different spaces throughout a day, i.e. different risk assessments are made of areas during the day and the evening e.g. city centre shopping versus city centre night-time.

Organisational and Policy Change

7.22 The Merseyside Police Service is currently promoting its '**Total Policing Strategy**' to tackle criminality across the force area. This policy is highlighted within their latest Local Strategy and Policing Plan (2005-2008). The policy is strongly worded with a focus upon a 'Total war on Crime, Total Care for victims, and Total Professionalism from the service'. It is clear that this approach to policing is an attempt to send a strong message to the community that the force is determined to reduce criminal activity across Merseyside, whilst also ensuring that the quality of service which the force provides is of a high quality.

7.23 One of the main approaches which Merseyside Police, as well as most forces across England, has undertaken is to deliver police

²⁴ <http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/aspix/pages/IRMP/irmp.aspx>

services which are neighbourhood focussed. Neighbourhood policing is a way for Police forces to make a tangible improvement to the **quality of life** of local communities by working with local partners and agencies to target the issues that matter to local communities²⁵. The aim of neighbourhood policing is to improve neighbourhood conditions and views of security and safety. It is important in building confidence that the police are working closely with their partners and, importantly, with communities to understand the issues that matter to people, and that they are dealing with them.

7.24 The Force's Policing Plan (2005-08) sets out the organisational structure of how the Police in Merseyside now approach neighbourhood policing. The following bullet points highlight the mix of both mainstream Policing and voluntary support which are currently utilised in Merseyside, and across a number of forces nationally.

- Neighbourhoods now have **dedicated officers** which are assigned to a particular ward, and deal with the issues affecting residents and businesses in this area, helping to build confidence in the Police service locally and build lasting relationships.
- **Neighbourhood Support & Patrol Teams** help fight persistent offenders within communities within a 24hr patrol service.
- **Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)** have been introduced nationally. The intention is for them to provide a visible presence within communities, with some powers to provide day to day policing matters and low level crime

(e.g. Anti-social behaviour), whilst increasing capacity for police officers to deal with other matters.

- **Special Constabulary** (a voluntary service) provide support to the regular neighbourhood Police officers, again helping to tackle issues which are affecting local neighbourhoods.
- **Community Volunteers** provide support to neighbourhood teams contributing to Police initiatives and administrative duties.

7.25 The Fire Service nationally has been under-going a period of transition and change as the service has been aiming to modernise the way it delivers services and its working practices. As a result of the White Paper and 2004 Fire Services Act fire services are being required to make significant changes. Some of the fundamental changes concern modernising the approaches taken in planning and managing fire and rescue services. As described earlier it is expected that fire services play a more thorough community role, being at the forefront of serving and responding to local needs.

7.26 The Fire Service has also had to modernise the way in which it approaches its organisational structures i.e. reviewing station locations, the quantity and quality of stations and equipment, crewing levels, and their appropriateness in light of modern demands. The use of ICT, and particularly GIS, has been an important way in which this is being achieved. In Merseyside, the service has been at the forefront of modernising service delivery through these means, with station re-organisation, new communication and control facilities being installed, and new equipment and team structures trialled and implemented. The use of GIS has helped the fire service to generate improved management information, and enabled the service to better understand how their service meets the needs and demands placed upon it.

²⁵ The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/5901.htm>

Mapping existing infrastructure

7.27 Discussions with Superintendent (Operations) Graham Yip, Wirral BCU, have highlighted that Wirral currently has approximately 580 police officers and 78 police community support officers (PCSOs), based across ten police stations in the borough.

7.28 A review of the neighbourhood policing resources within the policing wards which are located within the Wirral Waters locality (West Wallasey ward, Bidston & St James ward, Seacombe ward, Liscard ward, Birkenhead ward) indicates that the following resources currently serve the residential and business community.

- 4 Area Inspectors (Areas covering between 2-3 wards)
- 6 Sergeants
- 8 Police Constables
- 21 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)²⁶.

7.29 The volume of PCSOs within the Wirral Waters policing wards is consistent with national policing policy, enabling the Police to put a more visible Police presence on the streets of local communities, and thus providing a front-line service which is accessible to the public and which can deal with many of the day to day community policing matters which are of importance to local communities. Wirral's neighbourhood teams and PCSOs also work closely with local partners (e.g. parishes, community groups, neighbourhood watch, social care agencies, housing organisations) to maximise the impact which neighbourhood policing can have in localities.

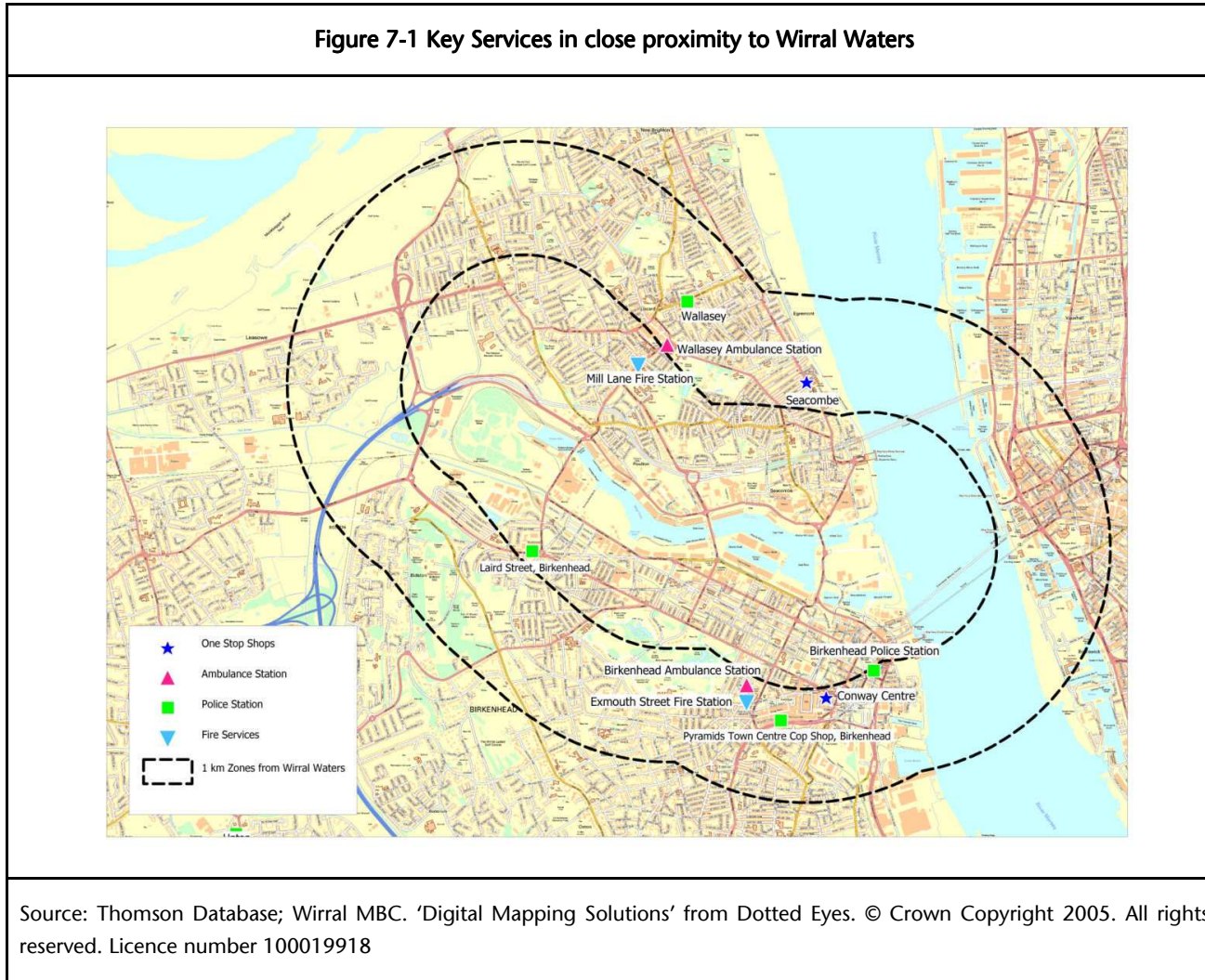
7.30 Our mapping of current Key Services (Emergency Services) infrastructure within the Wirral Waters locality highlights the following:

- There are four police service facilities within the 2km zone. Three are within Birkenhead, whilst Wallasey is covered by a facility on Manor Road.
- Fire services are provided at two locations across the area. Both Wallasey and Birkenhead have a fire station.
- Ambulance services are provided at two locations across the area. Both Wallasey and Birkenhead have ambulance stations, as well as the provision of a station at Arrowe Park Hospital.
- Civic and Community services are provided with two one stop shops within the Wirral Waters locality, at Conway Centre and Seacombe (Wallasey town hall).

²⁶ <http://www.merseyside.police.uk/html/wirral/neighbourhoods/index.htm>

Table 7-1: Police, Fire & Ambulance Services within 2km of Wirral Waters	
Police Services	
Manor Road, Wallasey	CH44 1DA
Laird Street, Birkenhead	CH41 7AJ
Pyramids Town Centre Cop Shop, Birkenhead	CH41 2RA
Birkenhead Police Station	CH41 5EU
Fire Services	
Exmouth Street Fire Station, Birkenhead	CH41 4NF
Mill Lane Fire Station, Wallasey	CH44 5UE
Ambulance Services	
Wallasey Ambulance Station	CH44 5TH
Birkenhead Ambulance Station	CH41 4DY
Source: Thomson	

7.31 **Figure 7-1** highlights the spatial locations of Key Service infrastructure within the Wirral Waters locality.



Looking Towards the Future

- 7.32 The shift towards neighbourhood service delivery for key services, such as the Police Service, has provided local communities with a more visible and accessible service. The neighbourhood policy shift within the Police Service for example has enabled resources:
- To be channelled to develop or participate in local partnerships
 - To fund PCSOs which provide a visible presence on the streets
 - To target local crime issues which are agreed by residents and interest groups.
- 7.33 It is clear that national policing policy is firmly set upon developing the community model further, with increased integration of service delivery to include even greater partnership working and co-operation with local partners, both public sector and voluntary and community based. In Wirral this is manifesting itself in the greater interaction between the neighbourhood policing teams (officers and PCSOs) and local communities. Officers and PCSOs attend various community focussed groups (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, youth organisations, community relations groups) and are involved in many local initiatives e.g. shopsafe, drugs campaigns²⁷.
- 7.34 The scale of the development at Wirral Waters will have an impact upon the way in which the Police Service and Fire Service deliver their services in these communities. Both services rely on allocating their resources according to models which take into account a wide range of variables, including population. The regeneration of this area will include significant commercial space for business, as well
- as residential units for approximately 20,000 new residents. These developments will have a considerable impact upon the 'need' element of the Police's model, and will also have some impact upon the level of fire cover needed.
- 7.35 Changes in the population size and characteristics and the nature of economic activity (and therefore of premises) will affect future resource allocation decisions *directly* (through increasing the number of people and places that will need to be protected or policed) but may also have a significant *indirect* impact. This indirect impact may arise through changes in the pattern and volume of criminal activity, for example, with more affluent residents and higher value added businesses offering a relatively *target-rich* environment.
- 7.36 With socio-economic datasets typically being backward looking, it will be important for both the fire and police services to be fully aware of the residential and commercial developments that are proposed so that they are able to assimilate these changes within their resource models in an effective and timely fashion. Consequently, it will be important for the Police and Fire Service to be part of a wider service provider partnership group as part of the Wirral Waters development.
- 7.37 This type of group has already been highlighted in earlier chapters, particularly by Health and Education partners. It is important that the Police and Fire Service are fully aware of what is planned and phased for Wirral Waters, as well ensuring that there are open lines of communication between all stakeholders and the relevant service providers in order for them to be able to input into any social and community infrastructure proposals or planning decisions.

²⁷ <http://www.merseyside.police.uk/html/wirral/initiatives/index.htm>

8. Towards an understanding of the impact of Wirral Waters

8.1 In this section we provide a summary of the key messages to be drawn from our review of existing social and community infrastructure provision and highlight a number of important implications for the future development of Wirral Waters.

Key Messages

Socio-Economic Context

8.2 Our review of the socio-economic context in which social and community infrastructure is currently delivered, and being planned for the future, identified the following key issues:

- Wirral has experienced a major reduction in population over the long term, with population falling by 27,000 or - 8% between 1981 and 2005. Just under half (13,000) of this population loss has occurred in the last 10 years alone (1995-2005). Despite this rapid loss there is now (mixed) evidence that population loss is slowing and that population levels are stabilising. A significant factor in this is increased levels of in-migration.
- Looking forwards, (and discounting the impact of any upturn in economic performance or improvements in the supply of housing and quality of life), population in Wirral is projected to grow by 3% between 2005 and 2029 (substantially slower than national and regional growth rates). A significant driver of this growth is expected to be in-migration amongst young adults aged 25-29.
- Life expectancy in eastern parts of Wirral is significantly lower than the western Wirral and national averages, particularly within the most deprived areas of Wirral. This is associated with higher levels of morbidity (ill-health). A

number of conditions often tied to lifestyle factors play a key role in this and in shaping the nature and the volume of demands made upon health-related infrastructure. It also heightens the importance of ensuring that Wirral is able to offer adequate and attractive opportunities for physical activity.

- The population profile is expected to age significantly, with much greater increases in the over-65s (42% compared to 3% overall population growth). This will have profound implications on the volume and nature of demand on key aspects of social and community infrastructure, most notably in terms of health and social care. It will also have significant impacts upon the nature of housing sought in Wirral.
- In recent years there has been a significant reduction in the number of primary school-aged children in Wirral, resulting in ongoing review and rationalisation of provision. In future this is expected to continue and to knock on into the 10-19 age group and to affect demand for secondary and further education (assuming unchanged participation rates).
- Parts of Wirral, including around the Wirral Waters site contain extensive areas of intense deprivation. One effect of this deprivation is lower educational attainment at all stages. Despite this, educational attainment in Wirral as a whole is above average. Not surprisingly, poor and below average performance is centred on those schools serving a catchment population drawn from the most deprived areas in Wirral. These are focussed on eastern Wirral and often within close proximity to the Wirral Waters site. However, this area also contains a number of schools which are achieving strong educational outcomes (both in terms of attainment and value-added).

Education & Learning

- Nursery education and daycare provision in Wirral and in

the areas around the Wirral Waters site appears to meet existing local needs. There are 17 schools offering nursery education within 2km of the Wirral Waters site, whilst private nursery and daycare provision is well spread-out, both north and south of the Wirral Waters site. The supply of this private nursery and daycare is likely to be relatively *elastic*, responding relatively closely and quickly to increases in demand.

- Average occupancy in primary schools located within 2km of the Wirral Waters site is currently at just over 80% of capacity, suggesting that there are over 1,370 unfilled places. In terms of both absolute attainment and contextual value added, the majority of the 26 schools within 2km of Wirral Waters appear to be underperforming. Only 10 of these schools meet the or exceed national average attainment at Key Stage 2, whilst only 6 meet or exceed national average scores for contextual value added. However, despite the challenging nature of much of the catchment area in eastern Wirral and this evidence of underperformance, many of the primary schools in the area are assessed as GOOD by OFSTED.
- Some of these primary schools are significantly under-occupied (with occupancy falling below recognised thresholds for financial sustainability) whilst a small number of these schools are over-subscribed. Across Wirral as a whole, a number of primary schools have been closed or merged in recent years as a result of falling occupancy and the Council keeps school performance and occupancy under annual review. As part of this process, 7 of the 26 schools within 2km of the Wirral Waters site are at risk of potential closure. Ongoing demographic changes, with fewer children of primary school age projected over the long-term, will continue to reduce the total pupil roll.
- In the secondary school system, occupancy across Wirral is high and attainment is above the national average. At 98%

the secondary system is effectively at full capacity and a number of popular schools are operating above capacity and others are over-subscribed. This current level of occupancy can be seen as a *high water mark*, as the largest cohorts pass through primary and into secondary education.

- The reduction in pupil numbers currently affecting primary schools will shortly begin to affect secondary schools. This reduction in the total roll will, on the basis of recent trends, be long-term. As noted above, the number of 10-14 year olds is expected to drop by 13% (-2,800 people) and the number of 15-19 year olds by 19% (-4,100 people) between 2004 and 2029.
- There are seven secondary schools located within 2km of the Wirral Waters site. Together they provide a total of 9,930 school places. Average occupancy is relatively high at 85%, with 1,485 places currently unfilled across all school years. However, occupancy varies substantially, from 62.6% to 93.4%.
- All seven of these secondary schools are rated by OFSTED as *satisfactory* or higher (with two rated *very good* and *outstanding*). However, only two of the seven schools achieve higher than the national average of 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C.

Health & Social Care

- Arrow Park Hospital is the main centre for acute care in Wirral and is located 4-5 miles from the Wirral Waters site. It houses the Accident & Emergency facility and intensive care units, along with approximately 900 beds on its wards. Together with Clatterbridge Hospital, it provides the key services which residents in and around Wirral Waters would use.
- The Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which operates both of these and other sites, has



been rated GOOD by the Healthcare Commission. The Trust continues to work alongside the Primary Care Trust to develop and deliver community based services.

- Wirral Primary Care Trust is responsible for a range of primary care services delivered within communities in Wirral. The Healthcare Commission has assessed the overall quality of services offered as FAIR (below Good and Excellent), whilst patients' surveyed rated the services offered by the Trust as SATISFACTORY.
- Within the Wirral Waters locality (2km from the site) there are approximately 17 surgeries and medical centres serving the communities of Birkenhead and Wallasey. The PCT has been undergoing an extensive programme of infrastructure rationalisation and improvement over the last 3-5 years. Increasingly, estates policy seeks to co-locate facilities in modern premises (often renting rather than owning premises).
- The PCT advise that since 1997 there has been £21.4m invested in improved primary care premises on Wirral. Schemes to the value of £16.6m are currently underway, whilst funding has been agreed for additional schemes to the value of £9.5m. Discussions are ongoing regarding a potential additional £42.6m. If all these schemes come to fruition it will mean that by 2010 there will have been £90m invested in primary care premises in Wirral over a 13 year period.

Community Recreation & Leisure

- Our work to date suggests that local authority provision in Wirral is relatively strong, reflecting Wirral Council's corporate decisions to invest in leisure and the availability of substantial non-mainstream regeneration funding which has been used to support additional investment in leisure.
- However, it is clear that in some parts of Wirral Council's leisure estate, including some aspects of provision close to

the Wirral Waters site, there are a number of ongoing and emerging problems, including:

- **Unsuitable locations:** the strategic review is likely to conclude that some reconfiguration and relocation of provision is required in order to optimise usage and quality of services.
- **Poor physical condition:** significant parts of the stock of facilities are somewhat faded, or else have begun to suffer more serious challenges, represented a growing maintenance and refurbishment challenge and cost.
- **Financial sustainability:** Allied to the above point, some facilities, given their condition and level of usage, have relatively poor financial sustainability. Increased overheads associated with the maintenance and operation of a large stock of buildings represent a cost which could otherwise be invested in new services and facilities.

Implications for Wirral Waters

Making best use of available capacity

- 8.3 One of the most important advantages of major new residential and commercial development in urban, brownfield locations – as opposed to the creation of new, freestanding settlements – is the opportunity to make use of existing infrastructure to meet some or all of the additional requirements. Looking across our baseline analysis of social and community infrastructure, both local and strategic, there would appear to be potential to meet a significant proportion of total additional demand through existing facilities.

- 8.4 Whilst it is not possible at this stage (in the absence of information on phasing and population projections) to quantify, it would appear that existing facilities will be able to absorb a large part of additional demand. Across the Wirral, as elsewhere, the demographic profile is ageing rapidly and this will result in overcapacity (or additional spare capacity) in nursery, primary, secondary and further education. Health service providers are confident, based on the information available at present, that the existing and evolving *health and social care* infrastructure will be able to absorb additional demand arising from development at Wirral Waters.
- 8.5 However, this situation is dynamic. Providers and funders of social and community infrastructure keep the supply of infrastructure and services under constant review. In many cases, older, inefficient and/or poorly utilised space (which is often unsuited to modern needs and represents a significant drain on resources through higher maintenance costs) is at risk of closure.
- 8.6 It will be important to ensure that information on the volume, type and phasing of development – and the associated demographic impact - is shared with those undertaking the longer term planning of social and community infrastructure in Wirral (for example, those taking decisions about primary school provision in the communities close to Wirral Waters). Representatives from each organisation consulted as part of this study expressed a desire to engage with Peel and its advisors in order to better understand population impacts through the formation of (at least initially) informal working groups to facilitate a two-way exchange of information.
- 8.7 In our view, in order to optimise planning, develop cost-effective solutions and maximise local economic impact it is most important

in the short term to establish protocols for information exchange and discussion with funders and providers of the following services:

- Education (nursery to 19 years)
- Wider workforce development and employability
- Health and social care.

Understanding and addressing the need for qualitative change

- 8.8 Although it appears that there will be significant scope to accommodate the quantity of additional demand which may come forward (certainly over the medium term), all stakeholders will need to be aware of the need to accommodate changes in the nature of infrastructure and services provided. This will include:
- **Different types of infrastructure and services required:** The residential and commercial developments at Wirral Waters will have a particular form of demographic impact. It will be important to fully assess the nature of this impact in order to understand the nature and quantity of infrastructure and individual services that will be required. For example, development at Wirral Waters (attracting larger numbers of young adults to inner Wirral) may over time result in increased demand for a range of medical services (such as obstetrics, sports injury clinics etc.) or leisure facilities.
 - **Securing improvements in the quality of infrastructure:** If Wirral Waters is to emerge as a successful and sustainable community and business location, the site and the wider area – including its social and community infrastructure – will need to meet the expectations of new and prospective residents. In some cases this may require an acceleration or re-prioritisation of efforts to upgrade the quality of infrastructure (e.g. the creation of new, modern medical centres).

- 8.9 The performance and quality of schools available to residents of Wirral Waters and the surrounding areas will be an important determinant of Wirral Waters' success as a successful and sustainable community which is able to attract and retain residents. Although the school estate (particularly secondary schools) appears to be relatively modern and in good condition, there are some long-term challenges associated with school performance in parts of eastern Wirral, particularly close to the Wirral Waters site. Longer term increases in the school age population may also tip the balance in favour of additional investment in education in order to help raise standards.
- 8.10 Green space and outdoor recreational provision is strong in the wider Wirral peninsula. In the vicinity of Wirral Waters, there is a need to ensure that the proposals connect to Birkenhead Park, Central Park and Bidston Moss, whilst also exploring opportunities for linkage into and improvement of other green spaces, and ensuring that first class public realm and recreation/leisure is delivered directly through the proposals for a range of needs.
- 8.11 The development strategy, setting out the mixture of dwelling types to be developed at Wirral Waters, will also be an important factor in determining Wirral Water's ability to attract and retain residents. Similarly, the evolving nature of the housing offer in wider Wirral (for example, the extent to which additional family housing will be available) will also be important.

Major commercial development will also generate impacts

- 8.12 It is important to recognise that major commercial development at Wirral Waters will also result in additional demands being placed upon social and community infrastructure. Whilst the number of dwellings built and occupied (and the demographic profile of occupiers) is perhaps the primary driver of demand for social and

community infrastructure, the development of office and other commercial accommodation will drive major increases in the daytime population of inner Wirral and the Wirral Waters area in particular. This in-commuting population will also place additional demands upon elements of social and community infrastructure, most notably:

- Sports and leisure facilities
- Primary care services (such as GPs, dentists etc.)
- Some hospital services (perhaps most notably Accident & Emergency)
- Fire and police cover.

The need for iterative, long-term planning

- 8.13 It is important to recognise that assessing and then providing for additional demands for social and community infrastructure will be a long-term, complex and resource intensive process. In the next section we provide an overview of the steps that will need to be taken in order to assess and quantify the impact on social and community infrastructure associated with development at Wirral Waters.

9. Next Steps

9.1 In this final section we set out ongoing and future, longer-term actions that will need to be completed in order to assess the need for additional social and community infrastructure in support of Wirral Waters. Many of these actions will need to be completed, refined and amended through further iterations over a considerable number of years, requiring input from a range of partners (including funders and delivers of social and community infrastructure).

Assessing Need

How far does this report take us?

9.2 Assessing the need for new social and community infrastructure in Wirral resulting from development at Wirral Waters is a complex challenge and one which can only be addressed over the longer term and with the support and engagement of a wide range of partners. This report is intended to provide **a starting point** in this process, setting out:

- the current, *baseline* position with regard to the usage, quality and accessibility of social and community infrastructure (as far as is possible)
- how this may be expected to evolve in the absence of Wirral Waters, in light on demographic, organisational and policy drivers
- (where possible) an initial characterisation of the impact that development at Wirral Waters may have.

9.3 The report does not focus on every aspect of social and community infrastructure (such as local convenience shopping) that may be required to deliver truly sustainable, successful and well-integrated

communities. Instead it seeks to focus primarily on those aspects of social and community infrastructure which are planned, funded and/or delivered by the public sector and for which investment needs to be planned and programmed over the longer term. A number of gaps in our analysis remain which we will need to fill as and when information is made available. Key remaining tasks are:

- Reviewing and factoring in the results of the ongoing strategic review of Wirral Council's leisure provision and open space audit;
- Sharing the draft findings of this report in order to establish the extent to which the baseline position and assessment of demographic, organisational and policy drivers is accurate;
- Ongoing research to identify useful benchmarks which may help us to assess the level of existing provision and provision that may be required in future.

Assessing need – ongoing and longer term tasks

9.4 Looking further ahead, in order to assess the need for additional social and community infrastructure to serve the needs of existing and future residents of communities in and around the Wirral Waters site, a number of important tasks remain. Responsibility for these tasks will need to be shared between all partners. It is highly likely that these tasks will need to be completed through an iterative process over a period of years, with regular reviews to test underpinning assumptions in light of new evidence (e.g. on the demand for and performance of existing infrastructure, timing of development).

9.5 In broad terms, three important tasks remain. Below we consider each in turn.

Preparing the development strategy and phasing of development

- 9.6 To date, our work provides a baseline assessment of existing social and community infrastructure and considers how the demand for and supply of this infrastructure is likely to evolve in the absence of Wirral Waters. Clearly, the next step is to estimate the impact of additional demand associated with development at Wirral Waters, layered upon existing demand and in light of other demographic, policy and organisational drivers.
- 9.7 An important next step is therefore to build up a clear picture of the scale, nature and timing of development at Wirral Waters. This work – the preparation of a development strategy - is currently ongoing as part of the development of the Strategic Regeneration Framework. It is likely that the development strategy (including estimates of the scale and phasing of development) will need to be revisited periodically in light of events (e.g. planning decisions, market evidence etc.). It would be useful to develop a number of scenarios- under which, for example residential development occurs more quickly or more slowly, or contains greater or fewer family dwellings -. so that funders and providers of social and community infrastructure can begin to plan more effectively to meet future needs and opportunities

Demographic Impact Assessment

- 9.8 Building upon the development strategy, or development strategy scenarios developed as described above, the next step will be to estimate the demographic impact that this development may be expected to have. In doing so it will be necessary to develop and agree a number of key assumptions (each of which may need to be revisited over time and tested in light of new evidence). Section 2

of this report provides a more detailed assessment of this process, but it will include assumptions on:

- Rates of take-up or occupancy
- The number, age and gender of new residents (and how these evolve over time)
- The number of children likely to be born or to move into the area as a result of new residential development
- The impact of commercial development, pulling in a commuting workforce, on demand for social and community facilities.

Estimating Associated Social Infrastructure Requirements

- 9.9 Once estimates or scenarios of the demographic impact associated with development at Wirral Waters have been agreed it will be necessary to develop and apply a set of standards or ratios in order to arrive at estimates of the core social infrastructure requirements that the additional population (residents and workers) will generate. We are continuing to gather benchmarks, using national, regional and local guidance, as well as looking at reviews of developments elsewhere (for example, Section 106 agreements).
- 9.10 However, it is important to note that local funding and delivery partners will need to play a key role in the development of these ratios/ benchmarks, ensuring that they fit with their understanding of local requirements and working practices (and how these will evolve over time). Further discussions with service providers will take place to discuss the demands which the development may generate, importantly including the PCT and the Hospital Trust. The following contacts at the Trust's have spoken with us regarding the development to date and their contact details are listed below:

- Nicola Bunce – Estates Manger, Wirral Hospital Trust
Nicola.Bunce@whnt.nhs.uk
- Tina Long, PCT Director of Strategic Partnerships
tina.long@wirralpct.nhs.uk
- John South, PCT Director of Primary Care & Provider services
john.south@wirralpct.nhs.uk

9.11 Finally, in order to consider the extent to which additional facilities will be required, and when this requirement might occur, it will be necessary to add estimates of additional demand associated with additional development under each scenario developed to estimates of the projected demand for and supply of infrastructure under a *counterfactual* scenario (which assumes no development at Wirral Waters).
