

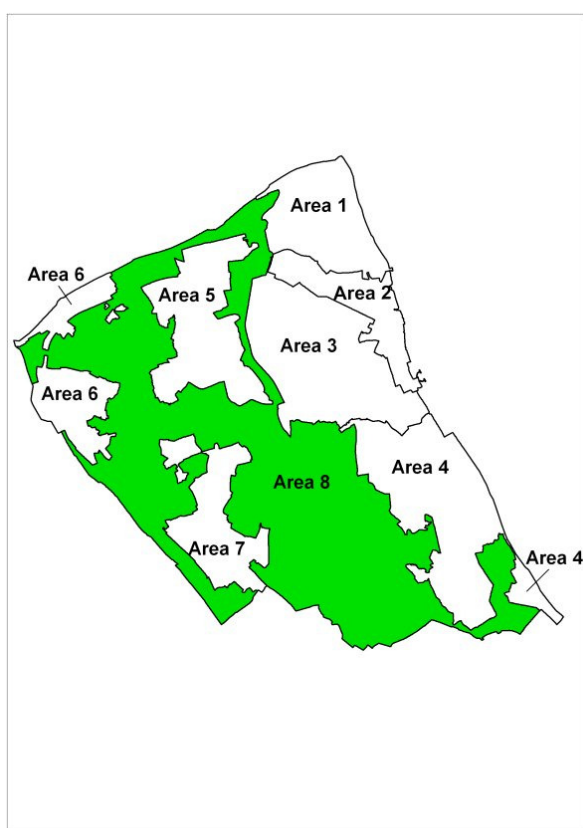
## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION ON SETTLEMENT AREA POLICIES

The Council consulted on the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy between November 2010 and January 2011.

The Preferred Options Report indicated that the local priorities for each of the main groups of settlements within the Borough would be set out in a series of eight Settlement Area Policies to cover the following areas:



Each of the Settlement Area Policies would be accompanied by an illustrative diagram and a short reasoned justification to explain why each of the policies was being followed.

At that time, a number of respondents were concerned that they would not be able to comment on the content of the Settlement Area Policies that were proposed to be included before the final Core Strategy was prepared. The Council has therefore decided to undertake additional consultation on the draft content of the Settlement Area Policies before the work for the proposed Core Strategy is finalised for consideration by the Council in July 2012.

The Preferred Options Report, the comments submitted and a summary of the Council's proposed responses can be viewed at <http://wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

The final Settlement Area Policies will form only one part of a longer document dealing with the overall vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the whole Borough including more detailed Borough-wide policies for issues dealing with housing, employment, retailing and environmental protection, along the lines indicated in the Preferred Options Report.

As the Core Strategy is a strategic document and will not include site-specific proposals (like the Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map), the draft Settlement Area Policies only seek to set out the main headline priorities that are likely to apply within each of the Settlement Areas.

The detailed boundaries, for areas such as town centres, primarily residential, industrial and commercial areas etc., currently shown on the Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map will remain in force until they are replaced by a later site-specific Land Allocations Development Plan Document, which will be prepared once the Core Strategy has been adopted.

Common terms used throughout the Settlement Area Policies will be included in a glossary in the final Core Strategy but for the avoidance of doubt - "area of greatest need" means areas shown as falling within the lowest 20% of the national Index of Multiple Deprivation; "areas of higher value housing" means areas shown as falling within the highest 20% of the national Index of Multiple Deprivation; "main transport corridors" means principal roads and passenger rail services; and "other main public transport routes" means public transport routes with services that are more frequent than 30 minutes in each direction.

As this is an informal additional stage of consultation, the draft Policies have not yet been subject to sustainability appraisal, appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations or an Equality Impact Assessment, which will be completed as the policies are being finalised.

The Forward Planning Team who can be contacted on 0151 691 8206 or at [pamconway@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:pamconway@wirral.gov.uk) will be happy to help with any questions you may have about the consultation process or the content of the documents.

**The deadline for comments to be received by the Council on-line or in writing by letter or e-mail is 5.00 p.m. on 12 March 2012**

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