

APPENDIX 4.4 (Revised)

DEVONSHIRE PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. This document is a sustainability assessment of the Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). It considers whether the NDP is likely to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development, in particular on the likely effects of the NDP and the extent to which its implementation will impact upon local social, economic and environmental objectives.
2. Sustainability appraisal is a mandatory requirement for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) such as the emerging Wirral Core Strategy Local Plan and sustainability appraisals for DPDs must meet the requirements of two principal pieces of legislation:
 - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
 - Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which implement the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive
3. There is no statutory requirement for an NDP to be accompanied by a statutory sustainability appraisal. It is, however, a ‘basic condition’ that the making of the NDP should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This requires a demonstration of how the NDP will contribute to improvements in social, economic and environmental conditions and a demonstration that consideration has been given to how any potential adverse effects of the NDP may be prevented, reduced or offset (referred to as mitigation measures).
4. A sustainability assessment of the Devonshire Park NDP has, therefore, been carried out as a means of demonstrating that the principles of sustainable development, as defined by paragraphs 6 to 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012), have been taken into account in the preparation of the NDP.
5. The Devonshire Park NDP does not allocate any specific sites for development but will supplement existing planning policies in the adopted Wirral Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the emerging Wirral Core Strategy Local Plan.
6. The Devonshire Park NDP will, in particular, provide additional local context to assist in the application, within the designated Devonshire Park neighbourhood area, of UDP policies, Policy HS4 (*Criteria for New Housing Development*), Policy HS7 (*Sheltered Housing*), Policy HS8 (*Nursing Homes/ Residential Care Homes*), Policy HS13 (*Self-Contained Flat Conversions*) and Policy HS14 (*Houses in Multiple Occupation*) and the NDP would operate similarly to Policy HS5 (*Density and Design Guidelines*) by providing additional detail to be taken into consideration within Devonshire Park alongside the other policies in the statutory Development Plan¹.

¹ UDP Policies can be viewed online at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/unitary-development-plan>

7. The Devonshire Park NDP will also operate alongside Policy WM8 (*Waste Prevention and Resource Management*) and Policy WM9 (*Sustainable Waste Management Design and Layout for New Development*) in the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton adopted in July 2013².
8. The UDP, emerging Core Strategy³ and Joint Waste Local Plan have all been subject to sustainability appraisal, with the Core Strategy and Waste Local Plan additionally addressing the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
9. In the case of the Devonshire Park NDP, it has been determined that the NDP is not likely to have any significant effect on the environment and that an SEA is not required⁴. Because of this and the relatively narrow scope of the NDP, a 'light touch' sustainability assessment has been undertaken, which has involved an assessment of the policies from the Devonshire Park NDP against the sustainability appraisal objectives that the Council uses for the preparation of statutory Development Plan Documents.
10. The results of the assessment are set out below, in the following tables, for each of the policies proposed to be contained in the Devonshire Park NDP.

Conclusions

11. On the basis of the assessment set out below, it is considered that the policies in the Devonshire Park NDP would support the delivery of local sustainability objectives and the three dimensions for sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).
12. The only principal issues relate to the benefits and dis-benefits of promoting a higher or lower increase in the number of people likely to be able to live within the Neighbourhood Plan area, when set against the principal aim of the NDP to maintain a more balanced sustainable community.
13. Given the nature and scale of the changes likely to be promoted within this distinctive urban residential area by the Devonshire Park NDP, it is therefore concluded that the Devonshire Park NDP will on balance continue to support a sustainable pattern of future development.

² Joint Waste Local Policies can be viewed online at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/joint-merseyside-waste-development-plan>

³ The policies of the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan can be viewed online at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy-development-plan>

⁴ A separate SEA Screening Assessment Report can be found at Appendix 4.6 of the submitted documents

Devonshire Park Policy 1			
Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses within the Plan Area and sets out design criteria for new development to preserve the predominant character of the Devonshire Park Villa Estate.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
Social Inclusion			
1. Balanced Population	Potential positive effect. Well designed locally distinctive dwelling houses are likely to support a more balanced population structure within the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1, 2 and 3	None required.
2. Multiple Deprivation	Potential positive effect. Good quality design can contribute to the creation of a high quality environment and improve economic and social conditions.	Part of the Area falls within the worst 5% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation for England.	None required.
3. Accessibility of jobs and services	No significant effect but the majority of Devonshire Park is accessible to high frequency public transport services.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
4. Housing Need and Market Renewal	Potential positive effect. The area already provides a significant mix of dwelling types to meet housing need. Restoring and preserving the distinctive local character through sensitive design could assist in attracting new residents to the area and increase property values.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1 and 3. Devonshire Park lies outside but adjacent to the boundary of the former Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 1			
Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses within the Plan Area and sets out design criteria for new development to preserve the predominant character of the Devonshire Park Villa Estate.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
5. Healthy Communities	Potential positive effect. Any new development would have good access to medical facilities and open space and good design can improve the area and enhance people's quality of life.	Devonshire Park lies adjacent to the medical facilities at St Catherine's Hospital and within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park. Greenway Road Medical Centre is located within the area, at the junction of Greenway Road and Prenton Road East.	None required.
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
6. Economic Performance	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
7. Employment Growth	No significant effect	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
8. Worklessness and Income Deprivation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
9. Vitality of Town Centres	No significant effect but any additional development is likely to support the vitality of the Traditional Suburban Centre at Borough Road.	The majority of Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the Traditional Suburban Centre at Borough Road.	None required.
10. Tourism	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement			
11. Biodiversity and Natural Habitats	Potential positive effect. The restoration and preservation of the predominant character of the Villa Estate could lead to the retention or restoration of gardens	The policy has been supported by Wirral Wildlife for its likely impact on biodiversity.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 1			
Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses within the Plan Area and sets out design criteria for new development to preserve the predominant character of the Devonshire Park Villa Estate.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
	and trees which could support biodiversity.		
12. Pollution	No significant effect although the retention and restoration of gardens and trees could potentially contribute to reducing air pollution.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
13. Local Heritage	Potential positive effect. The Policy specifically seeks to actively preserve and restore the distinctive local character of the Villa Estate.	The listed building at St Joseph's Church is subject to separate additional protection and Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
14. Separation of Uses	Potential positive effect. The provision of dwelling houses would be compatible with other existing uses within the area and would minimise the potential for noise and other disturbance from other incompatible uses.	Devonshire Park is designated as part of a Primarily Residential Area subject to UDP Policy HS15 – Non Residential Uses in Primarily Residential Areas	None required.
15. Traffic Intrusion	Potential positive effect. The provision of dwelling houses is likely to minimise the potential number of additional traffic movements in the area compared to a higher density of development.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 1			
Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses within the Plan Area and sets out design criteria for new development to preserve the predominant character of the Devonshire Park Villa Estate.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
Natural Resources			
16. Previously Developed Urban Land	Potential positive effect. The Policy supports the reuse of existing buildings and previously developed urban land consistent with the character of the area.	Devonshire Park is a predominantly highly developed area, with the exception of existing private garden space.	None required.
17. Non-Renewable Energy	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
18. Sustainable Drainage and Water Conservation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
19. Waste and Recycling	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
20. Flooding and Hazards	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park is not in area susceptible to flooding.	None required.
Quality of Life			
21. Local Distinctiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy specifically seeks to preserve and restore the distinctive local character of the Villa Estate.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 – Townscape Character identifies relevant locally distinctive features	None required.
22. General Attractiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy specifically seeks to preserve and restore the distinctive local character of the Villa Estate and to promote sensitive design that will improve the attractiveness and perception of the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 identifies features that contribute towards the general attractiveness of the area	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 1			
Policy 1 supports the provision of dwelling houses within the Plan Area and sets out design criteria for new development to preserve the predominant character of the Devonshire Park Villa Estate.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
23. Culture, Sport and Leisure	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park, sports pitches at Borough Road and the sports facility at Prenton Park.	None required.
24. Sustainable Travel Choices	No significant effect but any additional development could further support existing public transport services.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
25. Crime Prevention	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Devonshire Park Policy 1 – Summary of Sustainability Assessment			
<p>1. Social Inclusion – Although Policy 1 indicates a selective support for dwelling houses, the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on objectives for a balanced population, multiple deprivation, housing need and market renewal and healthy communities and is unlikely to have any negative effect on the accessibility of jobs and services.</p> <p>2. Sustainable Consumption and Production - the Neighbourhood Plan should have no significant negative effect on sustainable consumption and production and any additional development is likely to support the vitality of the Traditional Suburban Centre at Borough Road.</p> <p>3. Environmental Protection and Enhancement - the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have positive effects on biodiversity, local heritage, separation of uses and traffic intrusion and could also potentially contribute towards reducing air pollution.</p> <p>4. Natural Resources – the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on the reuse of existing buildings and previously developed urban land.</p> <p>5. Quality of Life – the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on local distinctiveness and general attractiveness and any additional development could further support existing public transport services.</p>			
Proposed mitigation/enhancements			
None relevant.			

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
Social Inclusion			
1. Balanced Population	Potential positive effect. Controlling the additional concentration of flats and shared houses is likely to support a more balanced population structure within the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1, 2 and 3	None required.
2. Multiple Deprivation	Potential positive effect. Controlling the further provision of shared houses including bed-sits could help to minimise the further concentration of deprivation within the area.	Part of the Area falls within the worst 5% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation for England.	None required.
3. Accessibility of jobs and services	No significant effect.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
4. Housing Need and Market Renewal	Potential positive effect. The Policy provides for beneficial re-use and re-development. The area already provides a significant mix of dwelling types to meet a variety of housing needs and the Policy will continue to allow development where a local need is demonstrated. Protecting	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1 and 3. Devonshire Park lies outside but adjacent to the boundary of the former Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
	the unique character of the Villa Estate should also assist in attracting new residents to the area and increase property values.		
5. Healthy Communities	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park lies adjacent to the medical facilities at St Catherine's Hospital and within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park. Greenway Road Medical Centre is located within the area, at the junction of Greenway Road and Prenton Road East.	None required.
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
6. Economic Performance	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
7. Employment Growth	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
8. Worklessness and Income Deprivation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
9. Vitality of Town Centres	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people living in the area compared to a higher density of development.	The majority of Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the Traditional Suburban Centre at Borough Road.	None required.
10. Tourism	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement			
11. Biodiversity and Natural Habitats	Potential positive effect. Protecting the unique character of the Villa Estate could lead to the retention or restoration of gardens and trees which could better support biodiversity compared to a higher density of development.	Devonshire Park is a predominantly highly developed area, with the exception of existing private garden space.	None required.
12. Pollution	No significant effect although the protection of living conditions could minimise the likelihood of light or noise pollution and the retention of gardens and trees could potentially contribute to reducing air pollution.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
13. Local Heritage	Potential positive effect. The Policy specifically protects the unique character of the Villa Estate.	The listed building at St Joseph's Church is subject to separate additional protection and Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
14. Separation of Uses	Potential positive effect. Restricting higher density development could reduce the potential for noise and other disturbance.	Devonshire Park is designated as part of a Primarily Residential Area subject to UDP Policy HS15 – Non Residential Uses in Primarily Residential Areas	None required.
15. Traffic Intrusion	Potential positive effect. Restricting higher density development could reduce the growth in the number of traffic movements within the area.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Natural Resources			
16. Previously Developed Urban Land	Uncertain effect. Restricting higher density development would not prevent the beneficial reuse of existing urban land or buildings but could reduce the ability to maximise their occupancy.	Devonshire Park is a predominantly highly developed area, with the exception of existing private garden space.	None required as the Policy still allows for flats and shared houses where a local specific need is demonstrated.
17. Non-Renewable Energy	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
18. Sustainable Drainage and Water Conservation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
19. Waste and Recycling	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people generating waste within the area, compared to a higher density of development.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
20. Flooding and Hazards	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park is not in an area susceptible to flooding	None required.
Quality of Life			
21. Local Distinctiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy seeks to restrict development that will detract from the unique character of the Villa Estate which should support the local distinctiveness of the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 – Townscape Character identifies relevant locally distinctive features	None required.
22. General Attractiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy seeks to restrict development that will detract from the unique character of the Villa Estate which should support the general attractiveness of the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 identifies features that contribute towards the general attractiveness of the area	None required.
23. Culture, Sport and Leisure	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park, sports pitches at Borough Road and the sports facility at Prenton Park.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 2			
Policy 2 seeks to control the concentration of additional flats, maisonettes or apartments including converted or shared houses within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
24. Sustainable Travel Choices	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people living in the area compared to a higher density of development.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
25. Crime Prevention	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Devonshire Park Policy 2 – Summary of Sustainability Assessment			
<p>Social Inclusion - Although Policy 2 would restrict the provision of flatted and shared accommodation, the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on objectives for a balanced population, multiple deprivation, housing need and market renewal and is unlikely to have any negative effect on the accessibility of jobs and services or healthy communities.</p> <p>Sustainable Consumption and Production - the Neighbourhood Plan should have no significant negative effect on sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>Environmental Protection and Enhancement - the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have positive effects on biodiversity, local heritage, separation of uses and traffic intrusion and could also potentially contribute towards reducing air pollution and minimising the likelihood of light or noise pollution.</p> <p>Natural Resources - the Neighbourhood Plan should reduce the potential increase in the amount of waste generated within the area. The Plan will support the reuse of existing buildings and previously developed urban land but could reduce the ability to maximise the occupancy of new or converted properties.</p> <p>Quality of Life - the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on local distinctiveness and general attractiveness but is unlikely to have a significant positive impact on sustainable travel choices.</p>			
Proposed mitigation/enhancements			
None relevant			

Devonshire Park Policy 3 Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
Social Inclusion			
1. Balanced Population	Potential positive effect. Controlling the additional concentration of institutions and hostels is likely to support a more balanced population structure within the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1, 2 and 3	None required.
2. Multiple Deprivation	Potential positive effect. Controlling the further provision of institutions and hostels could help to minimise the further concentration of deprivation within the area.	Part of the Area falls within the worst 5% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation for England.	None required.
3. Accessibility of jobs and services	No significant effect.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
4. Housing Need and Market Renewal	Potential positive effect. The Policy provides for beneficial re-use and re-development. The area already provides a significant mix of dwelling types to meet a variety of housing needs and the Policy will continue to allow development where a local need is demonstrated. Protecting the unique character of the Villa	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Tables 1 and 3. Devonshire Park lies outside but adjacent to the boundary of the former Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 3			
Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
	Estate should also assist in attracting new residents to the area and increase property values.		
5. Healthy Communities	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park lies adjacent to the medical facilities at St Catherine's Hospital and within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park. Greenway Road Medical Centre is located within the area, at the junction of Greenway Road and Prenton Road East.	None required.
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
6. Economic Performance	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
7. Employment Growth	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
8. Worklessness and Income Deprivation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 3			
Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
9. Vitality of Town Centres	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people living in the area compared to a higher density of development.	The majority of Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the Traditional Suburban Centre at Borough Road.	None required.
10. Tourism	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement			
11. Biodiversity and Natural Habitats	Potential positive effect. Protecting the unique character of the Villa Estate could lead to the retention or restoration of gardens and trees which could better support biodiversity compared to a higher density of development.	Devonshire Park is a predominantly highly developed area, with the exception of existing private garden space.	None required.
12. Pollution	No significant effect although the protection of living conditions could minimise the likelihood of light or noise pollution and the retention of gardens and trees could potentially contribute to reducing air pollution.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
13. Local Heritage	Potential positive effect. The Policy specifically protects the unique character of the Villa Estate.	The listed building at St Joseph's Church is subject to separate additional protection and Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 3			
Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
14. Separation of Uses	Potential positive effect. Restricting higher density development could reduce the potential for noise and other disturbance.	Devonshire Park is designated as part of a Primarily Residential Area subject to UDP Policy HS15 – Non Residential Uses in Primarily Residential Areas	None required.
15. Traffic Intrusion	Potential positive effect. Restricting higher density development could reduce the growth in the number of traffic movements within the area.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Natural Resources			
16. Previously Developed Urban Land	Uncertain effect. Restricting higher density development would not prevent the beneficial reuse of existing urban land or buildings but could reduce the ability to maximise their occupancy.	Devonshire Park is a predominantly highly developed area, with the exception of existing private garden space.	None required as the Policy still allows for institutions and hostels where a local specific need is demonstrated.
17. Non-Renewable Energy	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
18. Sustainable Drainage and Water Conservation	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 3			
Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
19. Waste and Recycling	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people generating waste within the area, compared to a higher density of development.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
20. Flooding and Hazards	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park is not in an area susceptible to flooding	None required.
Quality of Life			
21. Local Distinctiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy seeks to restrict development that will detract from the unique character of the Villa Estate which should support the local distinctiveness of the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 – Townscape Character identifies relevant locally distinctive features	None required.
22. General Attractiveness	Potential positive effect. The Policy seeks to restrict development that will detract from the unique character of the Villa Estate which should support the general attractiveness of the area.	Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Section 7 identifies features that contribute towards the general attractiveness of the area	None required.
23. Culture, Sport and Leisure	No significant effect.	Devonshire Park lies within 400m of the public open spaces at Mersey Park and Victoria Park, sports pitches at Borough Road and the sports facility at Prenton Park.	None required.

Devonshire Park Policy 3			
Policy 3 seeks to control the concentration of additional residential institutions and hostels within the Plan Area subject to local need and the impact on living conditions and the character of the Plan Area.			
SA Objective	Assessment of Effects - Nature of the predicted sustainability effect (positive/ negative, short/ medium/ long-term, scale/ temporary/ permanent)	Evidence and reference (where available) and any other comments	Mitigation/enhancement measures
24. Sustainable Travel Choices	No significant effect but the Policy could reduce the potential increase in the number of people living in the area compared to a higher density of development.	The majority of Devonshire Park is within 400m of the high frequency public transport corridor at Borough Road.	None required.
25. Crime Prevention	No significant effect.	Strategic Local Plan policies will apply	None required.
Devonshire Park Policy 3 – Summary of Sustainability Assessment			
<p>Social Inclusion - Although Policy 2 would restrict the provision of residential institutions and hostels, the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on objectives for a balanced population, multiple deprivation, housing need and market renewal and is unlikely to have any negative effect on the accessibility of jobs and services or healthy communities.</p> <p>Sustainable Consumption and Production - the Neighbourhood Plan should have no significant negative effect on sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>Environmental Protection and Enhancement - the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have positive effects on biodiversity, local heritage, separation of uses and traffic intrusion and could also potentially contribute towards reducing air pollution and minimising the likelihood of light or noise pollution.</p> <p>Natural Resources - the Neighbourhood Plan should reduce the potential increase in the amount of waste generated within the area. The Plan will support the reuse of existing buildings and previously developed urban land but could reduce the ability to maximise the occupancy of new or converted properties.</p> <p>Quality of Life - the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive effect on local distinctiveness and general attractiveness but is unlikely to have a significant positive impact on sustainable travel choices.</p>			
Proposed mitigation/enhancements			
None relevant			

Local Sustainability Objectives for Wirral

The sustainability objectives against which the Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed are set out in further detail below:

SOCIAL INCLUSION		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To promote a balanced population structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal retain and promote factors conducive to social regeneration • Will the policy or proposal provide for jobs, services and facilities that will attract and retain the working age population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population change • Population structure • Population forecasts • Migration rates
To reduce the incidence of multiple deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for a service or facility that will address an identified local deficiency or inequality • Will the policy or proposal include measures to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in areas of greatest need • Will the policy or proposal assist in closing the gap between standards of living and opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices of Multiple Deprivation • Population by socio-economic grouping • Educational attainment
To promote the accessibility of services and facilities to all sectors of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal improve access to modern health and social care services • Will the policy or proposal provide a service or facility that will address an identified local deficiency • Will the policy or proposal provide for access for people with restricted mobility • Will the policy or proposal promote affordable transport links to areas of greatest need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residential households with the most accessible areas • Percentage of industrial and commercial premises within the most accessible areas

SOCIAL INCLUSION		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To meet identified local housing needs and promote housing market renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for development that will meet an identified local housing need • Will the policy or proposal support the provision of modern affordable housing in areas of greatest need • Will the policy or proposal support the promotion of housing market renewal • Will the policy or proposal assist in reducing the number of unfit and vacant properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling stock by size and tenure • Number and percentage of unfit and vacant properties • Average house prices by area • Number of homes completed in the HMRI Pathfinder Intervention Area
To promote inclusive, healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote healthy lifestyles • Will the policy or proposal protect or improve public health and safety • Will the policy or proposal assist in addressing health inequalities • Will the policy or proposal make appropriate provision for the needs of vulnerable people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy at birth • Mortality by main cause (standardised mortality ratios) • Teenage conceptions • Proportion of the working age population claiming incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance • Activity rates
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To promote improved economic performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for an increase in output and productivity and improved economic performance • Will the policy or proposal secure adequate provision for new and emerging target sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVA per head • GVA as percentage of national performance • Economic activity rates

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To provide for employment growth and business creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal encourage an increase in local employment • Will the policy or proposal secure the provision of attractive land and premises • Will the policy or proposal assist business creation and support business growth • Will the policy and proposal exploit local strengths and maximise the use of key facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment by sector • Births and deaths of enterprises • Amount of land developed for employment by type
To reduce worklessness and income deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal contribute towards reducing unemployment and income deprivation • Will the policy or proposal contribute towards meeting the employment needs and aspirations of local people • Will the policy or proposal promote job opportunities that will be genuinely accessible to people in greatest need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers allowance claimants by age and duration • Average weekly earnings
To promote the vitality and viability of town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal contribute to the vitality and viability of an existing centre • Will the policy or proposal promote the location of appropriate jobs and services within existing centres • Will the policy or proposal restrict development that would harm the vitality and viability of existing centres • Will the policy or proposal encourage a sequential approach to site selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of centre health checks including vacancy rates and retail rents • Amount of new retail, office and leisure development

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To maximise provision for high quality tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal protect and improve existing tourism resources • Will the policy or proposal encourage the development of local tourism and visitor facilities • Will the policy or proposal hinder the attraction additional visitors and tourism investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visitors to Wirral and the City Region by duration and average expenditure • Number of visitors to top tourists/visitor facilities • Number of bedspaces • Employment in tourism
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To maintain and improve biodiversity and natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote biodiversity or contribute to habitat creation • Will the policy or proposal protect sites already recognised as important for nature conservation or earth science • Will the policy or proposal assist in the delivery of an approved Biodiversity Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and area of sites designated for nature conservation and geological importance# • The condition of SSSI
To minimise pollution to land, water or air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for the prevention or minimisation of pollution at source • Will the policy or proposal provide for the remedy or treatment of an existing source of pollution • Will the policy or proposal protect or improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters • Will the policy or proposal minimise the loss of productive land and the opportunity for land contamination • Will the policy or proposal minimise the likelihood of light or noise intrusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population living in Air Quality Management Areas • Number of days air pollution is moderate or high • The ecological quality of watercourses • The quantitative and chemical quality of groundwater bodies • Number of bathing beaches achieving higher standard under the Bathing Water Directive • Amount of land registered as contaminated or

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal protect or improve air quality and serve to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases 	<p>the number of sites no longer scheduled for further inspection under Wirral's Contaminated Land Strategy as a result of development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area and percentage of high quality agricultural land lost to development
To conserve local heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal provide for the conservation of designated conservation areas Will the policy or proposal provide for the preservation of listed buildings and structures Will the policy or proposal conserve other locally important buildings or townscapes Will the policy or proposal promote the protection of archaeology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and area of designated Conservation Areas Number, area and condition of designated Historic Parks and Gardens Number of Listed Buildings on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register Number and condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments
To provide for the separation of incompatible land uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal protect the amenity of sensitive uses such as residential areas, hospitals and nursing homes Will the policy or proposal direct activities likely to cause nuisance away from sensitive uses such as residential areas, hospitals and nursing homes Will the policy or proposal minimise the opportunity for hazards and accidents and maximise public safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Part A Processes Number of homes falling within the consultation distance of a Part A industrial process Number of homes falling within a major hazard consultation zone Number and type of noise complaints
To reduce the impact of traffic intrusion in residential areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the policy or proposal seek to minimise the impact of traffic on residential roads Will the policy or proposal route commercial and other traffic to main routes away from residential areas Will the policy or proposal assist in the reduction of traffic congestion and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of persons killed or seriously injured in road accidents Number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents Number of dwellings and associated population identified as 'First Priority' for further

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
	vehicle emissions	investigation in DEFRA Noise Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of road traffic congestion points
NATURAL RESOURCES		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To maximise the use of previously developed urban land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal maximise the use of previously developed urban land and buildings • Will the policy or proposal restrict development on previously undeveloped urban land and other urban open spaces • Will the policy restrict development in the open countryside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of new houses built or converted on previously developed land • Proportion of new commercial development on previously developed land • Area of land on the National Land Use Database
To minimise the reliance on non-renewable energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote the use of renewable energy • Will the policy or proposal minimise the use of non-renewable energy sources, promote fuel efficiency and energy conservation • Will the policy or proposal promote the use on new and clean technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of energy consumption from renewable and waste sources
To promote sustainable drainage and water conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal minimise the impact on the water environment • Will the policy or proposal maximise water conservation • Will the policy or proposal provide for sustainable drainage systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of development incorporating sustainable drainage systems • Average water consumption per capita household
To minimise waste generation and maximise recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will the policy or proposal promote waste reduction • will the policy or proposal provide for an increased rate of domestic and commercial recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual volume and proportion of waste sent to landfill, recycled and composted

NATURAL RESOURCES		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will the policy or proposal minimise the amount of waste going to landfill • will the policy or proposal promote the use of recycled materials in construction projects 	
To minimise the impact of flooding and other natural hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal restrict development in areas of recognised risk • Will the policy or proposal only permit development following an appropriate assessment of flood risk • Will the policy or proposal promote development that will withstand the impact of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of land potentially liable to flooding • Proportion of completed new development sites in the Environment Agency flood zones 2 & 3 • The number of planning approvals contrary to Environment Agency advice • Amount of land where development is permitted in areas at risk from coastal erosion
QUALITY OF LIFE		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
To maintain and promote a locally distinctive sense of place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal provide for development that will respect the distinctive character of the locality • Will the policy or proposal promote high quality urban design • Will the policy or proposal promote the conservation of distinctive landscapes and other natural features such as, trees, hedges, ponds, rivers and coastlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of Green Belt • Area of natural and semi-natural greenspace lost to development • Landscape character assessment • Number and area of open spaces with Green Flag Awards
To protect and improve the attractiveness of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal serve to promote the well-being of the area • Will the policy or proposal serve to minimise any negative perceptions about the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of groups involved in decision-making • Number of Code for Sustainable Homes Certificates issued

QUALITY OF LIFE		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal serve to promote the social, economic and environmental regeneration of areas of greatest need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new non-residential buildings achieving "Very Good" or better score on the BREEAM rating scheme
To maximise opportunities for culture, sport and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal retain adequate provision of facilities for culture, sport and leisure • Will the policy or proposal promote additional provision to meet identified needs • Will the policy or proposal serve to assist in the promotion of local culture and history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type, number and location of facilities for sport, recreation and leisure • Number of households within 400m walking distance of sport, recreation and leisure facilities • Residents satisfaction surveys
To promote sustainable travel choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote easy accessibility to homes, jobs and services by alternatives to the private car • Will the policy or proposal make appropriate physical provision for walking, cycling and the use of public transport • Will the policy or proposal promote sustainable travel choices and a reduction in traffic congestion • Will the policy or proposal encourage the greater use of rail and water for freight transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percentage of new development within the most accessible areas • Journey to work by location, mode and distance • Location and length of designated cycle tracks
To minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the policy or proposal promote measures to maximise crime prevention • Will the policy or proposal provide for measures to minimise the opportunity for anti-social behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime rates per 1000 population • Number of notifiable offences