



**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL**

**MONITORING REPORT**

**2015/16**

**DECEMBER 2016**

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# **1 Executive Summary**

1.1 This Monitoring Report is a statutory document setting out progress on the delivery of Local Plans and the extent to which national and local priorities are being achieved within the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

1.2 This report covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2016.

## **Monitoring Policy Implementation**

1.3 The national recession has continued to have a noticeable impact on a number of indicators.

## **Population**

1.4 The latest national mid-year estimate for 2015, expects the Borough's population to have increased to 321,100 from 319,800 in 2011.

1.5 The latest 2014-based national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase at a slightly higher rate, by 3.6 percent to 332,500 people.

1.6 The latest 2014-based household projections now expect the number of households in Wirral to increase by 10.6 percent or by a further 1,400 households, to 158,000 by 2037.

## **Economy and Retail**

1.7 The number of people in Wirral who were economically active reduced to 146,800 in 2016 from 147,400 in 2015. The number of residents who were economically inactive decreased to 52,800 from 52,900 in 2015.

1.8 There were 2,230 fewer working age residents claiming key benefits in February 2016 than in February 2015.

1.9 While the number of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance continued to reduce, 2,552 people were claiming the out-of-work element of Universal Credit in September 2016.

1.10 The amount of newly completed employment floorspace continued to increase during 2015/16 but demolitions and other losses had led to a net loss of employment floorspace overall.

1.11 There was also a reduction in the amount of new retail floorspace completed in 2015/16, the majority of which continued to take place outside existing centres.

## **Housing**

1.12 Gross housing completions remained stable at 562 in 2015/16 but net performance reduced slightly from 537 to 498, due to fewer gains from net conversions and a higher number of demolitions.

1.13 The proportion of new dwellings completed on previously developed land remained high but had reduced to 92 percent, compared to 95 percent in 2014/15.

1.14 The number of new affordable dwellings completed reduced to 279 units in 2015/16, from the 315 units delivered in 2014/15.

1.15 The proportion of new housing located more than 400 metres away from a bus stop or railway station continued to remain low, at just over 1% in 2015/16 (6 units).

## **Environment and Resources**

1.16 The inclusion of Dawstone Park, Harrison Park, Hamilton Square and Frankby Cemetery increased the proportion of public open space maintained to Green Flag Award standard, to 45% during 2015/16.

1.17 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of water quality during 2015/16.

1.18 Objections to two planning applications on the grounds of flood risk were resolved by the provision of additional information before each application was determined.

1.19 Data based on the new Energy Company Obligation continues to indicate a higher than average delivery of energy efficiency improvements in Wirral but a smaller proportion of households seeking additional funding by undertaking a Green Deal Assessment.

1.20 The proportion of households living in fuel poverty is now only slightly ahead of the national average for England.

## **Monitoring Plan Preparation**

1.21 A revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan is now expected to be published in September 2017, following the consideration of further consultation on housing needs and land supply.

1.22 The Core Strategy is now expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination towards the end of 2017.

1.23 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park was made by Council resolution in December 2015, following the successful local referendum on 22 October 2015.

1.24 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake is expected to be made by Council resolution in December 2016, following the successful local referendum on 1 December 2016.

1.25 A new Neighbourhood Forum for Birkenhead and Tranmere was designated in November 2015, following the designation of the accompanying Neighbourhood Area in July 2015.

1.26 Effective joint working has continued with the surrounding districts, prescribed agencies and infrastructure providers.

1.27 A Liverpool City Region Devolution Agreement was signed in November 2015 and a joint Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment is expected to report in early 2017, to inform the preparation of a new Single Statutory Spatial Framework for the City Region.

## Questions and Comments

1.28 Any questions and comments on the data or analysis provided in this Monitoring Report should be directed to the Council's Forward Planning team in Environmental Services at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED or at [forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk).

1.29 The Council is keen to identify ways to improve the range and quality of the monitoring information provided and would encourage approaches to provide regular, up-to-date data sets for relevant indicators.

## 2 Introduction

2.1 This document is the twelfth Annual Monitoring Report for Wirral (AMR) prepared under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2.2 The AMR is a statutory document setting out progress on the preparation and adoption of Local Development Documents and the extent to which national and local policies are being achieved.

2.3 This AMR principally covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2016 but also includes more up-to-date information where this is available.

2.4 The latest available local monitoring data, in addition to the summaries presented in this report, can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/development-monitoring>.

2.5 Section 3 of the AMR sets out the latest policy context within the area.

2.6 Section 4 of the AMR sets out the extent to which the policy priorities for the area are being achieved under the heading of Monitoring Policy Implementation.

2.7 Section 5 of the AMR sets out progress on the delivery of up-to-date Local Plans under the heading of Monitoring Plan Preparation.

2.8 Section 6 of the AMR sets out details of the action that has been taken to co-operate with other local authorities and prescribed bodies under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended).

### **3 Policy Context**

3.1 This section of the AMR sets out the latest position with regard to existing Development Plans and other significant policy initiatives.

3.2 Local policies and initiatives are strongly influenced by national legislation and by national planning policies and guidance.

3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework and accompanying Planning Practice Guidance can be viewed on the national website at:  
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

#### **The Development Plan for Wirral**

3.4 The statutory Development Plan for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral currently comprises:

- the remaining policies in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted in February 2000;
- the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton adopted in July 2013; and
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park made on 14 December 2015.

3.5 A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake is expected to be made by Council resolution on 19 December 2016.

#### **Unitary Development Plan**

3.6 The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (UDP) provides for urban regeneration across the Borough, supported by a tight Green Belt, with priority given to regeneration within the older inner urban areas and the (former) outer Council estates.

3.7 The UDP can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan>

3.8 The UDP is being progressively replaced by new style Local Plans, such as the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton and the Council's emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, supplemented by a series of Neighbourhood Development Plans prepared by the local community.

3.9 The programme for the preparation of the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan is reviewed in Section 5 of this AMR.

3.10 A list of the UDP policies and proposals that are no longer in force, following the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan, can be viewed at Appendix 1 to this AMR.

3.11 A list of the UDP policies that are intended to be replaced by new policies within the Council's emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, was included in section 29 of the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy, which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-0>.

### **Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton**

3.12 The Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton was adopted by the six partner authorities in July 2013.

3.13 The adoption documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

3.14 Separate monitoring reports on the operation of the Joint Waste Local Plan can also be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

### **Local Development Documents**

3.15 The following Local Development Documents are currently in force:

<b>Document</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
SPD1 - Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Mast Operators	October 2006
SPD2 - Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions	October 2006
SPD3 - Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments	October 2006
SPD4 - Parking Standards	June 2007
Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton	July 2013
Statement Of Community Involvement (Revised)	March 2014

<b>Document</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
Local Development Scheme (Revised)	July 2015
Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2015

**Table 3.1 Adopted Documents**

3.16 The Council adopted an up-dated Statement of Community Involvement on 10 March 2014.

3.17 The revised Statement of Community Involvement can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/community-involvement-local-planning>.

3.18 A series of Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes are also available to assist in the delivery of existing Unitary Development Plan policies.

3.19 Proposals for the preparation of new and replacement Supplementary Planning Documents were included in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan, published in December 2012.

3.20 The Council has since resolved to prepare four new Supplementary Planning Documents, to cover issues related to housing, employment, town centre uses and telecommunications. Initial consultation was undertaken in July 2013 and the latest information can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents>.

3.21 A Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Housing, for application alongside the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, is expected to be made available for public consultation early in 2017.

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

3.22 Four neighbourhood areas and forums have now been designated in Wirral. The latest position can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>.

### Devonshire Park

3.23 The Council 'made' its first Neighbourhood Development Plan, for Devonshire Park, on 14 December 2015. The latest information can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/devonshire-park>.

## Hoylake

3.24 The Hoylake Community Planning Forum ('Hoylake Vision') submitted their Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan to the Council in September 2015. The Council published their proposals for public comment in November 2015 and submitted them to independent examination in March 2016.

3.25 The Examiner recommended that the Hoylake Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local referendum, subject to a number of modifications. The Council accepted the Examiner's recommendations and the modified documents were published in September 2016. A successful local referendum took place on 1 December 2016 and the final Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be made by Council resolution on 19 December 2016.

3.26 The latest information can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/hoylake>. Further information can also be obtained from the Hoylake Vision website at <http://www.hoylakevision.org.uk>.

## Leasowe

3.27 The Council formally designated a Neighbourhood Forum and accompanying Neighbourhood Area for Leasowe in July 2014. Further information can be obtained from the Leasowe Development Trust website at [www.leasowedt.org.uk/leasowe-neighbourhood-plan](http://www.leasowedt.org.uk/leasowe-neighbourhood-plan).

## Birkenhead and Tranmere

3.28 A neighbourhood area for Birkenhead and Tranmere was designated on 27 July 2015 and the accompanying neighbourhood forum was designated on 5 November 2015.

3.29 The latest information can be viewed on the Forum's website at <http://batnpf.org/> or at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/birkenhead-and-tranmere>

## **Community Infrastructure Levy**

3.30 The Council has not yet resolved to become a charging authority but is undertaking preparatory investigations as part of the ongoing Core Strategy Local Plan Development Viability Assessment.

3.31 The likely future viability of a Community Infrastructure Levy in Wirral was reported to the Council's Cabinet in January 2015 (Minute 131 refers). The latest information, including the accompanying baseline report, can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy>.

## Wirral Council Corporate Plan 2015/20

3.32 The Council's latest five-year plan was approved by the Council in July 2015. The Wirral Plan – A 2020 Vision has now also been adopted by the wider Wirral Partnership, to guide all future public investment to 2020. A Phase One Delivery Plan was endorsed in October 2015, to be aligned with the Council's five-year medium-term financial strategy.

3.33 The Wirral Plan makes 20 pledges based around people, business and the environment, including:

- Older people live well
- Children are ready for school
- Young people are ready for work and adulthood
- Vulnerable children reach their potential
- Reduce child and family poverty
- People with disabilities live independently
- Zero tolerance to domestic violence
- Greater job opportunities in Wirral
- Workforce skills match business needs
- Increase inward investment
- Thriving small businesses
- Vibrant tourism economy
- Transport and technology infrastructure fit for the future
- Assets and buildings fit for purpose for Wirral businesses
- Leisure and cultural opportunities for all
- Wirral residents live healthier lives
- Community services are joined up and accessible
- Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents
- Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe
- Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

3.34 Targets include:

- the creation and safeguarding of 5,000 jobs;
- attracting £250 million of private sector investment;
- 250 net additional new businesses;
- building 3,500 new homes and 300 extra care units;
- improving 2,250 private sector properties;
- bringing 1,250 empty homes back into use;
- 2,000 disabled adaptations to people's homes each year;
- achieving over 50% recycling of municipal waste; and
- achieving less than 10% of non-recycled waste collected and landfilled.

### Wirral Partnership Growth Plan (January 2016)<sup>1</sup>

3.35 The Wirral Growth Plan will in particular seek to:

- create a shared ambition for growth and investment;
- provide the framework for place shaping, to develop sustainable communities where people want to live, invest, work and visit;
- support the delivery of infrastructure and housing to enable growth;
- grow the visitor economy in Wirral to take advantage of a unique and special location;
- increase the scale, quality and sustainability of economic opportunity in Wirral;
- ensure participation and access to economic opportunities for local residents;
- create a more dynamic and growth focused business population with increased value added and productivity;
- increase levels of education and skills to foster growth and upskill residents;
- ensure better accessibility to jobs outside the Borough, particularly in North Wales; and
- tackle infrastructure deficits and address transport network pinch points to enable greater connectivity.

3.36 The key development areas to support the short to medium-term delivery of this strategy are identified as: Wirral Waters; Birkenhead Town Centre including Woodside; the Birkenhead Hinterland – the areas bordering Birkenhead Town Centre and bordering Wirral Waters; and the A41 Corridor.

### Wirral Partnership Housing Strategy (July 2016)<sup>2</sup>

3.37 The Wirral Housing Strategy will seek to build more homes to meet Wirral's economic growth ambitions; improve the quality of Wirral's housing offer; and meet the housing and support needs of the most vulnerable people, to enable them to live independently.

## **National Assisted Areas**

3.38 The UK Assisted Area Map to 2020 came into force on 1 July 2014.

3.39 Assisted Areas are recognised as areas that would benefit from additional support for development.

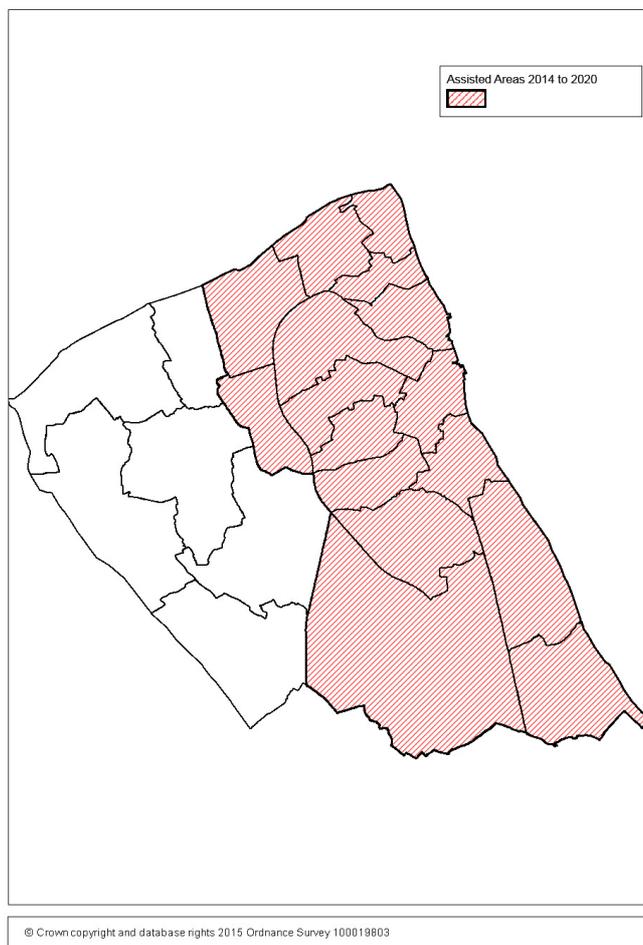
3.40 The Electoral Wards in Wirral that currently benefit from Assisted Area status include: Wallasey; New Brighton; Liscard; Seacombe; Leasowe and Moreton East; Bidston and St James; Upton; Claughton; Birkenhead and

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Wirral%20Growth%20Plan.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Housing%20Strategy.pdf>

Tranmere; Oxton; Prenton; Rock Ferry; Bebington; Clatterbridge; Bromborough; and Eastham.



**Picture 3.1 – National Assisted Areas in Wirral 2014 to 2020**

## **4 Monitoring Policy Implementation**

4.1 This section of the AMR seeks to provide information on the delivery of existing policy priorities, based on information drawn from nationally published data sets and locally collected statistics.

4.2 The data provided has, wherever possible, continued to follow the format provided over previous years.

4.3 The third annual monitoring report for the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, prepared by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service at Sefton Council, is provided in a separate accompanying report.

4.4 Future indicators will be set by the adoption of the Core Strategy Local Plan.

4.5 A fuller overview of the main characteristics of the Borough is contained within the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Spatial

Portrait, which can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-0>.

## Population

4.6 Initial figures from the 2011 Census showed that the Wirral population had increased by 2.4 percent since 2001 to 319,800, significantly higher than the previous national mid-year estimate of 308,800.

4.7 The latest 2014-based national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase to 332,473 by 2037, compared to the 331,199 people anticipated by the previous 2012-based population projections.

People (Thousands)	2014	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	Change 2014-2037
Wirral	320.9	321.1	322	323.2	324.6	326.1	328.4	330.3	331.8	332.5	+3.6%
Merseyside	1391	1395	1403	1410	1418	1426	1443	1459	1472	1478	+6.3%

**Table 4.1 Population Projections (2014-based)<sup>1</sup>**

## Households

4.8 The Census recorded 140,600 households in Wirral in 2011.

Households (Thousands)	2014	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	Change 2014-2037
Wirral	143	143	145	146	148	149	152	154	157	158	+10.6%
Merseyside	614	618	626	634	642	648	662	675	687	693	+12.9%

**Table 4.2 Household Projections (2014-based)<sup>3</sup>**

4.9 The latest 2014-based national household projections now expect the number of households in Wirral to increase to 158,000 by 2037, compared to the 156,600 households anticipated by the previous 2012-based household projections.

National Mid-Year Population Estimate (Wirral)	Young People (0-15 years)	Working Age (males 16-64 & females 16-60)	Retired (males 65 & over & females 61 & over)
2015	59,700	186,200	75,200
2014	59,600	187,100	74,200
2013	59,400	188,100	72,900
2012	59,500	191,200	69,500
2011	59,200	189,600	71,000
2010	58,700	180,600	69,600
2009	58,900	180,600	69,000
2008	58,900	182,300	68,200
2007	59,500	183,300	67,400
2006	60,300	184,200	66,700
2005	56,800	198,500	57,700
2004	57,600	197,900	57,600

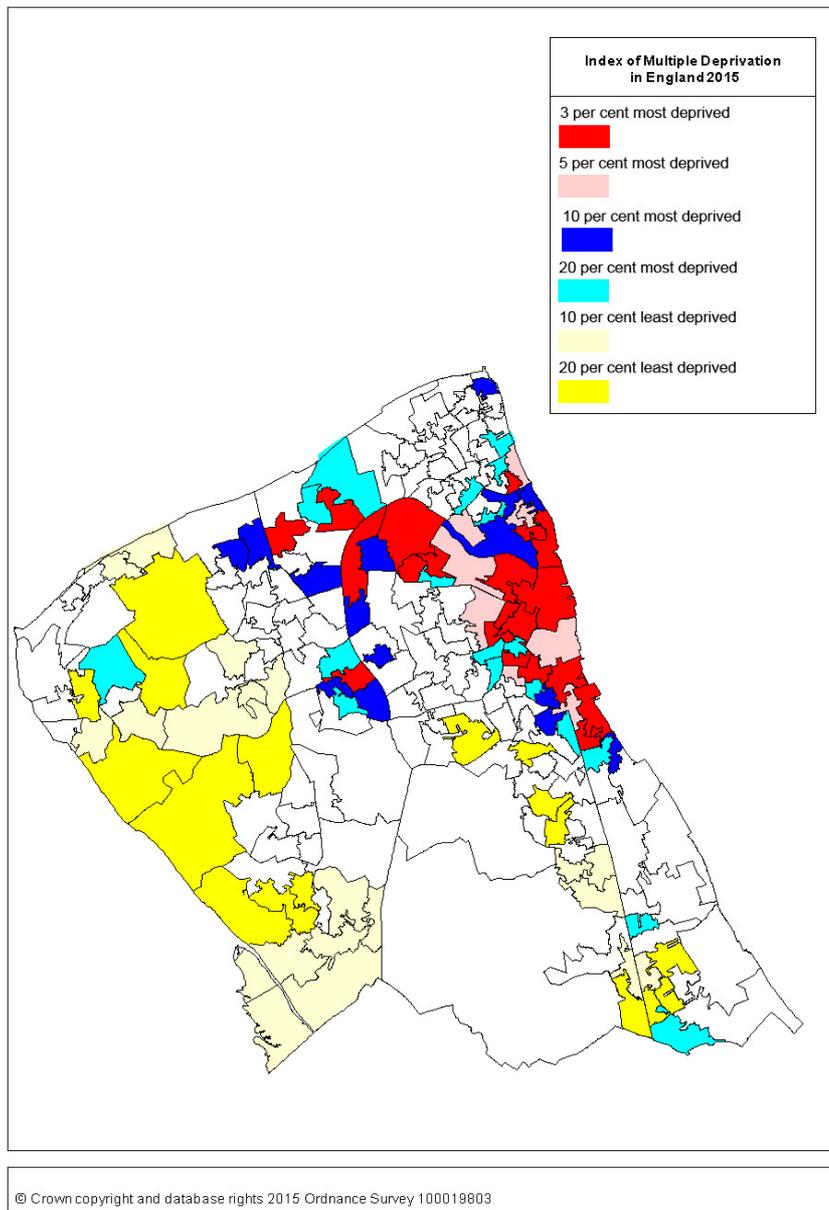
<sup>3</sup> CLG 2014-based household projections (July 2016)

National Mid-Year Population Estimate (Wirral)	Young People (0-15 years)	Working Age (males 16-64 & females 16-60)	Retired (males 65 & over & females 61 & over)
2003	58,400	197,900	57,500
2002	59,400	197,500	57,400

**Table 4.3 Population Change 2002-2015**

4.10 The table above shows how the structure of the population has changed since 2002, based on national mid-year estimates, which were re-based in 2011 to take account of the higher number of working age adults recorded in the 2011 Census.

## Social Context



**Picture 4.1 Areas of Multiple Deprivation in Wirral 2015**

4.11 Almost a third of the Wirral population (31 percent) lives in areas ranked as having some of the greatest social, economic and environmental needs in England.

4.12 Over 22 percent of children in Wirral currently live in low income households<sup>4</sup>. There is also a significant gap in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent areas, with a ten-year gap in average life expectancy at birth between areas in east and west Wirral.

4.14 Significant local health issues include high rates of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, coronary heart disease, depression and asthma<sup>5</sup>.

4.15 Currently, just over two thirds of children in Wirral (70 percent) reach their development target at the age of five. Over three-quarters of Wirral schools (84 percent) are rated 'good' or better by OFSTED<sup>6</sup> and in 2016, 61.5 percent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at Grades A\* to C including English and Maths. The national average for England was 52.8 percent<sup>7</sup>.

4.16 Wirral maintains a relatively low crime rate, the second lowest in Merseyside behind Sefton and below both the average for England and Wales, of 62.5 crimes per thousand and the average for Merseyside, of 73.9 crimes per thousand people.

4.17 There were 20,065 recorded crimes in Wirral during 2015/16, equivalent to 61.6 crimes per thousand people, representing a decrease of 28 percent in the total number of crimes in Wirral over the 11 years to March 2016.

4.18 On average, the number of anti-social behaviour calls made to the Police in Wirral has reduced by 5 percent per year since 2003/04, up to and including 2015/16<sup>8</sup>.

## Economy

4.19 Wirral's economy is currently worth around £4.3 billion, its highest ever value and makes up around 15 percent of the Merseyside total<sup>9</sup>.

GVA per Capita (£)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2013/14 (% change)
Wirral	12,313	12,908	12,217	12,527	13,127	12,523	13,318	13,589	+2.0%
Merseyside	16,451	17,069	17,433	17,703	17,668	17,269	18,009	18,621	+3.4%
North West	18,662	18,929	18,788	19,218	19,036	19,627	20,455	21,011	+2.7%
UK	21,708	22,152	21,659	22,271	22,806	23,323	24,131	24,958	+3.4%

**Table 4.4 Gross Value Added 2007 to 2014**

<sup>4</sup> [Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision](#) (page 11)

<sup>5</sup> Wirral Compendium of Health Statistics (NHS Wirral, 2016) <http://tinyurl.com/jv6jyuh>

<sup>6</sup> Wirral Plan 2020: Annual Report 2015/16 (page 13)

<sup>7</sup> National GCSE and equivalent results <http://tinyurl.com/h6n4xkl>

<sup>8</sup> ONS: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/index.html>

<sup>9</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 32)

4.20 Growth in Gross Value Added per capita was below the national, regional and sub-regional average between 2013 and 2014<sup>10</sup>.

Total Employees	Full Time (percentage)	Part Time (percentage)	Job Density (2014) <sup>11</sup>
Wirral	62.0%	39.0%	0.57
Merseyside	65.9%	34.1%	0.68
North West	68.7%	31.3%	0.78
Great Britain	69.1%	30.9%	0.82

**Table 4.5 Wirral Employees 2015<sup>12</sup>**

4.21 The most recent data shows 100,000 employee jobs in Wirral in 2015, an increase of 2% or 2,000 jobs since 2014.

4.22 The ratio of total jobs to the working age population (job density) was still considerably below national, regional and sub-regional averages and there was still a higher proportion of part-time jobs in the local economy, compared with the averages for Merseyside, the North West and Great Britain<sup>13</sup>.

Employment Sector	Wirral (Jobs)	Wirral	North West Region	Great Britain
Primary Services (A-B: agriculture and mining)	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Energy and Water (D-E)	1,100	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Manufacturing (C)	8,000	8.0%	9.7%	8.3%
Construction (F)	4,000	4.0%	4.4%	4.6%
Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G)	15,000	15.0%	16.5%	15.8%
Transport Storage (H)	3,000	3.0%	4.7%	4.7%
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	6,000	6.0%	7.4%	7.2%
Information and Communication (J)	2,000	2.0%	3.3%	4.2%
Financial and other business services (K – N)	16,500	16.5%	20.4%	22.6%
Public admin, education and health (O – Q)	39,000	39.0%	28.2%	26.9%
Other Services (R – S)	4,500	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%

**Table 4.6 Employee Jobs by Industry 2015<sup>14</sup>**

4.23 Wirral also has a higher than average proportion of jobs in public administration, education and health.

<sup>10</sup> ONS Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach) NUTS3 Table 3:2 (July 2014)

<sup>11</sup> Job Density data: NOMIS 2015

<sup>12</sup> Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2015

<sup>13</sup> Local Authority Profile for Wirral: NOMIS 2015

<sup>14</sup> Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2015. Figures for Merseyside were not available for 2015. Data excludes farm based agriculture.

District	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2015	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2016	% of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises in Merseyside 2016	Change 2015-2016
Knowsley	2,915	3,060	8.5%	+5.0%
Liverpool	11,690	12,420	34.7%	+6.2%
St Helens	4,195	7,445	20.8%	+2.5%
Sefton	7,265	4,445	12.4%	+6.0%
Wirral	8,220	8,425	23.5%	+2.5%
Merseyside	34,285	35,795	100%	+4.4%

**Table 4.7 Change in VAT and PAYE Enterprises<sup>15</sup>**

4.24 The latest figures show 8,425 VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Wirral in 2016, almost a quarter (24 percent) of all the VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Merseyside and an increase of 2.5% since 2015.

Percentage of Working Age Population	Economically Active	In Employment (employees)	In Employment (self-employed)	Economically Inactive
Wirral	72.8%	61.1%	8.1%	27.2%
North West	75.5%	62.1%	9.0%	24.5%
Great Britain	77.8%	63.2%	10.2%	22.2%

**Table 4.8 Economic Activity 2015/16<sup>16</sup>**

4.25 146,800 people were classified as economically active in 2016, with 120,000 people in employment including 17,900 self-employed. Economic activity has therefore marginally reduced from 72.9 percent in 2015<sup>17</sup>, compared with the most recent pre-recession high point of 76.4 percent in 2007.

4.26 The number of people who were economically inactive fell slightly, from 52,900 in 2015 to 52,800 in 2016, compared to the most recent high point of 54,400 in 2010.

Average Weekly Earnings	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Wirral	£484.90	£498.10	£497.80	£518.20	£526.40
Merseyside	£463.70	£477.30	£491.50	£-£487.60	£503.90
North West	£460.00	£472.50	£484.60	£492.00	£502.10
Great Britain	£503.10	£508.00	£520.80	£529.60	£541.00

**Table 4.9 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Residence 2010/11 to 2015/16<sup>18</sup>**

4.27 Average weekly pay for employees living in Wirral remained higher than the averages for Merseyside and the North West but was still below the national average.

<sup>15</sup> ONS, UK Business 2016 - Table B1.3 <http://tinyurl.com/jfycaew>

<sup>16</sup> April 2015 to March 2016. Figures for Merseyside were not available (NOMIS, July 2016)

<sup>17</sup> Employment and Unemployment (Apr 2015 – March 2016) NOMIS September 2016

<sup>18</sup> ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, November 2016)

Average Weekly Earnings	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Wirral	£417.70	£432.60	£485.60	£499.90	£489.90
Merseyside	£462.10	£474.00	£491.90	£485.30	£501.30
North West	£460.30	£469.90	£482.50	£488.80	£503.20
Great Britain	£502.60	£507.60	£520.20	£529.00	£540.20

**Table 4.10 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Workplace 2011/12 to 2015/16**<sup>19</sup>

4.28 Average weekly earnings for employees working in Wirral have now dropped back below the averages for Merseyside and the North West.

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	February 2012	February 2013	February 2014	February 2015	February 2016
Wirral	21.6%	20.0%	19.2%	17.7%	16.5%
Merseyside	23.0%	21.7%	20.7%	19.0%	17.6%
North West	18.2%	17.4%	16.3%	15.0%	14.0%
Great Britain	15.0%	14.3%	13.3%	12.5%	11.8%

**Table 4.11 Key Benefits Claimants 2012 to 2016**<sup>20</sup>

4.29 By February 2016, 32,280 working age residents in Wirral were claiming one or more key benefits, compared to the most recent high point of 41,580 in February 2010 and 34,510 in February 2015<sup>21</sup>.

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016
Wirral	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	3.2%	1.6%	1.1%
Merseyside	5.5%	5.9%	5.4%	4.4%	1.8%	1.5%
North West	4.1%	4.6%	4.4%	3.2%	2.0%	1.3%
Great Britain	3.7%	4.0%	3.8%	2.9%	2.4%	1.5%

**Table 4.12 Job Seekers Allowance Claimants**<sup>22</sup>

4.30 The number of JSA claimants has continued to reduce, since the introduction of Universal Credit in August 2014, to 2,120 in February 2016.

4.31 There were, however, 4,288 Universal Credit Claimants in Wirral in September 2016, of which 2,552 were claiming the out-of-work element of Universal Credit.

## Business Development

4.32 The year to April 2016 saw a further increase in the amount of new employment floorspace completed, with a significant increase in new office floorspace (Use Class B1a).

<sup>19</sup> ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Workplace (NOMIS, November 2016)

<sup>20</sup> DWP Benefit Claimants Working Age Client Group

<sup>21</sup> Key Benefits include jobseekers allowance, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income-related benefits

<sup>22</sup> ONS Claimant Counts with Rates and Proportions (NOMIS)

4.33 An additional 3,512 square metres of education floorspace for the construction industry (Use Class D1) was also completed in 2015/16, at Tower Quay, at Wirral Waters.

Floorspace (square metres)	Use Class B1(a)	Use Class B1(b)	Use Class B1(c)	Use Class B2	Use Class B8	Total Floorspace
Completed floorspace (gross)	11,189	0	418	5,631	2,070	19,308
Completed floorspace (net)	-8,237	0	418	-30,561	2,070	-19,836
Total completed on previously developed land (gross)	11,189	0	418	5,631	2,070	19,308
Percentage completed on previously developed land (gross)	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 4.13 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type and on Previously Developed Land 2015/16**

4.34 Demolitions and other losses, nevertheless, resulted in a net loss of employment floorspace overall, mainly due to the demolition of the former Mobil Oil plant, at Wallasey Bridge Road, which had not yet been replaced<sup>23</sup> and the amount of completed new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2) was half the figure in 2014/15.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Use Class B1(a)	8,542	3,801	8,803	275	1,426	91	1,008	619	178	11,189
Use Class B1(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use Class B1(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	621	0	418
Use Class B2	13,576	12,797	19,099	1,948	14,380	7,571	159	0	10,432	5,631
Use Class B8	53	0	0	0	440	18,964	1,956	1,234	290	2,070
<b>Total Floorspace</b>	<b>22,171</b>	<b>16,598</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>16,246</b>	<b>26,626</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>19,308</b>

**Table 4.14 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type (gross)**

4.35 Projects to provide up to 9,452 square metres of new business floorspace (Use Class B1); up to 9,672 square metres of new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2); and up to 98 square metres of storage and distribution floorspace (Use Class B8) were registered as under construction at the end of the reporting period.

## Employment Land Supply

4.36 The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (UDP) set aside 843 hectares of land across the Borough for employment uses falling within Use Classes

<sup>23</sup> Planning permission for a new 16,248 sqm manufacturing facility was approved in February 2015 (APP/14/01579 refers)

B1, B2 and B8, with 658 hectares within the Primarily Industrial Areas and 185 hectares on allocated Employment Development Sites.

4.37 Less than a third (27 percent, 50.62 hectares) of the land allocated as an Employment Development Site remained undeveloped at April 2016.

Land Area (hectares)	Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone	Wirral International Business Park	Borough Total
Land Allocated for B1 Uses	0.00	0.00	1.50
Land Allocated for B1, B2 and B8 Uses	0.00	23.13	49.12
Other Land Within Primarily Industrial Areas	0.00	43.81	87.47
Other Land with Permission for B1, B2 or B8 Uses	49.72	0.00	49.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.72</b>	<b>66.94</b>	<b>187.83</b>

**Table 4.15 Employment Land Available by Type (April 2016)**

4.38 There was an additional 24.90 hectares of vacant land within the Dock Estates at April 2016 (which is not included in the table above), of which 2.32 hectares were within the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone.

4.39 The table below shows the take up of employment land in Wirral over the last ten years.

Year	Small Sites (0-0.2 hectares)	Large Sites (>0.2 hectares)	Total Land
2006/07	0.37	11.49	11.86
2007/08	0.46	4.75	5.21
2008/09	0.72	5.94	6.66
2009/10	0.25	0.21	0.46
2010/11	0.48	4.01	4.49
2011/12	0.02	7.24	7.26
2012/13	0.47	19.22	19.69
2013/14	0.58	0.00	0.58
2014/15	0.57	7.28	7.85
2015/16	0.84	2.83	3.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.76</b>	<b>62.97</b>	<b>67.73</b>
Annual average	0.48	6.30	6.77

**Table 4.16 Take-Up of Employment Land Since April 2005 (hectares)**

## Town Centres

4.40 The amount of new retail (Use Class A1) floorspace completed in Wirral in 2015/16 was approximately a third of the amount completed during 2014/15, most of which took place outside existing centres.

Use Class	Town Centre		Borough Total		% in Town Centres	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Use Class A1	78	78	2,500	2,472	3%	3%
Use Class A2	492	492	492	492	100%	100%
Use Class B1a	195	195	11,189	11,189	2%	2%
Use Class D2	280	280	374	374	75%	75%

**Table 4.17 Total Amount of Floorspace Developed for Town Centre Uses 2015/16**

4.41 The table below shows the changing trend over time.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Use Class A1 (gross)	10,366	967	2,332	1,603	22,300	4,635	828	7,954	2,500
(percentage in town centres)	66%	63%	0%	23%	55%	55%	59%	5%	3%
Use Class A1 (sales)	7,844	559	2012	1,236	12,205	2,418	471	7,489	2,472
(percentage in town centres)	58%	59%	0%	21%	35%	56%	42%	5%	3%
Use Class A2	-	-	-	-	-	265	-	413	492
(percentage in town centres)	-	-	-	-	-	43%	-	100%	100%
Use Class D2	4,044	1,826	-	3,739	4,304	4,195	-	30	374
(percentage in town centres)	14%	6%	-	27%	0%	2%	100%	0%	75%

**Table 4.18 Completed Floorspace for Town Centre Uses 2007/08 to 2015/16**

4.42 The Council's latest assessment of retail spending and capacity was reported in July 2016.

## Town Centre Action Plans

4.43 Town Centre Action Plans for Borough Road (Prenton Park); Bromborough; Claughton Village; Eastham (New Chester Road/Mill Park Drive); Greasby; Heswall; Hoylake; Irby Village; Laird Street; Liscard; Lower Bebington (Church Road); Moreton; New Ferry; Oxtan Village; Prenton; Seabank Road (New Brighton); Seacombe (Poulton Road); Tranmere; Upton; Victoria Road (New Brighton); Wallasey Village; and West Kirby are now complete.

4.44 Copies of the completed Action Plans can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/business/investment-strategy/investing-places/town-centres-wirral>

## Tourism

4.45 Wirral has the fastest growing visitor economy in the Liverpool City Region<sup>24</sup> and the Borough's visitor sector was valued at over £385 million in 2015, up by 8.5 percent since 2014.

Expenditure by Sector (£ million)	2014	2015	Percentage Change
Accommodation	28.6	30.89	+8.0%
Food & Drink	68.10	73.77	+8.3%
Recreation	18.12	19.57	+8.0%
Shopping	125.00	135.87	+8.7%
Transport	27.48	29.84	+8.6%
<b>Total Direct Revenue</b>	<b>267.30</b>	<b>289.94</b>	<b>+8.5%</b>
Indirect Expenditure	88.17	95.83	+8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>355.47</b>	<b>385.77</b>	<b>+8.5%</b>

**Table 4.19 Visitor Spending by Sector in 2014 and 2015**

4.46 The total number of visits to Wirral rose by 8.2 percent, to over 8.2 million during 2015.

4.47 Wirral's tourism sector also supported over 5,055 full-time equivalent jobs, up by 5.2 percent since 2014.

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2014	2015	Percentage Change
Accommodation	622	624	+0.3%
Food & Drink	1000	1058	+5.8%
Recreation	323	341	+5.6%
Shopping	1674	1776	+6.1%
Transport	180	191	+6.0%
<b>Total Direct Employment</b>	<b>3799</b>	<b>3990</b>	<b>+5.0%</b>
Indirect Employment	1004	1065	+6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4803</b>	<b>5055</b>	<b>+5.2%</b>

**Table 4.20 Visitor Related Employment by Sector in 2014 and 2015**

4.48 Since 2010, Wirral's visitor economy has increased by over 43 percent (from £268.19 million in 2010 to £385.77 million in 2015); employment in tourism has increased by over 25 percent (from 4,028 in 2010 to 5,055 in 2015); and visitor numbers have increased by 14 percent (from 6.65 million in 2009 to 7.59 million in 2014).

4.49 The economic impact from serviced accommodation (such as bed and breakfasts, hotels, guesthouses and inns) has also increased by over 36% since 2010.

## Housing

4.50 Wirral has many areas of attractive high quality housing but large concentrations of poorer stock, particularly in east Wirral. The Council's latest condition survey estimated that approximately 12,000 private sector dwellings

<sup>24</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 40)

(9.8 percent) were subject to Category 1 Hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System<sup>25</sup>.

Dwelling Stock by Sector (number of dwellings)	Total Stock	Vacant	Percentage Vacant
Registered Provider	23,283	657	2.8%
Private Sector	126,145	4,459	3.5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>149,428</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

**Table 4.21 Wirral Dwelling Stock April 2016**

4.51 Just over 84 percent of Wirral's residential properties were privately owned in April 2016 and just under 16 percent were owned by a Registered Provider. The vast majority of vacancies (87 percent) were within the private sector housing stock.

4.52 The number of occupied dwellings has increased from 143,422 in 2006 to 149,428 in 2016, representing an annual average increase of just over 600 dwellings over the last ten years.

Housing Stock	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Private	122,957	123,276	122,679	123,301	121,376	123,746	125,857	126,145
RSL	22,461	22,837	23,074	23,037	25,027	23,030	23,341	23,283
Other Public	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Stock	145,427	146,115	145,753	146,338	146,403	146,776	149,198	149,428
Vacant	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%

**Table 4.22 Changes in Wirral Dwelling Stock 2009 to 2016**

4.53 Average house prices increased by 3.5 percent in Wirral in the year to March 2016, higher than the overall increase for both Merseyside (2.1 percent) and for the North West Region (2.7 percent).

Average House Prices	Wirral	Merseyside	North West
Overall	£142,105.58	£127,612.42	£141,514.67
Detached	£238,135.08	£220,910.17	£244,573.17
Semi-detached	£156,599.17	£141,287.00	£148,924.75
Terraced	£108,169.83	£99,986.83	£108,606.92
Flat/Maisonette	£92,358	£108,606.92	£104,561.08

**Table 4.23 Average House Prices April 2015 to March 2016**

4.54 The average property price for the Borough as a whole was between five and six times the average salary for the Borough in 2015/2016<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> Wirral Private Sector House Condition Survey 2013

<sup>26</sup> Calculated using the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, 2015) and <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/hpi>

## Housing Land Supply

4.55 The Borough's housing land supply with planning permission at 31 March 2016 was 2,221 units, with additional outline consent for 13,521 units at Wirral Waters. The proportion of units with planning permission on previously developed land decreased from 87 percent in 2014/15 to 84 percent in 2015/16.

4.56 The table below shows the revised capacity of additional sites without planning permission based on the Council's latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the initial findings of the Core Strategy Viability Assessment Baseline Report.

Source of Supply	April 2015	April 2016
Category 1 Sites - developable within five years	1,093	1,249
Category 2 Sites - deliverable within ten years	1,490	1,443
Category 3 Sites - not currently deliverable	2,911	2,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,494</b>	<b>5,651</b>

**Table 4.24 Capacity of Additional Housing Land Supply (dwellings)<sup>27</sup>**

4.57 The former Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was revoked by the Government in May 2013 and no longer remains in force.

4.58 The Council must determine its own housing requirement for inclusion in the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan. Before deciding on a final housing requirement, the Council is required to identify the objectively assessed need (OAN) for housing in its area by preparing a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), to identify the scale and mix of housing which the local population is likely to need over the period that the Local Plan is intended to remain in force.

4.59 The Council's latest SHMA (May 2016) identifies that the objectively assessed need for housing in Wirral should stand at between 875 and 1,235 dwellings per year.

4.60 The calculation of OAN does not take policy considerations into account. The Council consulted on the SHMA (May 2016) between 10 August and 23 September 2016 and will need to apply other considerations, such as environmental capacity, viability and growth ambitions and the findings of the Liverpool City Region SHELMA, before arriving at the figure for the final housing requirement, which will be adopted through the Local Plan.

4.61 An initial calculation of the Borough's five-year housing land supply at April 2016, based on the objectively assessed need range identified in the SHMA (May 2016), is set out in Appendix 3 to this AMR. The calculation will

<sup>27</sup> The latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for April 2016 can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-4>

need to be re-assessed once the final housing requirement to be contained within the Local Plan has been established.

## Housing Delivery

4.62 Gross completions totalled 562 during 2015/16<sup>28</sup>. The percentage of residential completions on previously developed land was 92 percent, compared to 95 percent in 2014/15.

<b>Completed Dwellings</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Gross New Build	284	258	254	463	420	395	468
Demolitions	131	175	242	355	181	16	52
Net New Build	153	83	12	108	239	379	416
Gross Conversions	56	14	14	177	80	168	94
Net Conversions	47	14	10	144	63	158	82
Total Gross Additional	340	272	268	640	500	563	562
Total Net Additional	200	97	22	252	302	537	498

**Table 4.25 Completed Dwellings 2009/10 to 2015/16**

4.63 The number of recorded demolitions was higher in 2015/16 than in the previous year, due to the final clearance of properties as part of the former Housing Market Renewal Initiative. The rate of demolitions is expected to decline over time as existing targeted programmes draw to a close.

<b>Completed Dwellings (gross)</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Settlement Area 1 – Wallasey	66	100	13	130	87	131	132
	19%	37%	5%	20%	17%	23%	23%
Settlement Area 2 – Commercial Core	34	0	0	8	4	26	10
	10%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%	2%
Settlement Area 3 – Suburban Birkenhead	92	89	108	219	198	122	211
	27%	33%	40%	34%	40%	22%	38%
Settlement Area 4 – Bromborough & Eastham	65	56	130	135	83	35	103
	19%	21%	49%	21%	17%	6%	18%
Settlement Area 5 – Mid Wirral	78	19	4	89	64	196 <sup>29</sup>	31
	23%	7%	1%	14%	13%	35%	6%
Settlement Area 6 – Hoylake and West Kirby	0	1	0	36	42	13	14
	0%	0%	0%	6%	8%	2%	2%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	2	3	3	10	10	13	32
	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	6%
Settlement Area 8 – Rural Areas	3	4	10	13	12	27	29
	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%	5%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>562</b>

**Table 4.26 Completed Dwellings (Gross) 2009/10 to 2015/16**

4.64 The table above shows how the geographical pattern of development has changed across the Borough since April 2009<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> Gross completions in 2007/08, prior to the onset of the recession, totalled 820 (564 net)

<sup>30</sup> Settlement Areas used for this analysis are defined in the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012)

## Gypsies and Travellers

4.65 Wirral does not have any existing pitches for Gypsies or Travellers.

4.66 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Merseyside and West Lancashire reported in September 2014.

4.67 Revised policies, for inclusion in the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, were published for consultation in December 2014.

## Affordable Housing

4.68 The number of affordable housing completions decreased slightly from 315 in 2014/15 to 279 in 2015/16. The new dwellings were located in Birkenhead (77), Port Sunlight (58), New Brighton (42), Bebington (26), Pensby (22), Moreton (14), Liscard (12), Eastham (11), Bromborough (9) and Tranmere (8).

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	54	132	41%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	0	10	0
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	85	211	40%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromborough & Eastham	93	103	90%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	14	31	45%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake and West Kirby	0	14	0
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	22	32	69%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	11	29	38%
<b>Total Borough</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>50%</b>

**Table 4.27 Affordable Housing Completions (Gross) 2015/16<sup>31</sup>**

4.69 The current targets for the provision of affordable housing, based on the existing Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update and Affordable Housing Viability Assessment from 2010, are 10 percent within areas of greatest need<sup>32</sup> and 20 percent across the rest of Wirral, normally applied to sites with a capacity of 11 dwellings or more, in line with amended national policy<sup>33</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> The figures in Table 4.27 are taken from submitted planning applications where the tenure of future properties has been declared. The total number of affordable dwellings recorded in the Wirral Affordable Housing Programme for 2015/16 was 298 dwellings which includes dwellings funded through the HCA Affordable Housing Programme and the Wirral Council Capital Programme.

<sup>32</sup> Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20% of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation

<sup>33</sup> [http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/planning-obligations/planning-obligations-guidance/#paragraph\\_031](http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/planning-obligations/planning-obligations-guidance/#paragraph_031)

4.70 The targets will be re-assessed in line with the findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (May 2016) and the ongoing Core Strategy Local Plan Viability Assessment, following public consultation during early 2017.

## Self-Build and Custom House Building

4.71 In November 2016, there were 24 individuals on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding register, who had requested between 25 and 28 plots of land.

4.72 There is a strong preference for medium-sized plots of land, as over 70 percent of people, who expressed a preference, said they would be interested in a plot of either 150 to 299 square metres or a plot of 300 to 499 square metres. Only 16 percent of people on the register would currently require a plot of 500 square metres or above and only 12 percent a plot of less than 150 square metres.

4.73 There is also a preference for larger dwellings, with 46 percent of individuals stating an intention to develop a detached property, 24 percent declaring an interest to develop a semi-detached property and 20 percent wishing to build a bungalow.

Settlement Area	Preferred Location
1 - Wallasey	5
2 - Commercial Core	1
3 - Suburban Birkenhead	4
4 - Bromborough & Eastham	6
5 - Mid-Wirral	6
6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	17
7 - Heswall	11
8 - Rural Areas	14
No Stated Preference	4

**Table 4.28 Preferred Locations for Self-build and Custom Housebuilding**

4.74 In terms of location, there is a general preference for self-build plots in the west of the Borough, within Hoylake, West Kirby and Heswall and outside the existing built up area.

## Heritage

4.75 The Wirral Heritage Strategy, adopted in February 2012 and revised in 2014, set out a comprehensive and integrated heritage framework for the Borough, which forms the basis for local heritage activities in Wirral in the short and medium term.

4.76 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with 733 nationally designated entries on the Historic England National Heritage List for England, including nine Ancient Monuments, four Historic Parks and Gardens and twenty-six Council-designated Conservation Areas.

4.77 The following heritage assets are currently included on the national Historic England Heritage at Risk Register<sup>34</sup>:

- Flaybrick Cemetery, Birkenhead
- Hamilton Square, Birkenhead
- Trinity with Palm Grove United Reformed Church, Birkenhead
- Church of St James, New Brighton
- Church of St Peter and St Paul, New Brighton
- Church of St Paul, Wallasey
- Flaybrick Memorial Gardens
- Moated Site 400m North East of New Hall, Wirral
- Storeton Hall, Bebington
- Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton
- Thornton Manor Bebington

4.78 The Church of Saint Peter Saint Paul and Saint Philomena (Dome of Home) in New Brighton has received a second major Heritage Lottery Fund grant for repairs to the historic fabric. They have been awarded £27,000 to develop a £250,000 restoration project which will help to secure the future of this important heritage landmark.

4.79 The Council continues to work with Historic England to secure the long term future of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens and has jointly funded a condition survey for the derelict Victorian chapels. Urgent repairs to stonework and carvings costing £325,000 were jointly funded by the Council and Historic England. Additional partnership funding for a Conservation Management Plan for the whole cemetery has now also been secured.

4.80 Conservation Areas Wirral, which represents the interests of all Wirral's twenty-six Conservation Areas, has established a 'Blue Plaque' scheme for buildings linked to significant local people or events and a partnership has been established to seek World Heritage status for Birkenhead Park.

4.81 The award winning Port Sunlight Local Listed Building Consent Order was adopted on 26 November 2015, becoming only the second area in the Country to give residents consent to make certain alterations to the rear of their properties in a Conservation Area<sup>35</sup>.

## **Biodiversity**

4.82 Five of the Borough's twelve nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), at Dee Cliffs; Dibbinsdale; Meols Meadows; Red Rocks; and the North Wirral Foreshore, are not currently considered to be

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<sup>34</sup> <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/nw-har-register2016.pdf/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/port-sunlight-local-listed-building-consent-order>

meeting the Government's Public Service Agreement Target to have at least 95 percent of the SSSI in favourable or recovering condition<sup>36</sup>.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Favourable Condition	Unfavourable Condition - Recovering	Unfavourable Condition - No Change	Unfavourable Condition - Declining
Dee Cliffs	86.86%	-	13.14%	-
Dee Estuary	100%	-	-	-
Dibbinsdale	41.45%	36.55%	22.00%	-
Heswall Dales	-	100%	-	-
Meols Meadows	-	41.05%	58.95%	-
Mersey Estuary	45.99%	53.19%	0.47%	0.36%
Mersey Narrows	22.27%	77.73%	-	-
New Ferry	100%	-	-	-
North Wirral Foreshore	-	-	-	100%
Red Rocks	-	71.62%	-	28.38%
The Dungeon	100%	-	-	-
Thurstaston Common	0.71%	99.29%	-	-

**Table 4.29 Percentage of Sites of Scientific Interest in Favourable Condition in 2015/16**

4.83 The latest information from monitoring undertaken by Local Sites Partnerships, from 2013/14, indicated that positive conservation management was being implemented on almost half (42 percent) of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites, up from 26 percent in 2009<sup>37</sup>.

## Public Open Space

4.84 Twenty-three of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards in 2016. The addition of Dawstone Park, Harrison Park, Hamilton Square and Frankby Cemetery, means that the percentage of public open space managed to Green Flag Award standards had increased to 45 percent.

4.85 Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm and New Ferry Butterfly Park also retained their Green Flag Community Awards, for sites managed by voluntary and community groups and Birkenhead Park retained its Green Heritage Site Accreditation, in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance<sup>38</sup>.

Total Public Open Space	1,192 hectares <sup>39</sup>
Area of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	533 hectares
Percentage of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	45%

**Table 4.30 Amount of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Standards 2015/2016**

<sup>36</sup> <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteList.aspx?siteName=&countyCode=28&responsiblePerson>

<sup>37</sup> Nature Conservation: Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management 2014/15 (DEFRA November 2013) <http://tinyurl.com/nnbryd4>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/award-winning-sites/north-west/>

<sup>39</sup> includes sites within the designated Green Belt

4.86 The Council's current target is to increase the number of new Green Flag Award parks by at least one every year<sup>40</sup>.

4.87 Five parks, including Brookhurst Park in Bromborough; Central Park in Liscard; Coronation Park in Greasby; School Lane Playing Fields in Wallasey; and Whitfield Common in Heswall, have also been included in an experimental CLASP funded Climate Change Resilient Parks project, to examine how park sites can best be managed in a changing climate.

## Water Quality

4.88 Wirral's beaches have consistently been among the cleanest in the North West and four of Wirral's beaches were identified on the Good Beach Guide website as meeting the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the Environment Agency<sup>41</sup>. West Kirby: Meols: Moreton: and Wallasey all received an 'Excellent' rating in 2016<sup>42</sup>.

4.89 The Council's current target is to achieve a Blue Flag Award for one beach by December 2016 and for a second beach by December 2019<sup>43</sup>.

4.90 The latest information on river water quality shows both Dibbinsdale Brook and Clatter Brook classified as 'Poor' overall and The Birket including Arroe Brook and Fender classified as 'Moderate'<sup>44</sup>.

4.91 No objections were submitted by the Environment Agency to planning applications on water quality grounds during 2014/15.

4.92 The Devolution Agreement, approved in principle by the Government in November 2015, will commit the Liverpool City Region to achieve the cleanest river standard in the Mersey by 2030 and to a discharge free Mersey by 2040.

## Flood Risk

4.93 The Environment Agency submitted two objections to planning applications on flood risk grounds during 2015/16<sup>45</sup>.

4.94 The issues relating to both applications were subsequently resolved by the provision of additional information and relevant planning conditions before each application was determined.

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<sup>40</sup> Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024 <http://tinyurl.com/nj4nc8x>

<sup>41</sup> [Marine Conservation Society, Good Beach Guide](#)

<sup>42</sup> the beaches at Thurstaston, Red Rocks, Leasowe Bay and New Brighton were not tested

<sup>43</sup> Wirral Strategy for Green and Open Spaces 2014-2024 <http://tinyurl.com/nj4nc8x>

<sup>44</sup> [Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer - Wirral Operational Catchment 2016](#)

<sup>45</sup> Application numbers 15/01383 and 16/00168 refer

## Energy

4.95 Wirral was estimated to have consumed a total of 5,274 GWh of energy in 2014, compared to 5,409 GWh of energy in 2013 and 7,292 GWh in 2005<sup>46</sup>.

4.96 The majority of energy consumed was taken up for domestic needs. The proportion of energy in Wirral taken up by industry and commerce had dropped from 35 percent in 2003 to just above 28 percent in 2014<sup>47</sup>.

Total Final Energy Consumption (percentages)	Industry & Commerce	Domestic	Transport
Wirral	28.1%	44.8%	27.1%
North West	36.6%	31.6%	29.1%
Great Britain	37.5%	30.8%	29.29%

**Table 4.31 Energy Consumption by Sector 2014<sup>48</sup>**

4.97 The average domestic consumption per household in Wirral was estimated at 17.3 tonnes of oil equivalent (MWh) in 2013, which was below the national (Great Britain) average of 17.9 tonnes and the regional average of 17.7 tonnes of oil equivalent.

### Offshore wind

4.98 Wirral forms an important part of the Liverpool City Region Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering, one of only six such centres across the UK and the only one on the west coast and Cammell Lairds was used as a base port for the construction of the now operational 160 turbine, 576MW Gwynt y Môr wind farm in the Irish Sea, around 18 kilometres off the Welsh coast.

4.99 Twenty-five wind turbines, capable of supplying electricity to up to 80,000 households, already operate off the Wirral shoreline at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay. An extension at Burbo Bank, consisting of a further thirty-two 8MW wind turbines with an additional generating capacity of 258MW, enough to supply approximately 230,000 homes, commenced in September 2016<sup>49</sup>. A new Operations and Maintenance facility consisting of a new office and warehouse building is under construction at in Kings Wharf, Seacombe to serve the operations of both Burbo wind farms.

4.100 The power generated by Gwynt y Môr, the Burbo extension and the other wind farm visible from Wirral, at North Hoyle, does not, however, come ashore within Wirral.

<sup>46</sup> [DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2003-2014 \(September 2016\)](#)

<sup>47</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2014 (September 2016)

<sup>48</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2014 (Published September 2016)

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.burbobankextension.co.uk/en/news/articles/successful-installation-of-world's-largest-offshore-wind-turbine-at-burbo-bank> extension

## Local generation

4.101 In terms of the more local generation of renewable energy, only one planning application for solar panels was approved during 2015/16, principally due to extended permitted development rights for solar panels<sup>50</sup>.

4.102 National figures show that there were 2,058 domestic photovoltaic installations in Wirral, in December 2015, compared to only nine in June 2010, with 701 added since March 2014<sup>51</sup>.

4.103 A very small percentage of the total energy consumed in Wirral currently comes from bioenergy and waste, estimated at 0.9 GWh in 2014, compared to 0.1 GWh in 2005<sup>52</sup>.

4.104 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bidston Moss landfill, continued to further diminish to 1,243MWh during 2014/15, compared to the 9,701 MWh achieved during 2003.

4.105 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bromborough Landfill (recently restored to form the Port Sunlight River Park) was 5,148 MWh during 2015/16, down from 6,533 MWh in 2014/15.

4.106 The Devolution Agreement, approved in November 2015, will commit the Government to re-consider the merits of delivering a cost-effective tidal power scheme for the River Mersey or Liverpool Bay, to exploit one of the largest tidal ranges in the UK.

## **Household Energy Efficiency**

4.107 In previous years, data has been provided for the rate of loft and cavity wall insulation installations in Wirral and Great Britain under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). This ended in December 2012 and was replaced by the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

4.108 The total number of ECO measures delivered in Wirral in period to June 2015 was 13,457. This figure comprised 3,744 Carbon Savings Target measures, 4,441 Carbon Savings Community (CSCO) measures and 5,362 Affordable Warmth (HHCRO) measures.

Area	ECO measures per 1,000 households	Total number of ECO measures delivered	Green Deal assessments per 1,000 households	Total number of Green Deal Assessments
Wirral	95.5	13,457	20.7	2,938
Great Britain	57.4	1,504,898	22.0	575,936

**Table 4.32 ECO and Green Deal Assessments to 30 June 2015<sup>53</sup>**

<sup>50</sup> Application number APP/15/00282 refers

<sup>51</sup> DECC, Interactive Maps, Domestic Solar PV Installations 2015

<sup>52</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2014 (September 2016)

<sup>53</sup> [Green Deal, Energy Company Obligations \(ECO\) and Insulation Levels in Great Britain, Detailed Report: To June 2015](#)

4.109 Table 4.30 also provides data for the completion of Green Deal Assessments, which allow households to access Green Deal Plans (loans) for energy efficiency improvements as well as other funding such as the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund.

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014
Wirral	13.5%	11.2%	10.9%	10.9%
England	10.9%	10.4%	10.4%	10.6%

**Table 4.33 Households in Fuel Poverty<sup>54</sup>**

4.110 The latest figures for fuel poverty show that levels of fuel poverty in Wirral remained unchanged from the previous year but the variance against the national average had now reduced to less than half of one percentage point.

4.111 Wirral's Climate Strategy and annual reports Cool Steps can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/climatestrategy>

## Minerals

4.112 Wirral does not have any significant mineral reserves, apart from small amounts of winnable brick clay. The Merseyside Mineral Resource Study 2008 recommended that only the Carr Lane Brickworks at Moreton should be safeguarded for future mineral extraction.

4.113 Marine-won sand and gravel from Liverpool Bay was previously landed at a purpose-built facility on the Bromborough coast, which has now closed. The latest available figures indicated that annual landings had been as high as 124,000 tonnes but over recent years had reduced to just over 40,000 tonnes, representing just over 14 percent of total landings in the North West in 2010<sup>55</sup>. Up to 1,700 tonnes of aggregate stone chippings have also previously been handled at a separate facility at Bromborough Wharf.

4.114 The jointly prepared Local Aggregate Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington, which was subject to consultation in December 2015, showed that sales of crushed rock and sand and gravel had significantly increased between 2013 and 2014 but that landbanks still exceeded the relevant ten-year and seven-year supply requirements.

4.115 At regional level, the North West Aggregates Working Party Annual Monitoring Report for 2015 showed that while sand and gravel sales had increased by 80% between 2013 and 2014, to their highest for more than ten years and crushed rock sales had increased by 24%, to their highest level since 2010, landbanks for the region as a whole had also remained well ahead of the nationally identified requirements.

<sup>54</sup> DECC, Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2009-2012 (released 2011–2014)

<sup>55</sup> Table 6.3 North West Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2014 - <http://tinyurl.com/o53nten>

4.116 The latest draft Local Aggregate Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington was circulated for consultation in November 2016.

## Waste

4.117 The amount of household waste arising increased in 2015/16, reflecting a similar trend in other neighbouring local authorities.

Waste Managed(tonnes)	Landfill	Recycled	Composted	Total
Amount of household waste arising and managed by management type	77,486	30,899	13,355	119,375
Percentage of household waste arising by management type	64%	25%	11%	100%

**Table 4.34 Amount of Household Waste Arising and Managed by Management Type 2015/16**

4.118 Although the measured contamination rate at the Materials Recovery Facility at Bidston also rose to 10.5 percent in 2015/16, this was still the highest quality of dry recycling of any other co-mingled scheme within the City Region Waste Partnership.

4.119 The amount of collected household waste per person increased from 372kg in 2014/15 to 379kg in 2015/16. The average for England was 413kg per person in 2014 compared to 403kg per person in 2013<sup>56</sup>.

Waste Arisings (tonnes)	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Landfill	83,639	79,168	77,150	75,232	75,938	76,438	77,486
(percentage of total arisings)	63%	60%	59%	60%	63%	64%	64%
Recycled	28,521	29,770	32,094	31,599	31,682	30,263	30,899
(percentage of total arisings)	22%	22%	25%	25%	26%	25%	25%
Composted	19,483	23,600	21,194	19,335	13,429	12,674	13,355
(percentage of total arisings)	15%	18%	16%	15%	11%	11%	11%
Total Arisings	131,142	131,719	129,820	126,166	121,049	119,375	121,740

**Table 4.35 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2009/10 to 2015/16<sup>57</sup>**

4.120 The number of garden waste subscribers increased to 39,365 households in 2015/16.

<sup>56</sup> Table 2.2: DEFRA Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics (Revised March 2016) [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/567502/Digest\\_waste\\_resource\\_2016\\_rev4.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/567502/Digest_waste_resource_2016_rev4.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> Waste Data Flow: <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

## Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

4.121 The accompanying Joint Waste Local Plan monitoring report for 2015/16 shows continued progress against a number of indicators.

4.122 The latest monitoring report also includes a plan showing the location of existing, consented and allocated waste management sites across the plan area (Figure 7, page 52 of the report refers).

4.123 Only one application to provide additional capacity was approved in Wirral in 2015/16, for an anaerobic digestion plant at Riverside House, East Street, Seacombe with a capacity of 36,000 tonnes per annum<sup>58</sup>.

4.124 The full text of the latest monitoring report can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

## Transport

4.125 Up-to-date information on commuting patterns from the 2011 Census was published in July 2014.

2011 Census	Inflow to Wirral	Outflow from Wirral	Net Movements
Cheshire West	6,135	10,189	-4,054
Liverpool	4,195	18,094	-13,899
Sefton	1,194	1,918	-724
Knowsley	1,065	1,305	-240
Flintshire	991	2,828	-1,837
Warrington	382	1,156	-774
Halton	348	868	-520
Wrexham	311	425	-114
St Helens	259	431	-172
Cheshire East	203	423	-220
Wirral Borough	17,291	45,025	-27,734

**Table 4.36 Commuting Patterns and Daily Net Movements 2011<sup>59</sup>**

4.126 In 2011, almost three-quarters (72%) of households in Wirral had access to one or more cars or vans, significantly higher than the average for Merseyside (65%) but lower than the average for England and Wales (74%)<sup>60</sup>.

4.127 The 2011 Census also showed that Wirral had one of the highest proportions of people who work from home in Merseyside<sup>61</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> Planning application number 15/00553, approved on 18 September 2015 refers

<sup>59</sup> Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/WU03UK/chart/1132462351>

<sup>60</sup> Table KS404EW: Car or Van Availability for Local Authorities in England and Wales

<sup>61</sup> Table CT0015: Method of Travel to Work for Local Authorities in England and Wales

	Usually Resident Population (workers)	Percentage of usually resident population	Workplace Population	Percentage of Workplace Population
Live and work in Wirral	74,137	53%	74,137	66%
Home workers	11,784	8%	11,784	10%
No fixed workplace	9,735	7%	9,735	9%
Out commuter	45,025	32%	N/A	N/A
In commuter	N/A	N/A	17,291	15%

**Table 4.37 Commuting Patterns – 2011 Census<sup>62</sup>**

4.128 The accessibility of new residential development completed during 2015/16 has been calculated against the accessibility standards set out in the Council's Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan.

Settlement Area	Gross Completions	Number within 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service	Number beyond 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service	Percentage Within 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	132	132	0	100%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	10	10	0	100%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	211	211	0	100%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromb & Eastham	103	103	0	100%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	31	31	0	100%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	14	11	3	79%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	32	31	1	97%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	29	27	2	93%
<b>Total Borough</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>99%</b>

**Table 4.38 Accessibility of New Residential Development 2015/16**

4.129 Almost every new dwelling completed in 2025/16 was located within 400 metres walking distance of a high frequency public transport service or railway station and only six completions were further than 400 metres from a high frequency public transport service.

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/dvc193/index.html>

## 5 Monitoring Plan Preparation

5.1 This section of the AMR records progress on the preparation of individual Local Plans.

### Local Development Scheme

5.2 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a statutory document setting out the Council's programme for the preparation of Local Plans.

5.3 The latest LDS came into effect on 7 July 2015.

5.4 A revised LDS will be submitted for Council approval once the timetable for the submission of the Core Strategy Local Plan has been confirmed, following the outcome of further consultation on housing needs and land supply, which will be reported in early 2017.

5.5 The latest position can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans>

### Core Strategy Local Plan

5.6 The Core Strategy Local Plan will set the overall spatial framework for future development and investment in the Borough for the next 15 years, to 2032 and will replace many of the strategic and criteria-based policies currently contained within the Unitary Development Plan.

5.7 A Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy was published for public comment in December 2012. The representations received were reported in June 2013 and series of initial proposed modifications were published in July 2013, to reduce the range of issues that would need to be considered at a future public examination.

5.8 A series of further proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, were published in December 2014.

5.9 Updates to the Borough's Retail and Leisure Study (March 2016); Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2016); and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (April 2016) were reported in July 2016<sup>63</sup>. Further consultation on housing needs and land supply was undertaken in August 2016 and the results are expected to be reported in early 2017.

5.10 The Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA), which will include revised calculations of the objectively assessed need for housing and employment based on the latest

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<sup>63</sup> The Cabinet Report for 18 July 2016 can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan/further-0>

2014-based national household projections and economic projections prepared for the latest Liverpool City Region Growth Plan<sup>64</sup>, is also expected to be available for public consultation in early 2017, alongside a revised Employment Land and Premises Study for Wirral, to be completed by March 2017.

5.11 A Revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan is now therefore expected to be published in September 2017, for submission to the Secretary of State for public examination by the end of 2017.

5.12 The Core Strategy is therefore currently expected to be adopted, subject to the examination timetable, by early 2019 (Appendix 4 refers).

### **Site Allocations Local Plan**

5.13 The preparation of a site-specific Site Allocations Local Plan will not begin until the Core Strategy has been adopted.

### **Evidence Base**

5.14 Appendix 5 to this AMR sets out the latest position on the evidence base to support the preparation of the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy.

## **6 Cross-Boundary Co-Operation**

6.1 National regulations require monitoring reports to include information on co-operation with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies undertaken under section 110 of the Localism Act 2011.

### **Liverpool City Region Structures and Initiatives**

6.2 The background to previous and ongoing co-operation on strategic planning matters was set out in the AMR for 2012, which provided a summary of the main structures for joint working across the City Region.

6.3 A Combined Authority for the six councils of Greater Merseyside, working jointly with the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority and the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership on transport, economic development and regeneration, was formally established by Government in April 2014.

6.4 A Devolution Agreement with Government will now give strategic planning powers to an elected Liverpool City Region Mayor, to help accelerate

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.liverpoollep.org/articles/liverpool-city-region-works-together-brighter-future/>

economic growth and new housing development throughout the City Region and to prepare a Single Statutory City Region Framework, from May 2017<sup>65</sup>.

6.5 Further devolution related to business rates, health and social care, children's services, home ownership and housing supply, apprenticeships, local traffic and highway powers and criminal justice, was agreed in March 2016.

6.6 The associated Governance Review and Scheme were published for public consultation in June 2016 and circulated for the agreement of district partners and by the Combined Authority in December 2016, in preparation for the necessary national legislation.

6.7 Wirral Council has also continued to work together as part of sub-regional collectives of local planning authorities from across the City Region and the surrounding areas on joint initiatives including:

- meetings of the Combined Authority Housing and Spatial Planning Board and Coordinating Committee
- bi-monthly meetings of the Liverpool City Region District Planning Officers and Policy Managers including West Lancashire
- shared specialist environmental services provided through Sefton Council by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
- participation in the North West Coastal Forum Management Board
- a shared archaeological records management service with the councils for Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens
- the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership
- joint consultancy for the consistent provision of City Region Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessments
- the launch of a jointly funded City Region archaeological planning advisory service (from June 2016)
- further work with the Mersey Dee Alliance, spanning the North Wales and North West England border

6.8 Work on joint evidence has included:

- approval of the jointly funded Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework (November 2015)
- preparation of the North West Aggregates Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2015 (May 2016)
- the sub-regional strategic housing and employment land market assessment (LCR SHELMA) with Liverpool City Region Partners and West Lancashire District Council (from March 2016)
- joint adoption of a Liverpool City Region Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning, to identify the matters on which cooperation is required and how this cooperation will be undertaken (October 2016)

6.9 Wirral Council has in addition provided formal responses to:

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<sup>65</sup> The original Devolution Agreement, from November 2015, can be viewed at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/477385/Liverpool\\_devolution\\_deal\\_unsigned.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477385/Liverpool_devolution_deal_unsigned.pdf)

- Topic Papers on minerals, spatial strategy, energy and transport and on the Candidate Sites methodology and Assessment Process for the Flintshire Local Development Plan (April 2015)
- the Marine Management Organisation, to agree relevant policies for the North West Marine Plan area (May 2015)
- the Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study (September 2015)
- the Sefton Local Plan Consequences Study Update, on the potential future housing requirement for Sefton (September 2015)
- the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies – Preferred Approach (September 2015)
- the Cheshire West and Chester Consultation Draft Landscape Strategy (January 2016)
- the Flintshire Local Development Plan – Key Messages Consultation (April 2016)
- the informal Draft Liverpool Local Plan (October 2016)
- the Cheshire West and Chester Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution (November 2016)
- the West Lancashire Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment Proposed Methodology (December 2016)
- the Flintshire Local Development Plan Strategic Growth and Spatial Options Consultation (December 2016)

#### 6.10 Other activity to support wider co-operation has also included:

- joint responses on minerals and waste movements to inform the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (May 2015)
- a joint response to revised migration and commuting assumptions for the Cheshire East Local Plan (July 2015)
- the Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy (from August 2015)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Examination Pre-Hearing Meeting (September 2015)
- the Liverpool City Region Ecological Network Web Mapping Solution (January 2016)
- co-chairing the Marine Planning Issues and Evidence Workshops with the North West Coastal Forum (July 2016)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Pre-Hearing Meeting (September 2015)
- contributing housing data to inform the Liverpool City Region Local Rail Network Transport Model (November 2015)
- contributing to the Liverpool City Region Strategic Investment Pipeline Baseline Report, to support the delivery of the Combined Authority Transport Plan for Growth (from October 2015)
- attendance at the Liverpool Strategic Housing Market Assessment Stakeholder Presentation (December 2015)
- joint response on waste movements to inform the Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Cumbria and the Lake District National Park (June 2016)
- contributing to the joint review of the Liverpool City Region Housing Market Area and Functional Economic Market Area (May 2016)
- agreement of a Liverpool City Region Spatial Map (September 2016)
- consultation on Wirral SHMA cross-boundary impacts and land availability, with City Region Partners including Flintshire, Cheshire West and Chester and West Lancashire (August 2016)
- attendance at the Flintshire Local Development Plan Key Stakeholder Forum on Strategic Growth and Spatial Options (October 2016)

6.11 Wirral Council has also been consulted on documents related to:

- the issues and broad content of Supplementary Planning Documents related to Affordable, Special Needs and Older Peoples Housing; House Extensions; Nature Conservation; New housing Development; and the Control of Retail Uses for the Sefton Local Plan (April 2015)
- The Sefton Coast Plan, as part of a Local Plan commitment for a Merseyside-wide approach under the Habitats Regulations (August 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies Draft Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Methodology (October 2015)
- Sefton Draft Supplementary Planning Documents for New Housing and for House Extensions (October 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Gypsy and Traveller Draft Pitch Allocation Policy (November 2015)
- Flintshire Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes Consultation (December 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Community Infrastructure Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and Initial Draft Regulation 123 List (January 2016)
- The scope of the Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy (January 2016)
- The scope of the St Helens Local Plan and Publication Draft Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (January 2016)
- Cheshire West and Chester North Road Industrial Area Proposed Local Development Order (March 2016)
- Sefton Open Space Supplementary Planning Document – Initial Consultation (May 2016)
- Post Examination Modifications to the Sefton Local Plan (June 2016)
- Sefton Community Infrastructure Levy Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and Draft Practice Note for Off-Site Affordable Housing Contributions (June 2016)
- Flintshire Revised Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on Developer Contributions to Education (June 2016)
- Cheshire West and Chester Community Infrastructure Draft Charging Schedule (July 2016)
- United Utilities Water Resource Management Plan consultation, on reducing water demand and consumption (September 2016)
- The Scope of the Local Plan Review for West Lancashire (September 2016)
- United Utilities Draft Drought Plan (October 2016)
- Pre-Consultation on the United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (October 2016)
- Cheshire West and Chester Draft Parking Strategy SPD (December 2016)

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# Appendix 1

## Unitary Development Plan for Wirral - Policies and Proposals No Longer in Force (From July 2013)

### A. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Schedule 8, Paragraph 1(3)

The following policies and proposals from the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (February 2000) did not remain in force beyond 27 September 2007.

#### Part One Policies:

Policy HSG1 – New Dwelling Requirement  
Policy WMT1 – Landfill Provision

#### Part Two Policies and Proposals:

Policy EM10 – Birkenhead and Eastham Dock Estates  
Policy EM11 – Bidston Observatory and the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory  
Proposal HS2 – Land at Noctorum Way, Noctorum  
Proposal HS3 – Land to the East of Fender Farm, Moreton  
Proposal RE3 – New Neighbourhood Indoor Sports Facilities  
Proposal RE4 – New Neighbourhood Swimming Pool, Beechwood  
Policy RE5 – Criteria for the Protection of Playing Fields  
Policy RE7 – Criteria for the Protection of School Playing Fields  
Proposal TL3 – Land for Tourism Development at Wirral Waterfront  
Policy TL6 – The Control of Tourism in Port Sunlight  
Proposal TL8 – Land at the Former Derby Pool, New Brighton  
Proposal NC9 – Dibbinsdale Nature Camp  
Proposal TR4 – Birkenhead Central Bus Facility  
Policy WM10 – Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of Waste Disposal Facilities  
Policy WA7 – Heswall Drainage Catchment Area  
Policy CO3 – Tourism and Leisure in the Coastal Zone

### B. Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton (July 2013)

The following policies and proposals from the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (February 2000) were replaced by the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, which was adopted on 18 July 2013:

Policy WMT2 - Recycling And Re-Use of Waste Materials (Strategic policy)  
Proposal WM1 - Landfill Waste Disposal Sites  
Policy WM2 - Criteria for Landfill Waste Disposal Sites  
Policy WM3 - Restoration and Aftercare of Landfill Waste Disposal Sites  
Policy WM4 - Provision of Recycling Collection Areas  
Policy WM5 - Criteria for Waste Reception Centres  
Policy WM6 - Criteria for Waste Transfer Stations  
Policy WM7 - Criteria for Clinical and Chemical Waste Incinerators

Policy WM8 - Criteria for Sewage Treatment Facilities  
Policy WM9 - Criteria for Sewage Sludge Disposal Facilities

The adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan also has implications for:

UDP Proposal EM1 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM2)  
UDP Proposal EM3/14 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM3)  
UDP Policy EM8 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM5)

## Appendix 2

<b>Table 1 - Housing Land Supply with Planning Permission at 31 March 2016 (Gross)</b>	<b>Previously Developed</b>	<b>Greenfield</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>(i) New build sites</i>			
Sites under construction > 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	92	91	183
Sites not started > 0.4 ha (units not started)	741	21	762
Sites under construction < 0.4 ha(units not started + under construction)	153	47	200
Sites not started < 0.4 ha(units not started)	438	203	641
<b>Total units on new build sites</b>	1,424	362	1,786
<i>(ii) Conversions and changes of use</i>			
Changes of use under construction (units not started + under construction)	57	0	57
Changes of use not started (units not started)	300	0	300
Conversions under construction (units not started + under construction)	35	0	35
Conversions not started (units not started)	43	0	43
<b>Total units conversions and changes of use</b>	435	0	435
<b>Total units with planning permission</b>	1,859	362	2,221
% on previously developed land			84%

### Notes

Sites in category (i) include all sites for new build housing under construction and not started with extant planning permission (gross).

Sites in category (ii) include all sites with planning permission for the conversion of a dwelling to provide additional dwellings or with planning permission for a change of use to residential (gross).

Table 1 does not include additional sites without planning permission assessed as part of the Council's latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment or the future generation of windfalls.

## Appendix 2

**Table 2 - Recorded Demolitions**

Numbers of single dwellings	Core Strategy Settlement Area								Total
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	
2001/2002	0	64	198	1	28	2	4	6	303
2002/2003	27	7	364	0	49	2	1	0	450
2003/2004	7	34	158	0	3	5	4	1	212
2004/2005	22	57	313	2	17	4	4	0	419
2005/2006	1	91	169	5	3	2	6	0	277
2006/2007	20	40	126	4	11	2	7	5	215
2007/2008	74	5	131	7	3	4	3	3	230
2008/2009	32	1	205	0	2	0	1	1	242
2009/2010	31	0	64	2	3	0	29	2	131
2010/2011	15	0	145	3	4	1	5	2	175
2011/2012	9	95	33	1	89	9	4	2	242
2012/2013	16	0	130	0	197	2	4	6	355
2013/2014	0	0	88	0	87	0	5	1	181
2014/2015	3	0	4	1	1	2	2	3	16
2015/2016	11	0	33	1	1	0	5	1	52

## Appendix 2

**Table 3 - Actual Net Change in Dwelling Stock**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Demolitions</b>	<b>Total Net Conversions</b>	<b>Total New Build</b>	<b>Net Change (C+D)-B</b>
2001/2002	303	104	378	179
2002/2003	450	43	591	184
2003/2004	212	74	581	443
2004/2005	419	81	440	102
2005/2006	277	55	442	220
2006/2007	215	115	606	506
2007/2008	230	155	639	564
2008/2009	242	154	422	334
2009/2010	131	47	284	200
2010/2011	175	14	258	97
2011/2012	242	10	254	22
2012/2013	355	144	463	252
2013/2014	181	63	420	302
2014/2015	16	158	395	537
2015/2016	52	82	468	498

### Notes

The UDP Inquiry Inspector recommended, at paragraph 3.81 of his report, that the future contribution to be made by net gains from conversions was set at a rate of 50 units per annum.

The median average of 81 recorded net conversions and changes of use between 2003 and 2016 has, however, now been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3.

Although not included in Table 3 above or the analyses in Section 4 and Appendix 3 of this AMR, an additional 1,017 net dwellings (1,047 gross) which had previously been registered as still under construction, were found, following a visual inspection undertaken as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy, to be complete and occupied at 31 March 2013 without a completion date having been registered under the Building Regulations.

As these additional completions, which included 276 additional net conversions and/or changes of use (306 gross), cannot be attributed to any specific year, they have not been used in the calculation of the median average identified above.

## Appendix 2

**Table 4 - Windfall Site Generation**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Year</b>	<b>Base New Build Supply (gross)</b>	<b>Gross Completions (including conversions)</b>	<b>Draft Year End Residual Supply (B-C)</b>	<b>Actual Year End New Build Supply</b>	<b>Derived New Build Windfalls (E-D)</b>
2001/2002	2,426	525	1,901	2,289	388
2002/2003	2,289	645	1,644	1,580	-64
2003/2004	1,580	686	894	1,764	870
2004/2005	1,764	531	1,233	2,590	1,357
2005/2006	2,590	511	2,079	3,249	1,170
2006/2007	3,249	736	2,513	3,143	630
2007/2008	3,143	820	2,323	3,244	921
2008/2009	3,244	599	2,645	3,596	951
2009/2010	3,596	340	3,256	2,806	-450
2010/2011	2,806	272	2,534	2,474	-60
2011/2012	2,474	268	2,206	2,581	375
2012/2013	2,581	640	1,941	2,532	591
2013/2014	2,532	500	2,032	1,639	-393
2014/2015	1,639	563	1,076	1,636	560
2015/2016	1,636	562	1,074	1,786	712

### Notes

Table 4 shows the cumulative generation of previously unidentified supply between one year and the next based on the analysis of registered completions and changes in the recorded year end supply of land with planning permission.

The Base New Build Supply (Column B) and the Actual Year End New Build Supply (Column E) is based on land with planning permission for new build units only and does not include sites with planning permission for conversion or change of use, Unitary Development Plan allocations without planning permission or that were no longer currently available or sites without planning permission identified within a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

## Appendix 3

### A. Based on 875 dwellings per annum (Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment, May 2016)

**Table A1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2016) - Plus 5%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2014 - 2016</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	68
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	1,125
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2014 - 2016 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,035</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	715
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2016-2021	250
<b>G</b>	Objectively assessed housing need 2016-2021 based on SHMA 2016	4,375
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2016- 2021 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.05 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>5,559</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,614
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	1,112
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply (I/J)</b>	<b>3.3</b>

**Table A2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2016) - Plus 20%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2014 - 2016</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	68
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	1,125
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2014 - 2016 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,035</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	715
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2016-2021	250
<b>G</b>	Objectively assessed housing need 2016-2021 based on SHMA 2016	4,375
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2016- 2021 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.20 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>6,215</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,614
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	1,243
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply ( I/J)</b>	<b>2.9</b>

**B. Based on 1,235 dwellings per annum (Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment, May 2016)**

**Table B1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2016) - Plus 5%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2014 - 2016</b>	<b>2,470</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	68
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	1,125
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2014 - 2016 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,035</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	1,435
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2016-2021	250
<b>G</b>	Objectively assessed housing need 2016-2021 based on SHMA 2016	6,175
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2016- 2021 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.05 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>8,169</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,614
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	1,634
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply (I/J )</b>	<b>2.2</b>

**Table B2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2016) - Plus 20%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2014 - 2016</b>	<b>2,470</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	68
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2014 - 2016 (actual)	1,125
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2014 - 2016 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,035</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	1,435
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2016-2021	250
<b>G</b>	Objectively assessed housing need 2016-2021 based on SHMA 2016	6,175
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2016- 2021 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.20 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>9,095</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,614
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	1,819
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply ( I/J )</b>	<b>2.0</b>

## Appendix 3

### Notes

The calculations in Tables A1, A2, B1 and B2 are based on the following assumptions:

- Five Year Projected Demolitions (Row F) is based on programmed public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions for 2016/17 to 2020/21 in addition to assumed future demolitions. Council data shows approximately 66 demolitions are currently programmed. An analysis of demolitions since 2003, outside of those areas subject to Housing Market Renewal activity, highlights that an annual average of 50 demolitions are likely to come forward in future years, equivalent to 250 demolitions over a five year period. This reflects the near completion of demolitions relating to the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and the programme to remove poor quality, obsolete stock owned by Magenta Living (formerly Wirral Partnership Homes).
- Five Year Housing Target (Row H) assumes that any shortfall will be met in the five year period from April 2016. The potential additional capacity at Wirral Waters has not yet been included, as the future rate of delivery is still uncertain<sup>66</sup>. The tables show the positions with a five and twenty per cent buffer included, as required by paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Current Five Year Supply (Row I) includes the following:
  - Category 1 Sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Assessment (**1,249 units**);
  - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2016, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Study (**1,690 units**);
  - An allowance for net additional conversions and changes of use between 2016 and 2021 based on the actual median average delivery of 81 units per year between 2003 and 2016 (**405 units**);
  - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2016 and 2021 based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since 2008, at 54 units per year (**270 units**);
- Net Completions in Row D are based on the figures in Table 3 of Appendix 2, equating to 537 units in 2014/15 and 498 units in 2015/16.

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<sup>66</sup> outline planning permission for up to 13,521 units was granted subject to a section 106 legal agreement signed in May 2012. No reserve matters applications have yet been submitted.

The number of new households identified in Row A and in Row G is based on the Wirral SHMA 2016.

The calculations in Tables A1, A2, B1 and B2 also exclude the 1,047 additional gross completions found to be complete and occupied at 31 March 2013 without a completion date having been registered under the Building Regulations (Appendix 2 refers).

Council records indicate that 1,189 empty homes have also been brought back into use, through Council activity, since 2011. This highlights the significant contribution of empty properties to the delivery of new homes in Wirral.

The factors above demonstrate that the adequacy of the future supply (Row K) could be under-estimated in Tables A1, A2, B1 and B2.

# Appendix 4

## Core Strategy Timetable

<b>Document Name:</b> Core Strategy Local Plan		<b>Status:</b> Development Plan Document
<b>Purpose:</b> To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
<b>Coverage:</b> Borough wide		<b>Time Period:</b> 15 years
<b>Chain of Conformity:</b> National Planning Policy Framework		<b>Post Adoption Monitoring &amp; Review:</b> Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
<b>Departmental Responsibility:</b> Planning and Regeneration		<b>Contact:</b> Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager <a href="mailto:forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk">forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk</a>
<b>Key Milestones</b>		<b>Key Stakeholders (Regulation 2 bodies):</b>  Cheshire West and Chester Council Liverpool City Council Sefton Borough Council Flintshire County Council Other Liverpool City Region Authorities Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Homes and Communities Agency Highways England Merseytravel Environment Agency Natural England Natural Resources Wales Marine Management Organisation Historic England Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner North West Ambulance Service Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service HM Coastguard and RNLI Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail Civil Aviation Authority Health and Safety Executive National Health Service Organisations Conservation Area Advisory Committees Local Amenity Societies and Friends Groups Wirral Community Networks Wirral Wildlife Developers and Landowners Utilities and Infrastructure Providers Local Business Organisations Neighbourhood Forums Other General Consultation Bodies
<b>Preparation (Regulation 18):</b>		
<b>Commencement:</b>	July 2005*	
<b>SA Scoping:</b>	July 2006*	
<b>Initial Consultation:</b>	September 2007*	
<b>Issues Vision and Objectives:</b>	February 2009*	
<b>Spatial Options: (Regulation 18)</b>	January 2010*	
<b>Preferred Options: (Regulation 18)</b>	November 2010*	
<b>Settlement Areas: (Regulation 18)</b>	January 2012*	
<b>Publication (Regulation 19)</b>		
<b>Proposed Submission Draft:</b>	December 2012*	
<b>Initial Modifications:</b>	July 2013*	
<b>Further Modifications:</b>	December 2014*	
<b>Further consultation on housing needs and land supply</b>	August 2016*	
<b>Re-Publication: (Regulation 19)</b>	September 2017	
<b>Representations: (Regulation 20)</b>	September 2017	
<b>Submission (Regulation 22)</b>		
<b>Submission: (Regulation 22)</b>	December 2017	
<b>Pre-Hearing Meeting:</b>	February 2018	
<b>Hearing: (Regulation 24)</b>	April 2018	
<b>Main Modifications (if required)</b>	June 2018	
<b>Inspectors Report: (Regulation 25)</b>	January 2019	
<b>Adoption: (Regulation 26)</b>	February 2019	

Dates shown in red have been updated since the LDS was last approved in July 2015. An asterisk (\*) indicates the stages that have already been completed.

# Appendix 5

## Evidence Base – Progress

Study	Commissioned	Current Status	Documents Affected
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</a>	October 2007	Reported November 2009	UDP Sections 19 & 20 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Merseyside Mineral Resource Study</a>	February 2008	Reported November 2009	UDP Section 18 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Biodiversity Audit</a>	April 2008	Reported November 2009	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Landscape Character Assessment</a>	June 2008	Reported November 2009	UDP Sections 7, 8, 12 & 14 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure Study</a>	March 2008	Reported December 2009	UDP Sections 9, 10 & 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Integrated Regeneration Study for Birkenhead and Wirral Waters and Appendix</a>	September 2009	Reported June 2010	Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment</a>	April 2009	Reported September 2010	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Core Strategy Preferred Options Habitats Regulation Assessment and Maps</a>	June 2010	Reported September 2010	Core Strategy
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment</a>	April 2009	Reported September 2010	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update</a>	June 2009	Reported October 2010	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy
<a href="#">Wirral Affordable Housing Viability Assessment</a>	June 2009	Reported October 2010	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy
<a href="#">Wirral Sites of Biological Importance Update</a>	n/a	Reported January 2011	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study (Stage 1 and Stage 2 and Maps)</a>	July 2009 February 2010	Reported April 2011	UDP Section 23 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Liverpool City Region Housing and Employment Overview Study and Technical Report</a>	May 2010	Reported July 2011	Core Strategy
<a href="#">Wirral Town, District and Local Centre Study and Delivery Framework</a>	n/a	Reported July 2011	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Flood and Water Management Act 2010)</a>	n/a	Reported July 2011	UDP Sections 19 & 20 Core Strategy Site Allocations

<a href="#">Wirral Sites of Geological Importance Update</a>	n/a	Reported September 2011	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Retail Strategy Update</a>	November 2011	Reported March 2012	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Core Strategy Transport Impacts Assessment</a>	February 2012	Reported August 2012	UDP Section 15 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2012)</a>	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update</a>	November 2011	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 5 & 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Open Space Assessment Update</a>	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 8, 9 & 10 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment</a>	September 2012	Reported September 2012	Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Water Cycle Study</a>	January 2011	Reported February 2014	UDP Section 19 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Merseyside and West Lancashire Accommodation Assessment for Gypsies and Travellers</a>	April 2013	Reported September 2014	Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Retail Floorspace Guidelines and Impact Assessments</a>	December 2013	Reported November 2014	Core Strategy
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2014)	n/a	Reported December 2014	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Core Strategy Viability Assessment	April 2013	<a href="#">Baseline</a> Reported January 2015	Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2015)	n/a	Reported December 2015	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2016)</a>	n/a	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (May 2016)</a>	August 2013	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy
<a href="#">Wirral Retail and Leisure Study Update (March 2016)</a>	April 2015	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Playing Pitch Strategy Update	April 2015	Ongoing	UDP Section 9 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment	March 2016	Ongoing	UDP Sections 5 & 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations

Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update	Expected January 2017	Ongoing	UDP Sections 5 & 16
			Core Strategy
			Site Allocations

## 8 GLOSSARY

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Adoption		The stage at which the Council formally decides to adopt the final version of a Local Development Document to make it legally operative
Allocated		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in the Unitary Development Plan
Allocation		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in a Local Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan or the Unitary Development Plan
Ancient Monument	SAM	An identified area designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its national importance for archaeology
Areas of Greatest Need		Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20% of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation
Assisted Areas		Recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development.
Biodiversity		A collective term for the full variety of biological life on earth including plants, animals and eco-systems
Category 1 Hazard		A Category 1 Hazard is the most severe rating within the new Housing Health and Safety Rating System. A hazard is a risk of harm to the health or safety of an actual or potential occupier of a dwelling or House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) arising from a deficiency in the dwelling or in any building or land in the vicinity (whether the deficiency arises as a result of the construction of any building, an absence of maintenance or repair, or otherwise)
Category 1 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five years
Category 2 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five to ten years
Category 3 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites not currently developable for housing within ten years
Climate Change Local Area Support Programme	CLASP	The local authority and public sector sustainability support service for the NW of England, dealing with the challenges of environmental resilience, reducing energy use and renewable energy planning issues

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	A financial charge that can be levied on new development to pay for local infrastructure to be provided
Conservation Area		An identified area designated by the Council to allow the character and appearance of that area to be protected
Core Strategy		A Local Plan setting out the spatial vision and general strategy for the Borough
Corporate Plan		A public document prepared by the Council setting out the Council's main priorities for the future
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA	The Government Department responsible for sustainable development, environmental protection and rural policy
Department of Energy and Climate Change	DECC	The Government Department responsible for all aspects of UK energy policy and for tackling global climate change on behalf of the UK
Development Plan		A statutory document that individual planning decisions must legally be made in accordance with unless material considerations indicate otherwise
Dock Estate		An area of land owned and operated by a port operator, which was set aside for port-related land uses in the Unitary Development Plan
Environment Agency	EA	A government body with responsibility for preventing harmful impacts on the environment
Green Flag Award		An annual award based on a national standard for the maintenance of parks and open spaces
Gross Value Added	GVA	A measure of the performance of the local economy
Habitats Regulations Assessment	HRA	An assessment of the impact of emerging policies and proposals on European designated sites
Heritage at Risk	HAR	A national record of designated heritage assets considered to be at serious risk of harm or damage, prepared by Historic England
Historic England		A government body with responsibility for protecting and promoting the historic environment
Housing Health and Safety Rating System	HHSRS	The new risk assessment approach for housing which enables hazards to health and safety in dwellings to be identified and works to remove or minimise those hazards to be recommended. It is used to assess conditions in all private properties including those that are owner occupied, rented to single people and families, and houses in multiple occupation. Properties are assessed against 29 potential hazards. The likelihood and the severity of these hazards is then used to generate a hazard score

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Independent Examination		The process undertaken to examine the content of a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Development Plan before it can be adopted by the Council
Initial Consultation		The stage at which the scope and content of an emerging Local Plan or Supplementary Planning Document is decided in consultation with stakeholders
Liverpool City Region	LCR	The functional economic area based around the City of Liverpool
Local Aggregates Assessment		A jointly prepared assessment of the ongoing supply of mineral aggregates
Local Development Document	LDD	A document prepared as part of the Local Development Framework for the Borough
Local Development Framework	LDF	The overall name for the collection of adopted Local Development Documents for the Borough
Local Development Scheme	LDS	A document setting out the timetable for the preparation of individual Local Plans
Local Enterprise Partnership	LEP	A coalition of local partners working together to lead and drive economic growth and job creation across the Liverpool City Region
Local Plan		A Local Development Document with status as part of the Development Plan for the Borough
Local Wildlife Site		A site identified for its local importance for nature conservation
Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone		An area designated by the Government around the Birkenhead Dock Estate, where incentives are offered to new and expanding businesses to support economic revitalisation
Merseyside		The land area covered by the local Councils of Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	MEAS	A jointly funded environmental advisory service provided on behalf of the LCR district councils by Sefton Council
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	A statement of national planning policy, published by the Government, which all planning decisions should normally follow
Neighbourhood Development Plan		A new type of Development Plan, prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council after a local referendum
Neighbourhood Forum		A community group authorised by the Council to prepare local planning proposals.
Neighbourhood Planning		The general name for a series of new measures, introduced through the Localism Act 2011, to enable the community to have a greater say over development within their neighbourhood
NOMIS	NOMIS	A database of official labour market statistics, run on behalf of the Office for National Statistics
Permitted Development		Development that can be undertaken without the need to apply to the Council for planning permission

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Planning Inspector		A person appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the Independent Examination of a Local Plan
Previously Developed Land	PDL	Land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure and associated fixed surface infrastructure, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework
Primarily Industrial Area	PIA	An area of land set aside for primarily industrial land uses in the Unitary Development Plan
Proposed Submission Draft		A preliminary version of a Local Plan that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination
Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West	RSS	A statutory document, now revoked, which was previously issued by the Secretary of State to set out the vision and priorities for future development within the North West Region
Registered Provider	RP	An organisation registered as a provider of housing to meet the needs of people unable to afford to own their own home
Secretary of State		The person appointed by the Prime Minister to have overall responsibility for the operation of the national planning system, currently the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Settlement Area		A geographical area identified in the Core Strategy Local Plan, to represent one of the eight main groups of settlements within the Borough
Site Allocations Local Plan		A Local Plan which will identify and allocate specific areas of land for specific types of development
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A site designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its scientific importance for nature conservation and/or earth science
Stakeholder		A person or organisation with an interest in the future planning and development of the Borough
Statement of Community Involvement	SCI	A statutory document setting local standards for community involvement in the preparation of policy documents and planning decisions
Statutory		A document or process which has a special legal status, as set out in national law
Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment	SHELMA	A document that re-assesses the objectively assessed needs for housing and employment land across the whole of the Liverpool City Region based on the latest Growth Strategy for the Liverpool City Region
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	SHMA	A document that examines the key features of Wirral's existing and future housing market, including housing need, supply and demand

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	SHLAA	A document that examines potential sites for housing across the Borough and assesses them in terms of their suitability, availability and achievability
Submission		The stage at which a proposed Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration at an Independent Examination
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A Local Development Document which provides additional information to help landowners and developers prepare acceptable planning applications
Unitary Development Plan	UDP	An old-style Development Plan, which will be progressively replaced by the new-style Local Plans contained within the emerging Local Development Framework
Use Class		A category of land use defined in national law
Use Class A1	A1	Land uses falling within the category of shops
Use Class A2	A2	Land uses falling within the category of financial and professional services
Use Class B1(a)	B1(a)	Land uses falling within the category of business, as an office which will not be used to provide services to the visiting public
Use Class B1(b)	B1(b)	Land uses falling within the category of business, which will be used for research and development
Use Class B1(c)	B1(c)	Land uses falling within the category of business, for an industrial process that can be carried out within a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B2	B2	Land uses falling within the category of general industry, which could not be carried out in a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B8	B8	Land uses falling within the category of storage and distribution
Use Class D2	D2	Land uses falling within the category of assembly and leisure
Wirral Waters		A project to create an internationally recognised city waterfront, focused on the East Float of the Birkenhead and Wallasey dock system and part of the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone