



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL

MONITORING REPORT

2017/18

DECEMBER 2018

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 This document sets out progress on the delivery of the Council's Local Plan 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 2018.

Monitoring Policy Implementation

Population

1.3 The latest national mid-year estimate for 2018, expects the Borough's population to have increased to 322,800, from 319,800 in 2011.

1.4 The latest national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase more slowly, to 328,200 by 2037.

1.5 The latest national household projections now expect the number of households in Wirral to increase to 151,000 by 2037, from 140,600 in 2011.

Economy and Retail

1.6 The number of people in Wirral who were economically active increased to 154,300 or 77.6 percent in 2018, compared to the pre-recession high-point of 76.4 percent in 2007.

1.7 Approximately 3.3 percent of the working age population (6,405 people) were claiming Universal Credit in November 2018, which was higher than the national and regional averages.

1.8 The amount of newly completed employment floorspace decreased from 18,681 square metres in 2016/17 to 7,916 square metres during 2017/18 but demolitions and other losses were lower, resulting in a net gain in employment floorspace, of 2,829 square metres overall.

1.9 There was a significant increase in the amount of new retail floorspace completed, at 4,122 square metres in 2017/18 compared to 1,742 square metres in 2016/17, the majority of which continued to take place outside existing centres.

Housing

1.10 Gross housing completions increased to 806 new dwellings in 2017/18, from 384 new dwellings in 2016/17 but the number of new dwellings under construction had fallen to 1,138 in April 2018 from 1,315 in April 2017.

1.11 The capacity of land with planning permission for new housing, outside Wirral Waters, had continued to rise, to 2,637 in April 2018, compared to 2,577 dwellings in April 2017.

1.12 The estimated capacity of additional sites without planning permission had, however, reduced to 4,097 at April 2018 from 4,531 dwellings at April 2017.

1.13 The proportion of new dwellings completed on previously developed land remained high at 83 percent in 2017/18, compared to 84 percent in 2016/17.

1.14 The number of new affordable dwellings completed in 2017/18 increased to 153, from 83 in 2016/17.

1.15 The proportion of new housing located more than 400 metres away from a high-frequency public transport service continued to remain low, at less than 2%, with only 13 dwellings in 2017/18.

Environment and Resources

1.16 The proportion of public open space maintained to Green Flag Award standard increased slightly to 45.5% during 2017/18.

1.17 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of water quality during 2017/18.

1.18 The Environment Agency objected to only one planning application on grounds of flood risk during 2017/18, which was resolved by the submission of a Flood Risk Assessment and the application of relevant planning conditions.

1.19 Data for the new Energy Company Obligation continues to indicate a higher than average delivery of energy efficiency improvements in Wirral.

1.20 The proportion of households living in fuel poverty in Wirral had, however, moved further ahead of the national average for England.

Monitoring Plan Preparation

Local Plan

1.21 The Council is currently completing a review of development options and a series of proposed allocations for housing, employment and mixed-uses, including sites for potential further investigation in the Green Belt, were published for public consultation in September 2018.

1.22 The Council is currently reviewing the timetable for the future stages of the Local Plan, in light of the comments received and the need to ensure that any decisions are accompanied by the necessary statutory assessments and appraisals.

Neighbourhood Planning

1.23 The Birkenhead North Neighbourhood Alliance was designated as a Neighbourhood Forum in May 2017, with a life of five years.

1.24 The Birkenhead and Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum was formally dissolved in June 2018.

1.25 The Neighbourhood Forums for Devonshire Park and Hoylake were both re-designated, to operate for a further five years, in October 2018.

Cross-boundary Co-operation

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

1.27 Regulations governing the preparation of a City Region Spatial Development Strategy came into force in August 2018.

1.28 A draft Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) for the City Region was published for technical consultation, in October 2017 and joint cross-boundary work is ongoing to identify suitable sites for large scale logistics and warehouse facilities.

Questions and Comments

1.29 Any questions and comments on the data or analysis provided in this Monitoring Report should be directed to the Forward Planning Team for Economic and Housing Growth at PO Box 290, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH27 9FQ or at forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk.

1.30 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 fourteenth 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 2018 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 2004 (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, which was revised in July 2018 and its accompanying Planning Practice Guidance can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>.

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;
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park, made on 14 December 2015; and
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake, made on 19 December 2016.

Unitary Development Plan

3.5 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.

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

3.7 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 Wirral Local Plan, supplemented by a series of Neighbourhood Development Plans prepared by the local community.

3.8 The programme for the preparation of the emerging Wirral Local Plan is reviewed in Section 5 of this AMR.

3.9 A list of the UDP policies and proposals that are no longer in force, following the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan, is reproduced in Appendix 1 to this AMR.

3.10 A list of the UDP policies that are intended to be replaced by new policies within the Council's emerging Wirral Local Plan, was included in section 29 of the previous 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

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

3.12 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>

3.13 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](#)

3.14 The monitoring report for 2018, prepared on behalf of the partner districts by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, will be available in early 2019.

Local Development Documents

3.15 The following Local Development Documents are currently in force in Wirral:

Document	Adopted
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
Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2015
Hoylake Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2016
Local Development Scheme (Revised)	March 2018

Table 3.1 Adopted Documents

Statement of Community Involvement

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

3.17 The 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 further update to the Statement of Community Involvement is currently in preparation, following Government proposals to require additional information on neighbourhood planning.

Supplementary Guidance

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

3.20 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.

3.21 The Council has since resolved to prepare four new Supplementary Planning Documents, to cover issues related to housing; employment; town centre uses; and telecommunications alongside the preparation of the Wirral Local Plan.

3.22 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>.

Local Development Scheme

3.23 A revised Local Development Scheme was approved by the Council in March 2018 and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>

3.24 A summary of the approved timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan is set out in Appendix 5 to this AMR.

3.25 The preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan will now be replaced by the preparation of a full Wirral Local Plan, for which a timetable will be published in early 2019.

Neighbourhood Planning

3.26 Four neighbourhood forums are currently in operation 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

3.27 The Forum and Neighbourhood Area for Devonshire Park were re-designated in October 2018, to enable the Forum to continue to prepare neighbourhood planning proposals for the area.

3.28 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

3.29 The Forum and Neighbourhood Area for Hoylake were re-designated in October 2018, to enable the Forum to roll-forward the Neighbourhood Plan for the Area.

3.30 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> or from Hoylake Vision at <http://www.hoylakevision.org.uk>.

Leasowe

3.31 The Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area for Leasowe were designated in July 2014.

3.32 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/leasowe> or from the Wirral Development Trust at <http://www.wirraldevelopmenttrust.org.uk/about-us/>

Birkenhead North

3.33 The Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area for Birkenhead North was designated in May 2017.

3.34 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/birkenhead-north>

Birkenhead and Tranmere

3.35 The Council received formal notice that members of the Birkenhead and Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum had voted to dissolve the Forum, on 18 June 2018.

3.36 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/birkenhead-and-tranmere>

Community Infrastructure Levy

3.37 The Council has not yet resolved to become a charging authority but is undertaking preparatory investigations through the preparation of a Local Plan Development Viability Assessment.

3.38 The likely future viability of a Community Infrastructure Levy in Wirral was last reported to the Council's Cabinet in January 2015 (Minute 131 refers). 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>.

3.39 A revised baseline report is expected to be published in early 2019.

Wirral Council Corporate Plan 2015/20

3.40 The Wirral Plan – A 2020 Vision was first approved by the Council in July 2015 and has now been adopted by the wider Wirral Partnership, to guide all future public investment in Wirral to 2020.

3.41 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

3.42 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 percent recycling of municipal waste; and
- achieving less than 10 percent of non-recycled waste collected and landfilled.

3.43 A review of the Wirral Plan and its pledges was carried out in May 2017 and a copy of the relevant updated action plans for 2017/18 can be viewed at: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision>

Wirral Growth Plan (January 2016)¹

3.44 The Wirral Partnership's Growth Plan seeks to attract and guide investment, to overcome barriers and maximise sustainable growth from local opportunities, to benefit Wirral's communities, businesses and residents and

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

to provide the framework to develop Wirral's strategic approach to place shaping.

3.45 The Growth Plan defines the following spatial areas as priorities for regeneration and key investment opportunities:

- Birkenhead Town Centre, including Woodside;
- Birkenhead Hinterlands, the area bordering Birkenhead Town Centre and bordering Wirral Waters;
- Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone; and
- The A41 Corridor.

Wirral Housing Strategy (July 2016)²

3.46 The Wirral Partnership's Housing Strategy seeks 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.

Wirral Strategic Regeneration Framework (October 2017)³

3.47 The Strategic Regeneration Framework sets out a framework to guide regeneration and co-ordinate and secure public and private sector investment, with a particular focus on areas of significant growth potential. The Framework provides further detail on the Council's spatial priorities and sets out how these will be integrated with key thematic actions and balances the longer term vision with a series of short-term catalyst projects.

3.48 The ambition of the Framework is to further support the implementation of the Wirral Growth Plan by, in addition, delivering by 2020:

- £450m of tourism revenue
- 250 new businesses
- 250,000 sq.ft of new employment space

National Assisted Areas

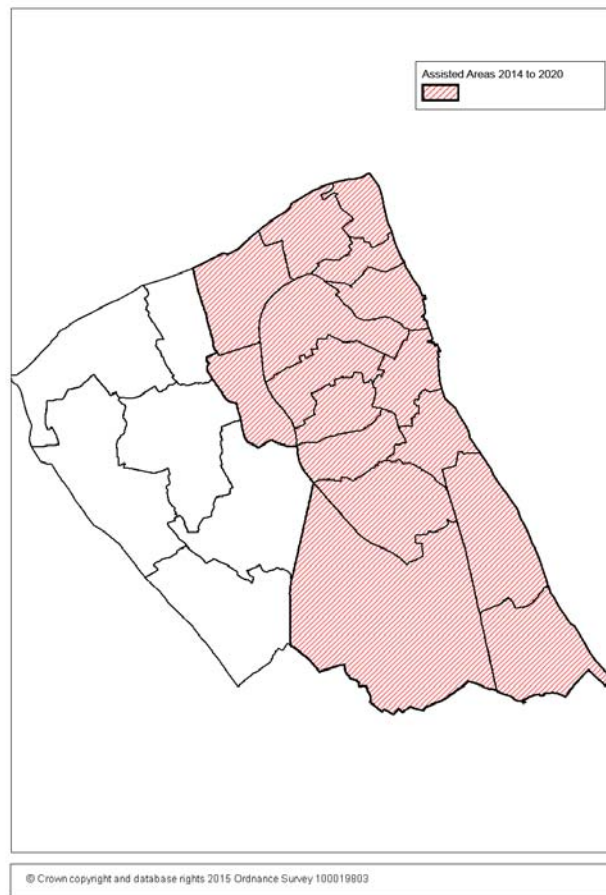
3.49 The UK Assisted Area Map to 2020 came into force on 1 July 2014.

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

3.51 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 Tranmere; Oxtton; Prenton; Rock Ferry; Bebington; Clatterbridge; Bromborough; and Eastham, as shown on Picture 3.1 below.

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

³<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/business/regenerating-wirral/strategic-regeneration-framework>



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 used over previous years.

4.3 Future indicators will be set through the adoption of the Wirral Local Plan.

Population

4.4 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.

4.5 The latest 2016-based national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to grow more slowly, to 328,200 by 2037, compared to the 332,473 people anticipated by the previous 2014-based projections.

People (Thousands)	2016	2017	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	2039	2041	Change 2016-2041
Wirral	322.2	322.4	324.3	325.2	326.7	327.5	328.0	328.2	328.5	328.7	+2.0%
Merseyside	1411.2	1416.2	1436.2	1445.6	1464.3	1481.4	1495.5	1501.8	1507.9	1514.0	+7.3%

Table 4.1 Population Projections (ONS 2016-based)⁴

Households

4.6 The last national Census recorded 140,600 households in Wirral in 2011.

4.7 The latest ONS 2016-based national household projections now expect the number of households in Wirral to grow more slowly, to 151,000 by 2037, compared to the 158,000 households anticipated by the previous MHCLG 2014-based projections.

Households (Thousands)	2016	2017	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	2039	2041	Change 2016-2041
Wirral	142	143	144	145	147	149	150	151	151	152	+7.0%
Merseyside	618	622	635	640	651	662	673	679	684	689	+11.5%

Table 4.2 Household Projections (ONS 2016-based)⁵

4.8 The Government consulted on their proposals for the use of the 2016-based household projections in the planning system in October 2018, which can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need>

4.9 The Council responded to the consultation, in November 2018, to stress the need for local decision-making and to support the continued use of the lower 2016-based 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)
2018	60,800	184,000	78,000
2017	60,400	185,100	76,900
2016	60,000	185,000	76,200
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

⁴ ONS 2016-based population projections (May 2018)

⁵ ONS 2016-based household projections (September 2018)

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)
2010	58,700	180,600	69,600
2009	58,900	180,600	69,000

Table 4.3 Population Change 2009-2018

4.10 The table above shows how the structure of the population has changed over the last ten years, based on national mid-year estimates, which were re-based in 2011 to take account of the significantly higher population recorded in the 2011 Census.

Social Context

4.11 Approximately a third of the Wirral population (31 percent) lives in areas with 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 households⁶. There is also a significant gap in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent areas, with an eleven-year gap in average life expectancy at birth between areas in east and west Wirral.

4.13 Significant local health issues include high rates of hypertension; diabetes; coronary heart disease; depression; and asthma⁷.

4.14 Just over two thirds of children in Wirral (68 percent) currently reach their development target at the age of five⁸. Ninety percent of Wirral schools were rated as 'Good' or better at 31 March 2018 and two thirds (66.8 percent) of pupils achieved Grade 4 or above in English and Maths in 2018. The national average for state-funded schools in England was 64.2 percent⁹.

Crime

4.15 Wirral maintained a relatively low crime rate of 73 crimes per thousand population during 2017/18, the lowest in Merseyside and below the average for Merseyside of 89 crimes per thousand people.

4.16 There was an increase in total reported crimes between 2016/17 and 2017/18, from 65 to 73 crimes per thousand population but this is mainly thought to be due to changes in recording practices.

4.17 The number of calls made to the Police reporting anti-social behaviour in Wirral in 2017/18 was 8,617, a reduction of over 13 percent from the 9,930 incident reports made in 2016/17.

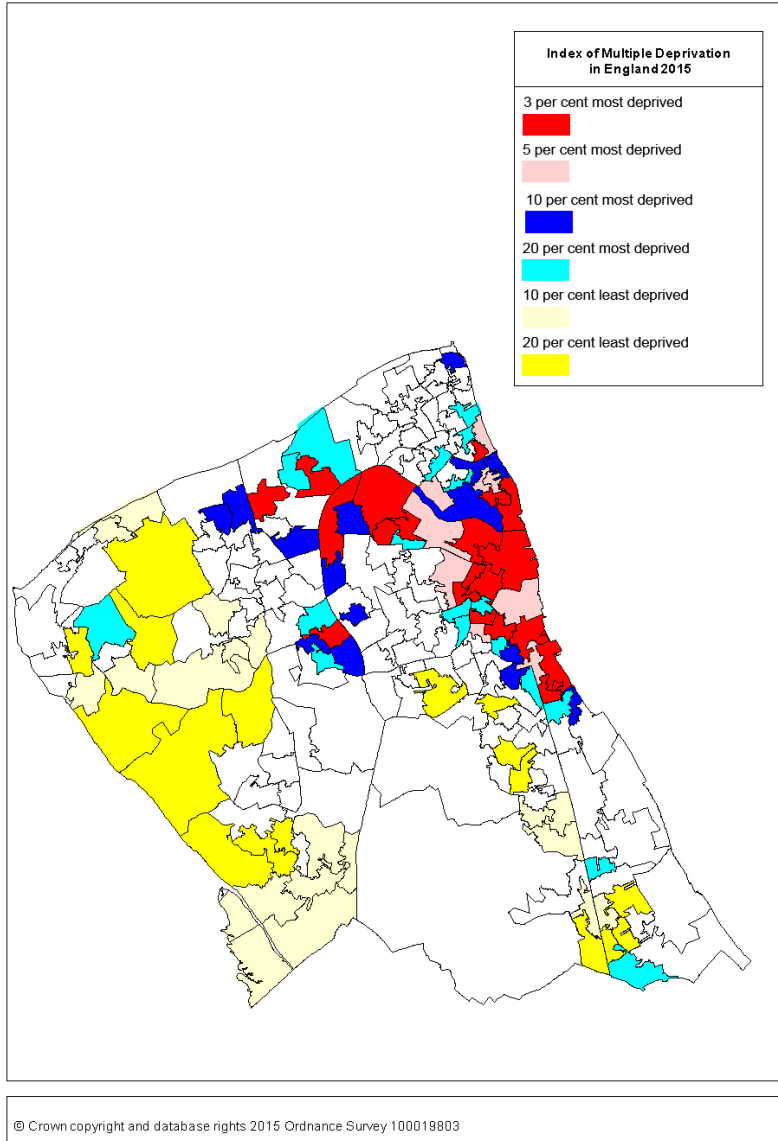
⁶ [Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision](#) (page 11)

⁷ Wirral Compendium of Statistics (JSNA Wirral, 2018)

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/media/2541/wirral-compendium-2018-final.pdf>

⁸ [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2018 \(Table 2 refers\)](#)

⁹ [GCSE and equivalent results: 2017 to 2018 \(provisional\)](#)



Picture 4.1 Areas of Multiple Deprivation in Wirral

Economy

4.18 Growth in Gross Value Added per capita in Wirral between 2015 and 2016 was above the sub-regional average but below the national and regional averages¹⁰.

GVA per Capita (£)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015/16 (% change)
Wirral	13,347	13,273	13,780	13,353	13,714	14,072	14,751	15,051	+2.03%
Merseyside	18,239	18,224	18,136	17,666	18,068	18,928	19,558	19,799	+1.23%
North West	19,674	19,761	19,742	20,279	20,941	21,586	22,212	22,899	+3.09%

¹⁰ [ONS Regional Gross Value Added \(Income Approach\) NUTS3 Table 2 \(December 2017\)](#)

GVA per Capita (£)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2015/16 (% change)
UK	22,362	22,658	23,052	23,636	24,404	25,368	25,878	26,584	+2.73%

Table 4.4 Gross Value Added 2009 to 2016

4.19 The most recent data shows 103,000 employee jobs in Wirral in 2017, an increase of 4 percent or 4,000 jobs since 2016.

Total Employees	Full Time (percentage)	Part Time (percentage)	Job Density (2016) ¹¹
Wirral	62.2%	39.8%	0.60
Merseyside	64.2%	35.6%	0.70
North West	67.4%	32.6%	0.81
Great Britain	67.5%	32.5%	0.84

Table 4.5 Wirral Employees 2017¹²

4.20 There is still a higher proportion of part-time jobs in the local economy, when compared with the national, regional and sub-regional averages¹³ and the ratio of total jobs to the working age population (job density) remained below the national, regional and sub-regional averages, in 2016.

Employment Sector	Wirral (Jobs)	Wirral	North West Region	Great Britain
Primary Services (A-B: agriculture and mining)	0	0%	0%	0.2%
Energy and Water (D-E)	1,100	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Manufacturing (C)	8,000	7.8%	9.9%	8.2%
Construction (F)	4,500	4.4%	4.8%	4.8%
Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G)	15,000	14.6%	16.1%	15.2%
Transport Storage (H)	3,500	3.4%	5.1%	4.7%
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	6,000	5.8%	6.6%	7.5%
Information and Communication (J)	1,750	1.7%	3.0%	4.4%
Financial and other business services (K – N)	16,000	15.5%	21.4%	22.7%
Public adm, education and health (O – Q)	40,500	39.4%	27.4%	26.5%
Other Services (R – S)	5,250	5.1%	4.4%	4.6%

Table 4.6 Employee Jobs by Industry 2017¹⁴

¹¹ [Job Density data: NOMIS 2018](#)

¹² Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2018

¹³ Local Authority Profiles for Wirral and Merseyside: NOMIS 2018

¹⁴ Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2018. Data excludes farm based agriculture.

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

District	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2017	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2018	% of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises in Merseyside 2018	Change 2017-2018
Knowsley	3,325	3,295	8.5%	-0.9%
Liverpool	13,540	14,600	37.5%	7.8%
St Helens	4,615	4,560	11.7%	1.2%
Sefton	7,845	7,965	20.4%	1.5%
Wirral	8,705	8,550	21.9%	-1.8%
Merseyside	38,030	38,970	100%	2.7%

Table 4.7 Change in VAT and PAYE Enterprises¹⁵

4.22 The latest figures show 8,550 VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Wirral in 2018, equivalent to just over a fifth of all the VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Merseyside, a loss of just under 2 percent since 2017.

Percentage of Working Age Population	Economically Active	In Employment (employees)	In Employment (self-employed)	Economically Inactive
Wirral	77.6%	63.6%	10.1%	22.4%
Merseyside	73.7%	61.6%	8.4%	26.3%
North West	76.8%	63.8%	9.4%	23.2%
Great Britain	78.4%	64.0%	10.6%	21.6%

Table 4.8 Economic Activity 2017/18¹⁶

4.23 154,300 Wirral residents were classified as economically active in 2018, with 124,600 residents in employment including 21,500 self-employed¹⁷. Economic activity is now higher than the most recent pre-recession high point, of 76.4 percent in 2007. Although higher than the averages for Merseyside and the North West, it still remains below the national average.

4.24 The number of people who were economically inactive correspondingly fell to 43,100 in 2018, compared to the most recent high point of 54,400 in 2010.

¹⁵ NOMIS UK Business Counts 2018

¹⁶ April 2016 to March 2017 (NOMIS, November 2017)

¹⁷ Employment and Unemployment (Apr 2017 – March 2018, NOMIS October 2018)

4.25 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.

Average Weekly Earnings	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Wirral	£498.10	£497.80	£518.20	£526.40	£529.50	£532.10
Merseyside	£477.30	£491.50	£487.60	£503.90	£513.60	£530.60
North West	£472.50	£484.60	£492.00	£502.10	£514.50	£529.60
Great Britain	£508.00	£520.80	£529.60	£541.00	£552.70	£571.10

Table 4.9 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Residence 2012/13 to 2017/18¹⁸

4.26 Average weekly earnings for employees working in Wirral, however, remained below the averages for Merseyside and the North West, as well as below the national average.

Average Weekly Earnings	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Wirral	£432.60	£485.60	£499.90	£489.90	£498.20	£492.00
Merseyside	£474.00	£491.90	£485.30	£501.30	£510.80	£534.60
North West	£469.90	£482.50	£488.80	£503.20	£514.00	£529.60
Great Britain	£507.60	£520.20	£529.00	£540.20	£552.30	£570.90

Table 4.10 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Workplace 2012/13 to 2017/18¹⁹

4.27 Data on working age residents claiming one or more Key Benefits and / or Job Seeker's Allowance is no longer collected.

4.28 6,405 Wirral residents were claiming Universal Credit in November 2018, a rate of 3.3 percent, compared to 3.0 percent for the North West and 2.3 percent for Great Britain.

Business Development

4.29 The year to April 2018 saw a reduction in the amount of new employment floorspace completed, from 18,681 square metres in 2016/17.

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)	3,511	0	0	4,405	0	7,916
Completed floorspace (net)	-1,165	0	0	4,191	-198	2,828

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

¹⁹ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Workplace (NOMIS, 2017)

Floorspace (square metres)	Use Class B1(a)	Use Class B1(b)	Use Class B1(c)	Use Class B2	Use Class B8	Total Floorspace
Total completed on previously developed land (gross)	3,511	0	0	4,405	0	7,916
Percentage completed on previously developed land (gross)	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%

Table 4.13 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type and on Previously Developed Land 2017/18

4.30 All of the new employment development took place on previously developed brownfield land in 2017/18.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Use Class B1(a)	1,426	91	1,008	619	178	11,189	166	3511
Use Class B1(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,451	0
Use Class B1(c)	0	0	0	621	0	418	1,109	0
Use Class B2	14,380	7,571	159	0	10,432	5,631	9,857	4,405
Use Class B8	440	18,964	1,956	1,234	290	2,070	98	0
Total Floorspace	16,246	26,626	3,123	2,474	10,900	19,308	18,681	7,916

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

4.31 Projects to provide up to 1,506 square metres of new business floorspace (Use Class B1), up to 10,241 square metres of new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2) and up to 546 square metres of new storage and distribution floorspace (Use Class B8) were registered as under construction at the end of the reporting period.

Employment Land Supply

4.32 The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (UDP) set aside 843 hectares of land across the Borough for employment uses falling within Use Classes B1, B2 and B8, with 658 hectares within designated Primarily Industrial Areas and 185 hectares on allocated Employment Development Sites.

4.33 The Borough's employment land supply was reviewed in the Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update (December 2017), which was reported to the Council's Cabinet in March 2018²⁰.

4.34 Just under 15 percent (27.68 hectares) of the land allocated as an Employment Development Site remained in the recommended supply at April 2018:

²⁰ The final study can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-7>

Land Area (hectares)	Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone	Wirral International Business Park	Borough Total
Land Allocated for B1, B2 and B8 Uses	1.01	12.97	27.68
Other Land Within Primarily Industrial Areas	0.00	32.07	36.91
Former Dockland	23.90	0.00	46.48
Land Currently Subject to Other Designations	0.00	0.00	2.76
Total	24.91	45.04	113.83

Table 4.15 Recommended Employment Land Supply (April 2018)

4.35 There was a further 24.22 hectares of land identified for mixed uses at Wirral Waters (which is not included in the table above), all of which also falls within the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone.

4.36 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
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
2016/17	0.13	5.56	5.69
2017/18	0.16	6.65	6.81
Total	4.22	58.94	63.16
Annual average	0.45	5.89	6.32

Table 4.16 Take-Up of Employment Land Since April 2008 (hectares)

4.37 Revised economic forecasts prepared by Oxford Economics for the Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA), suggested that up to 6,600 additional full-time-equivalent jobs could be created in Wirral by 2037 under the 'Baseline Scenario', rising to a possible 11,500 additional full-time-equivalent jobs under a 'Growth Scenario'²¹.

4.38 The Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update (December 2017) estimated that the recommended employment land supply would be likely to be able to accommodate both the 'Baseline' and 'Growth' scenarios but would be insufficient, by over 18 hectares, if previous rates of development were applied.

²¹ The SHELMA can be viewed on the Combined Authority website <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/governance/policy-documents/> (Spatial Planning, Environment and Air Quality refers)

4.39 There is an additional City Region-wide need for large scale logistics and warehouse sites, which is subject to further joint studies with surrounding partner districts.

Town Centres

4.40 The amount of new retail (Use Class A1) floorspace completed in Wirral in 2017/18 was almost two and a half times greater than the amount completed during 2016/17 but the majority took place outside existing centres.

Use Class	Town Centre		Borough Total		% in Town Centres	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Use Class A1	46	46	4,122	2,720	1%	2%
Use Class A2	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Use Class B1a	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Use Class D2	0	0	1,342	1,342	0%	0%

Table 4.17 Total Amount of Floorspace Developed for Town Centre Uses 2017/18

4.41 The table below shows the changing trend over time.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Use Class A1 (gross)	1,603	22,300	4,635	828	7,954	2,500	1,742	4,122
(percentage in town centres)	23%	55%	55%	59%	5%	3%	23%	1%
Use Class A1 (sales)	1,236	12,205	2,418	471	7,489	2,472	1,290	2,720
(percentage in town centres)	21%	35%	56%	42%	5%	3%	21%	2%
Use Class A2	-	-	265	-	413	492	631	-
(percentage in town centres)	-	-	43%	-	100%	100%	100%	-
Use Class D2	3,739	4,304	4,195	-	30	374	568	1,342
(percentage in town centres)	27%	0%	2%	100%	0%	75%	34%	0%

Table 4.18 Completed Floorspace for Town Centre Uses 2010/11 to 2017/18

4.42 The Council's latest assessment of retail spending and capacity, for March 2016, was reported in July 2016²².

²² The Council's latest retail study can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-3>

Town Centre Action Plans

4.43 Town Centre Action Plans for Borough Road (Prenton Park); Bromborough; Cloughton Village; Dacre Hill; Eastham (New Chester Road/Mill Park Drive); Greasby; Heswall; Hoylake; Irby Village; Laird Street; Liscard; Lower Bebington (Church Road); Moreton; New Ferry; Oxton 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 <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/business/town-centres-wirral>

4.45 Following an explosion in March 2017, in New Ferry, which caused considerable damage to homes and business premises, the Council has been seeking to develop proposals to help stimulate regeneration and investment within the area.

Tourism

4.46 Wirral was the fastest growing visitor economy in the City Region outside Liverpool and the Borough's visitor sector was valued at over £426 million in 2017, up by 5.9 percent since 2016.

Expenditure by Sector (£ million)	2016	2017	Percentage Change
Accommodation	£32.02	£33.21	+3.7%
Food & Drink	£76.96	£81.75	+6.2%
Recreation	£20.40	£21.66	+6.2%
Shopping	£141.87	£150.66	+6.2%
Transport	£31.15	£33.09	+6.2%
Total Direct Revenue	£302.40	£320.36	+5.9%
Indirect Expenditure	£100.01	£105.98	+6.0%
Total	£402.41	£426.35	+5.9%

Table 4.19 Visitor Spending by Sector in 2016 and 2017

4.47 The total number of visitors to Wirral rose by 3.7 percent, to 8.8 million during 2017.

4.48 Wirral's tourism sector also supported over 5,347 full-time equivalent jobs in 2017, up by 3.8 percent since 2016.

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2016	2017	Percentage Change
Accommodation	623	623	0%
Food & Drink	1,081	1,167	+4.3%
Recreation	348	362	+4.3%
Shopping	1,816	1,894	+4.3%
Transport	195	204	+4.3%
Total Direct Employment	4,063	4,215	+3.7%

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2016	2017	Percentage Change
Indirect Employment	1,065	1,133	+4.0%
Total	5,055	5,347	+3.8%

Table 4.20 Visitor Related Employment by Sector in 2016 and 2017

4.49 Wirral's visitor economy has increased by 36 percent since 2012, from £313.42 million in 2012 to £426.35 million in 2017. Employment in tourism has increased by 21 percent, from 4,424 jobs in 2012 to 5,347 jobs in 2017; and visitor numbers have increased by 26 percent, from 6.98 million in 2012 to 8.8 million in 2017.

4.50 The economic impact from serviced accommodation, such as bed and breakfast, hotels, guesthouses and inns, has also increased by over 23 percent since 2012.

Housing

4.51 Wirral has many areas of attractive high quality housing but large concentrations of poorer stock, particularly in east Wirral.

4.52 The Council's latest housing stock modelling estimates that approximately 15,500 private sector dwellings (equivalent to 12 percent) were subject to Category 1 Hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System²³.

Dwelling Stock by Sector (number of dwellings)	Total Stock	Vacant	Percentage Vacant
Registered Provider	23,183	664	2.9%
Private Sector	129,357	4,076	3.2%
Totals	152,540	4,740	3.1%

Table 4.21 Wirral Dwelling Stock April 2018

4.53 Just under 85 percent of Wirral's residential properties were privately owned in April 2018. Just over 15 percent were owned by a Registered Provider. The vast majority of vacancies (86 percent) were within the private sector housing stock.

4.54 The number of occupied dwellings has therefore increased from 144,726 in 2008 to 152,540 in 2018, representing an annual average increase of just over 780 dwellings over the last ten years.

4.55 290 vacant properties were brought back into residential use during 2017/18, of which 238 had been vacant for more than two years. 308 vacant properties had been brought back into use in 2016/17 and 289 in 2015/16.

²³ Integrated Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling and Database for Wirral Council, Client Report, BRE, March 2018.

Housing Stock	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Private	123,301	121,376	123,746	125,857	126,145	127,654	129,357
RSL	23,037	25,027	23,030	23,341	23,283	22,875	23,183
Other Public	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Stock	146,338	146,403	146,776	149,198	149,428	150,529	152,540
Vacant	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%	3.1%

Table 4.22 Changes in Wirral Dwelling Stock 2011 to 2018

4.56 Average house prices increased by 4.5 percent in Wirral in the year to March 2018, higher than the overall increase for Merseyside (3.6 percent) but lower than the increase for the North West region (4.8 percent).

Average House Prices	Wirral	Merseyside	North West
Overall	£154,392	£138,156	£156,348
Detached	£258,603	£236,704	£268,615
Semi-detached	£170,255	£149,643	£164,642
Terraced	£116,777	£107,534	£119,169
Flat/Maisonette	£101,609	£91,964	£118,873

Table 4.23 Average House Prices April 2017 to March 2018

4.57 The average property price for the Borough as a whole was just over six times the average salary for the Borough in 2017/18²⁴.

Housing Land Supply

4.58 The Borough's housing land supply with planning permission at 31 March 2018 was 2,637 units, with additional outline consent for 13,521 units at Wirral Waters.

4.59 The proportion of units with planning permission on previously developed land increased from 80 percent in 2016/17 to 83 percent in 2017/18.

4.60 The table below shows the latest estimate of the capacity of additional sites without planning permission, based on the Council's emerging Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA):

²⁴ Calculated using the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, 2018) and <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/hpi>

Source of Supply	April 2016 ²⁵	April 2017 ²⁶	April 2018 ²⁷
Category 1 Sites - developable within five years	1,249	825	549
Category 2 Sites - deliverable within ten years	1,443	1,243	847
Category 3 Sites - not currently deliverable	2,959	2,463	2,701
Total	5,651	4,531	4,097

Table 4.24 Capacity of Additional Housing Land Supply (dwellings)

4.61 In July 2018, the Government published a new national method for calculating local housing needs.

4.62 The new method is based on a pre-set standard formula that uses the latest national household projections and the latest published data for average incomes and house prices to determine the minimum number of homes that will need to be provided over the next ten years²⁸.

4.63 The new method is intended to provide a figure that will change as each successive dataset is published. The Council's Local Plan must take account of these changes while it is being prepared but the figure can be 'frozen' for up to two years once the final Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. The Plan then has to be regularly reviewed, in line with any further new data, so that it can remain relevant throughout the plan period.

4.64 Using the previous MHCLG 2014-based national household projections, the new method led to an annual average local housing need for Wirral of 803 new dwellings per year (equivalent to 12,045 over fifteen years).

4.65 Using the newer ONS 2016-based national household projections leads to a much reduced need, for only 488 new homes per year (equivalent to 7,320 over fifteen years).

4.66 The publication of the 2016-based household projections has been nationally controversial, because of the 'new' way in which they have been calculated and because when totalled across the country, they fall short of the national ambition to deliver up to 300,000 net new dwellings each year by 2020.

²⁵ The Council's latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 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>

²⁶ Figures for April 2017 are based on the SHLAA (April 2016) updated to take account of sites which are now under construction, sites which now have planning permission and sites which are no longer available for development.

²⁷ Figures for April 2018 are based on preliminary outputs using the revised methodology for the SHLAA 2018, which was published for consultation in July 2017. The final SHLAA for April 2018 is expected to be published in early 2019

²⁸ The standard method can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

4.67 As a result, the Government propose to continue using calculations based on the previous 2014-based projections and have asked ONS to prepare revised projections²⁹.

4.68 In the interim, initial calculations of the Borough's five-year housing land supply at April 2018, based on the Government's proposed new method, are set out in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 to this AMR.

4.69 The calculations will need to be re-assessed once the Government's final proposals have been confirmed, in early 2019.

Housing Delivery

4.70 Gross completions totalled 806 during 2017/18, compared to 384 during 2016/17. The number of new dwellings under construction had however fallen to 1,138 in April 2018 from 1,315 in April 2017.

4.71 The percentage of residential completions on previously developed land was 83 percent in 2017/18, compared to 84 percent in 2016/17.

Completed Dwellings	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Gross New Build	254	463	420	395	468	261	669
Demolitions	242	355	181	16	52	19	56
Net New Build	12	108	239	379	416	242	613
Gross Conversions	14	177	80	168	94	123	137
Net Conversions	10	144	63	158	82	86	91
Total Gross Additional	268	640	500	563	562	384	806
Total Net Additional	22	252	302	537	498	328	704

Table 4.25 Completed Dwellings 2011/12 to 2017/18

4.72 The table below shows how the geographical pattern of development has changed across the Borough since April 2011:

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Settlement Area 1 – Wallasey	13 5%	130 20%	87 17%	131 23%	132 23%	62 16%	88 11%
Settlement Area 2 – Commercial Core	0 0%	8 1%	4 1%	26 5%	10 2%	16 4%	2 0%
Settlement Area 3 – Suburban Birkenhead	108 40%	219 34%	198 40%	122 22%	211 38%	116 30%	282 35%
Settlement Area 4 – Bromborough & Eastham	130 49%	135 21%	83 17%	35 6%	103 18%	72 19%	170 21%

²⁹ The Government's response can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need>

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Settlement Area 5 – Mid Wirral	4	89	64	196 ³⁰	31	25	161
	1%	14%	13%	35%	6%	7%	20%
Settlement Area 6 – Hoylake and West Kirby	0	36	42	13	14	64	29
	0%	6%	8%	2%	2%	17%	4%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	3	10	10	13	32	22	67
	1%	2%	2%	2%	6%	6%	8%
Settlement Area 8 – Rural Areas	10	13	12	27	29	7	7
	4%	2%	2%	5%	5%	2%	1%
Total	268	640	500	563	562	384	806

Table 4.26 Completed Dwellings (Gross) 2011/12 to 2017/18³¹

Gypsies and Travellers

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

4.74 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Merseyside and West Lancashire, which reported in September 2014, identified a need for:

- up to six permanent or residential pitches by 2017/18, rising to eight by 2032/33; and
- up to four transit pitches by 2017/18.

4.75 Revised policies, for inclusion in the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, were last published for consultation in December 2014³².

4.76 A review of local requirements and the identification of potential sites for allocation in the Wirral Local Plan will be commissioned early in 2019.

Affordable Housing

4.77 The number of affordable housing completions increased to 153 units in 2017/18 from 83 in 2016/17. The new dwellings were located in Moreton (48), Tranmere (32), Heswall (29), Wallasey (21), Greasby (19) and Thingwall (4)³³.

4.78 The current targets for the provision of affordable housing, based on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update and Affordable Housing Viability Assessment from 2010, are 10 percent within areas of greatest need³⁴ 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 policy³⁵.

³¹ The Settlement Areas used for this analysis are defined in the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012)

³² The proposed revised policies for Gypsies and Travellers can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan/further>

³³ The figures in Table 4.27 are taken from submitted planning applications where the tenure of future properties has been declared

³⁴ Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20 percent of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation

³⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-obligations> (Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 23b-031-20161116 refers)

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	21	88	11%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	0	2	0%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	32	282	35%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromborough & Eastham	0	170	21%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	67	161	20%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake and West Kirby	0	29	4%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	33	67	8%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	0	7	1%
Total Borough	153	806	100%

Table 4.27 Affordable Housing Completions (Gross) 2017/18

4.79 Revised targets, in line with the findings of the Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (May 2016), will be re-assessed following the publication of an updated Development Viability Baseline Report, in early 2019.

Self-Build and Custom House Building

4.80 In November 2018, there were 163 individuals on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register, who had requested between 177 and 202 plots of land.

4.81 There is a strong preference for medium-sized plots of land, with two thirds (66 percent) of responses indicating a preference for a plot of between 150 to 499 square metres. Only 21 percent of responses stated a preference for a plot of 500 square metres or above.

4.82 There is also a preference for larger dwellings, with 55 percent of responses stating an intention to develop a detached property, 15 percent declaring an interest to develop a semi-detached property and 15 percent wishing to build a bungalow.

Settlement Area	Preferred Location (Number of responses)	Percentage
1 - Wallasey	37	7.6%
2 - Commercial Core	5	1.0%
3 - Suburban Birkenhead	29	5.9%
4 - Bromborough & Eastham	49	10.1%
5 - Mid-Wirral	69	14.2%
6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	78	16.0%
7 - Heswall	92	18.9%
8 - Rural Areas	111	22.8%

Settlement Area	Preferred Location (Number of responses)	Percentage
No Stated Preference	17	3.5%

Table 4.28 Preferred Locations for Self-build and Custom House Building

4.83 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 in locations outside the existing built up area.

4.84 Data compiled by the Council, at March 2018, indicated that there were 118 plots with planning permission for single dwellings with potential to accommodate self-build or custom-build housing.

4.85 Just under 6 percent of all new build housing completed in Wirral since 2012 (208 units) has taken place on plots which were likely to have supported self-build and custom-build housing.

4.86 The Council wrote to individuals on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register to undertake a further assessment of the local barriers to self-build and custom house building, in early 2018 but no further analysis has yet been published.

Heritage Conservation

4.87 The Wirral Heritage Strategy sets 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. The Strategy is currently being updated.

4.88 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with 735 nationally designated entries on the Historic England National Heritage List for England, including eight Ancient Monuments, four Historic Parks and Gardens and twenty-six Council-designated Conservation Areas.

4.89 The following heritage assets are currently included on the national Historic England Heritage at Risk Register³⁶:

- Flaybrick Cemetery Conservation Area, Birkenhead - 5 Listed Buildings, part in Registered Park and Garden Grade II*
- Hamilton Square Conservation Area, Birkenhead – 62 Grade 1 Listed Buildings, 5 Grade II* Listed Buildings and several Grade II Listed Buildings.
- Church of St James, New Brighton - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Church of St Peter and St Paul, New Brighton - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Church of St Paul, Wallasey - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Bebington - Listed Place of Worship Grade I
- Flaybrick Memorial Gardens - Registered Park and Garden Grade II*, 6 Listed Buildings, part in Conservation Area
- Moated Site 400m North East of New Hall, - Scheduled Monument

³⁶ <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/nw-har-register2016.pdf/>

- Storeton Hall, Bebington - Scheduled Monument and Listed Building Grade II*
- Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton – Listed Building Grade II*
- Thornton Manor Bebington – Registered Park and Garden Grade II* and 5 Listed Buildings
- Roman Catholic Church of St Michael and All Angels, Woodchurch – Listed Place of Worship Grade II (Added since 2016/17)
- Church of St Nicholas, Newport Avenue, Wallasey – Listed Place of Worship Grade II (Added since 2016/17)

4.90 The Church of Saint Peter Saint Paul and Saint Philomena (Dome of Home) in New Brighton has received a third Heritage Lottery Fund grant for repairs to the historic fabric. Work is ongoing including a successful programme of heritage tours and education initiatives.

4.91 The Council continues to work with Historic England to secure the long term future of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens through a Maintenance and Management Plan for staff and volunteers. Flaybrick Cemetery Conservation Area and Registered Park and Garden will, however, remain on the Register until a sustainable project to secure the future of the site is put in place.

4.92 Conservation Areas Wirral, continues to represent the interests of all the Borough's twenty-six Conservation Areas. Applications for Blue Plaques continue to be submitted and some funding has been sourced privately.

4.93 Port Sunlight was voted the second favourite Conservation Area in England in a recent competition held by the national charity for the civic movement, Civic Voice.

4.94 It has been three years since the Port Sunlight Local Listed Building Consent Order was adopted. The Order has delivered a simplified process and provides a fast track system for residents. The Council has so far received forty-three notices to carry out work, of which only three have been declined.

4.95 The Council, Friends Group and partners continue to work towards achieving World Heritage Status for Birkenhead Park.

4.96 Wirral has two major annual heritage events, organised by volunteers from the Wirral History and Heritage Association - the Local History and Heritage Fair in March; and Heritage Open Days in September. The events attracted more than 7,000 people in 2018 and over seventy local groups took part.

Biodiversity

4.97 The latest published information shows 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 meeting the Government's Public Service

Agreement Target to have at least 95 percent of the SSSI in favourable or recovering condition³⁷.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Favourable Condition	Unfavourable Condition - Recovering	Unfavourable Condition - No Change	Unfavourable Condition - Declining
Dee Cliffs	86.8%	-	13.2%	-
Dee Estuary	100%	-	-	-
Dibbinsdale	41.4%	36.6%	22.0%	-
Heswall Dales	-	100%	-	-
Meols Meadows	-	41.0%	59.0%	-
Mersey Estuary	45.9%	53.2%	0.5%	0.4%
Mersey Narrows	22.3%	77.7%	-	-
New Ferry	100%	-	-	-
North Wirral Foreshore	-	-	-	100%
Red Rocks	-	71.6%	-	28.4%
The Dungeon	100%	-	-	-
Thurstaston Common	0.7%	99.3%	-	-

Table 4.29 Percentage of Sites of Scientific Interest in Favourable Condition – From reports generated on 15 October 2018

4.98 No more up-to-date information is currently available on Local Wildlife Sites in Positive Conservation Management.

Public Open Space

4.99 Twenty-six of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards in 2018, resulting in a small increase in the proportion of public open space that is managed to Green Flag Award standard.

4.100 Birkenhead Park retained its Green Heritage Site Accreditation and Port Sunlight Village was granted accreditation, in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance³⁸.

4.101 New Ferry Butterfly Park lost its Green Flag Community Award, for sites managed by voluntary and community groups.

³⁷ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteList.aspx?siteName=&countyCode=28&responsiblePerson>

³⁸ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/media/1191/gfa-winners-2018-uk.pdf>

Total Public Open Space	1,192 hectares ³⁹
Area of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	542.19 hectares
Percentage of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	45.5%

Table 4.30 Amount of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Standards 2017/2018

4.102 The Council's current target, to increase the number of new Green Flag Award parks by at least one every year, was exceeded this year, as two additional spaces were granted a Green Flag Award⁴⁰.

Water Quality

4.103 Wirral's beaches have consistently been among the cleanest in the North West and three of Wirral's beaches are identified in the Good Beach Guide website as meeting the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the Environment Agency⁴¹.

4.104 The beaches at West Kirby; Meols; and Moreton, all received an 'Excellent' rating in 2017⁴².

4.105 The Council's target was to achieve a Blue Flag Award for one beach by December 2016 and for a second beach by December 2019⁴³. Wallasey Beach won a Blue Flag award in 2017 but this award was not granted again in 2018.

4.106 The latest information on river water quality shows both Dibbinsdale Brook and Clatter Brook classified as 'Poor' overall; and The Birket, including Arrowe Brook and The Fender, classified as 'Moderate'⁴⁴.

4.107 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of water quality during 2017/18.

4.108 The Devolution Agreement, approved by the Government in November 2015, committed the City Region to work towards the cleanest river standard in the Mersey by 2030 and a discharge free Mersey by 2040.

Flood Risk

4.109 The Environment Agency requested a Flood Risk Assessment be provided in relation to one planning application during 2017/18⁴⁵.

³⁹ includes sites within the designated Green Belt

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

⁴¹ [Marine Conservation Society, Good Beach Guide](#)

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

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

⁴⁴ [Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer - Wirral Operational Catchment 2016](#)

⁴⁵ APP/16/00667 refers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-objections-to-planning-on-the-basis-of-flood-risk>

4.110 The request was satisfied, as an Assessment was submitted and considered acceptable subject to planning conditions relating to the raising of ground levels and the incorporation flood resistant and resilient materials in the design and construction of the dwelling.

Energy

4.111 The latest published information indicates that Wirral was estimated to have consumed a total of 5,503 GWh of energy in 2016, compared to 5,481 GWh of energy in 2015 and 7,292 GWh in 2005⁴⁶.

4.112 The majority of energy consumed in Wirral was taken up for domestic needs. The proportion of energy taken up by industry and commerce had dropped from 35 percent in 2003 to just under 30 percent in 2016⁴⁷.

Total Final Energy Consumption (percentages)	Industry & Commerce	Domestic	Transport	Bioenergy and Wastes
Wirral	29.5%	42.5%	25.9%	2.1%
North West	36.5%	31.0%	28.7%	3.8%
Great Britain	35.5%	31.4%	30.4%	2.7%

Table 4.31 Energy Consumption by Sector 2016⁴⁸

Offshore Wind

4.113 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.

4.114 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 and continues to host the remaining crew transfer and storage facility.

4.115 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.

4.116 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, came online in May 2017 and a new operations facility was completed at Kings Wharf, Seacombe, in August 2017⁴⁹.

⁴⁶ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2016 \(September 2018\)](#)

⁴⁷ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2016 \(September 2018\)](#)

⁴⁸ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2016 \(September 2018\)](#)

⁴⁹ <http://www.offshorewind.biz/2017/05/17/dong-to-officially-switch-on-burbo-bank-extension/>

Local Generation

4.117 In terms of the more local generation of renewable energy, only one planning application for solar panels was approved during 2017/18, as many proposals no longer require a planning application to be submitted⁵⁰.

4.118 The latest national figures show that there were 2,299 domestic photovoltaic installations in Wirral, in December 2017, compared to only nine in June 2010⁵¹.

4.119 The total energy consumed in Wirral which comes from bioenergy is now estimated at 118.2 GWh, compared to only 0.9 GWh in 2014⁵².

4.120 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bidston Moss landfill, diminished to 534 MWh during 2017/18, compared to the 9,701 MWh achieved during 2003.

4.121 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bromborough Landfill, which has recently been restored to form the Port Sunlight River Park, also reduced, to 3,601 MWh during 2017/18, from 4,412 MWh in 2016/17.

4.122 The City Region Devolution Agreement, approved in November 2015, committed the Government to re-consider the merits of delivering a potential tidal energy project in the River Mersey and the City Region Mayor appointed a special advisor to take the project forward, in November 2017.

Household Energy Efficiency

4.123 The latest published information shows that the total number of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) measures delivered in Wirral in the period to June 2018 was 18,999, an increase of 1,675 over the previous year.

4.124 This included 4,348 Carbon Savings Target measures; 5,544 Carbon Savings Community (CSCO) measures; and 9,107 Affordable Warmth (HHCRO) measures.

4.125 Green Deal Assessments, which previously allowed households to access loans for energy efficiency improvements, are no longer funded.

Area	ECO measures per 1,000 households	Total number of ECO measures delivered
Wirral	132.7	18,999
Great Britain	57.4	1,504,898

Table 4.32 Energy Company Obligation Measures to June 2018⁵³

⁵⁰ Application number APP/17/00667 refers

⁵¹ [BEIS Renewable Energy by Local Authority 2017](#)

⁵² [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2016 \(September 2018\)](#)

⁵³ [BEIS Household Energy Efficiency Tables \(October 2018\)](#)

Fuel Poverty

4.126 The latest published figures continued to show increasing levels of fuel poverty in Wirral, with the variance against the national average now at two percentage points.

Area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Wirral	13.5%	11.2%	10.9%	10.9%	11.2%	13.1%
England	10.9%	10.4%	10.4%	10.6%	11.0%	11.1%

Table 4.33 Households in Fuel Poverty⁵⁴

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

Minerals

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

4.129 The latest Local Aggregate Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington was published in January 2018.

4.130 The Assessment, for the whole of this area, showed a 10 percent increase in sales of land-won crushed rock, with reserves currently sufficient for up to 23 years but the land bank for land-won sand and gravel, with only one active quarry with permitted reserves left to work, for the first time fell below 7 years⁵⁵.

4.131 The import of material from other areas is expected to continue to play a vital role in supporting new development and infrastructure, subject to the production of secondary and recycled material, which was currently at 3.87Mt.

4.132 Offshore dredging areas for marine-won sand and gravel continued to operate well within their licenced extraction limits.

Waste

4.133 The amount of total household waste arising decreased in 2017/18, mainly due to reductions in tonnages of recycling and composting.

4.134 Over three-quarters (79 percent) of councils across England also saw a reduction in total household waste and almost two-thirds (63 percent) a reduction in recycling tonnages.

⁵⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2018>

⁵⁵ The National Planning Policy Framework requires a land bank of at least 10 years of crushed rock and of at least 7 years of sand and gravel (NPPF, paragraph 207f refers)

4.135 Overall, the amount of collected household waste per person reduced to 374.1kg per person in 2017/18, compared to 381.2kg in 2016/17. The average for England was 412kg per person in 2016⁵⁶.

Waste Managed (tonnes)	Landfill	Recycled	Composted	Total
Amount of household waste arising and managed by management type	80,672	26,242	13,848	120,762
Percentage of household waste arising by management type	66.8%	21.7%	11.5%	100%

Table 4.34 Amount of Household Waste Arising and Managed by Management Type 2017/18

4.136 In 2017/18, the measured contamination rate at the Materials Recovery Facility at Bidston increased to 10.3 percent but remained the highest quality of dry recycling of any other co-mingled scheme within the City Region Waste Partnership (CRWP). The overall CRWP average was 13.5 percent.

Waste Arisings (tonnes)	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Landfill	75,232	75,938	76,438	77,486	78,409	80,672
(percentage of total arisings)	60%	63%	64%	64%	64%	67%
Recycled	31,599	31,682	30,263	30,899	29,825	26,242
(percentage of total arisings)	25%	26%	25%	25%	24%	22%
Composted	19,335	13,429	12,674	13,355	14,091	13,848
(percentage of total arisings)	15%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%
Total Arisings	126,166	121,049	119,375	121,740	122,236	120,763

Table 4.35 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2012/13 to 2017/18⁵⁷

4.137 The number of garden waste subscribers decreased to 39,565 households in 2017/18, which may be due to the removal of the discount for online subscriptions.

Transport

4.138 Up-to-date information on commuting patterns from the 2011 Census was published in July 2014 and was reported in previous Monitoring Reports.

4.139 The accessibility of new residential development completed during 2017/18 has, again, been calculated against the accessibility standards set out in the Council's Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan:

⁵⁶ Table 2.2: DEFRA Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics (Revised May 2018) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710124/Digest_of_Waste_and_Resource_Statistics_2018.pdf.

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

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	88	88	0	100%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	2	2	0	100%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	282	279	3	99%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromb & Eastham	170	170	0	100%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	161	161	0	100%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	29	25	4	86%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	67	65	2	97%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	7	3	4	43%
Total Borough	806	793	13	98%

Table 4.36 Accessibility of New Residential Development 2017/18

4.140 Almost every new dwelling completed in 2017/18 was located within 400 metres walking distance of a high frequency public transport service or railway station, with only thirteen new dwellings further than 400 metres from a high frequency public transport service.

5 Monitoring Plan Preparation

5.1 This section of the AMR records progress on the preparation of the Council's 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 19 March 2018 and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>

Core Strategy Local Plan

5.4 The Council originally proposed to prepare a Core Strategy Local Plan, to set the overall spatial framework for future development and investment in the Borough for the next 15 years and to replace the strategic and criteria-based policies currently contained within the Unitary Development Plan.

5.5 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 for public comment in July 2013. A series of further proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, were published for public comment in December 2014.

5.6 Updates to the Borough's Retail and Leisure Study (March 2016); Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA, May 2016); and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA, April 2016) were reported in July 2016⁵⁸. Further consultation on housing needs and land supply was undertaken in August and September 2016 and the results were reported in February 2017⁵⁹.

5.7 The Council is currently undertaking a review of development options, which has so far included:

- a review of the SHLAA methodology, which was published for public comment in July 2017;
- an initial review of the Green Belt, for which a methodology was published for public comment in October 2017;
- a Playing Pitch Strategy Update, which was published in November 2017;
- an Employment Land and Premises Study Update, which was published in March 2018;
- a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update, which is expected to be published in January 2019; and
- a revised SHLAA and updated Development Viability Baseline Report, which are expected to be published in January 2019.

5.8 A series of proposed allocations for housing; employment; and mixed-uses; including sites for potential further investigation in the Green Belt; were published for public consultation in September 2018.

5.9 A copy of the consultation documents can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-6>.

5.10 A summary of the responses that were received will be published in February 2019.

5.11 The Council is currently reviewing the timetable for the future stages of the Local Plan, in light of the comments received and the need to ensure that any decisions are accompanied by the necessary statutory assessments and appraisals.

⁵⁸ 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>

⁵⁹ The Cabinet Report for 27 February 2017 and Report of Consultation can be viewed at <http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=5511&Ver=4> (Item 96)

5.12 A transport assessment and additional screening for archaeology, biodiversity and land contamination are now also being prepared.

5.13 Further studies in relation to open space and recreation; heritage; landscape; agriculture; and Gypsies and Travellers are also expected to be commissioned early in the New Year.

5.14 The latest 'real-time' information 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>

5.15 You can request to be notified when the next stages are reached by providing your contact details to forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk.

5.16 Any personal data will be held in accordance with the Forward Planning Privacy Notice at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/forward-planning-privacy-notice>.

Site Allocations Local Plan

5.17 It is now expected that site-specific land allocations will be included in the Wirral Local Plan and that no additional site allocations will need to be prepared.

Evidence Base

5.18 Appendix 6 to this AMR sets out the latest position on the preparation of the evidence base to support the next stages of the Wirral Local Plan.

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 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.

6.3 The Devolution Agreement with Government also gave strategic planning powers to an elected Liverpool City Region Mayor, to help accelerate economic growth and new housing development and to prepare a Spatial Development Strategy for the City Region⁶⁰.

⁶⁰ The original 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

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

6.5 The first City Region Mayor, Steve Rotherham, was elected in May 2017 and regulations to govern the preparation of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy were published in July 2018⁶¹. The amended regulations came into force in August 2018⁶².

6.6 It is anticipated that initial consultation on the scope of the Spatial Development Strategy will take place in mid-2019. Further information can now be viewed at <http://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

6.7 Wirral Council has also continued to work 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 Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board and Coordinating Committee, which was replaced by a Combined Authority Advisory Board of Elected Members in November 2018;
- bi-monthly meetings of the Liverpool City Region District Planning Officers and Policy Managers including the councils for Halton and 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 and planning advisory 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;
- preliminary arrangements for the preparation of the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy;
- revised Terms of Reference for the Liverpool City Region District Planning Officers Group (February 2018);
- a joint City Region Bid to the Planning Delivery Fund (January 2018, awarded in February 2018);
- membership of Combined Authority Air Quality Task Group (November 2018);
- and further work with the Mersey Dee Alliance, spanning the North Wales and North West England border⁶³.

6.8 Work on joint evidence has also included:

- West Lancashire Housing Growth Scenarios (July 2017);
- Consultation on a draft sub-regional Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (LCR SHELMA) with Liverpool City Region Partners and West Lancashire District Council (October 2017);

⁶¹ The Combined Authorities (Spatial Development Strategy) Regulations 2018 can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/827/contents>

⁶² The Combined Authorities (Spatial Development Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/924/contents/made>

⁶³ Further information about the activities of the Alliance can be viewed at <http://www.merseydealliance.org.uk/>

- Joint Local Aggregate Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton and Warrington (December 2017);
- arrangements to undertake a Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Study Update (from February 2017);
- Liverpool City Region Recreation Mitigation Strategy, to address recreation impacts on nature conservation sites (from December 2017);
- Liverpool City Region Clear Air Preliminary Options Study (from November 2017);
- Review of comments on the draft LCR SHELMA with City Region Partners and West Lancashire District Council (January 2018);
- United Utilities District Liaison Meeting (January 2018);
- Liverpool City Region Brownfield Register (February 2018);
- Completion of a draft Statement of Common Ground for the Liverpool City Region (PAS Pilot, March 2018);
- a Liverpool City Region Potential Large Scale Warehouse Logistics Sites Study (from October 2018); and
- a Liverpool City Region Brownfield Housing Site Viability Study (December 2018).

6.9 Wirral Council has, in addition, provided formal responses to:

- the Cheshire Councils Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update (May 2017);
- Cheshire East Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document Issues Paper Consultation (June 2017);
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport Masterplan (July 2017);
- Liverpool City Region Freight and Logistics Strategy (July 2017);
- West Lancashire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (August 2017);
- West Lancashire Local Plan Review (September 2017);
- Flintshire Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Consultation (December 2017);
- Liverpool Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update Methodology (February 2018);
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part Two Land Allocations and Detailed Policies Publication Draft (January 2018);
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part Two Duty to Co-operate Statement (February 2018);
- Liverpool Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft (March 2018); and
- the West Lancashire Local Plan Review Preferred Options (December 2018).

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

- contributing to SHELMA Growth Scenario inputs (October 2017);
- United Utilities Water and Wastewater Services Plan Workshop (May 2017);
- contributing to a policy review for the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy (June 2017);
- attendance at Mersey Dee Alliance Strategic Housing Meeting on Modern Methods of Construction (July 2017);
- attendance at the Flintshire Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Key Stakeholder Forum (November 2017);
- a joint response on the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part Two Site Allocations Consultation (October 2018); and

- joint responses on waste movements, to inform the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and the Warrington Local Plan Review (November 2018).

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

- Knowsley Council Knowsley Lane Urban Extension Master Plan (April 2017);
- Knowsley Council Huyton Village Master Plan (April 2017);
- initial consultation on the content of Sefton Council Supplementary Planning Documents for New Housing, House Extensions, Homes in Multiple Occupation and Flats, Design, Sustainable Travel, Crosby Coastal Park and Sustainable Drainage and Flood Risk (July 2017);
- Knowsley Council Halsnead Master Plan (July 2017);
- Flintshire Council Supplementary Planning Guidance Note for Great Crested Newts Mitigation Requirements and Developer Guidance for New Housing Development (July 2017);
- Knowsley Council Master Plan for Earlsfield Park (August 2017);
- Knowsley Council Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy (August 2017);
- Sefton Brownfield Land Register (October 2017);
- United Utilities Water and Wastewater Services Plan (November 2017); and
- the St Helens Retail and Leisure Study (November 2017);
- Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan and Revised Core Strategy Policies (December 2017);
- Sefton Draft Statement of Community Involvement and Information Note on dwelling thresholds for mitigating increased recreation pressure on the Sefton Coast (December 2017);
- North West Marine Plan Draft Vision and Policy Options (January 2018);
- District Level Licencing for Great Crested Newts (January 2018)
- Sefton Council Supplementary Planning Documents for Affordable, Special Needs Housing and Housing Mix; House Extensions; Houses in Multiple Occupation and Flats; New Housing; and Sustainable Travel; and Information Notes for Development and Sustainable Drainage Systems; and Flood Risk (February 2018);
- United Utilities Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2020 to 2045 (March 2018);
- A5036 Port of Liverpool Access Scheme (March 2018);
- North West Marine Plan Seascape Assessment (April 2018);
- Flintshire County Council Draft Enforcement Policy (April 2018);
- Knowsley Council Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Adding Value to Development: Education and Skills; and Proposed Amendment to New Residential Development SPD (May 2018);
- Cheshire West and Chester Council Traveller Development Plan Document – Issues Consultation (July 2018); and the
- Knowsley Council Draft Earlsfield Park Open Space Masterplan (December 2018).

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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

Table 1 – Housing Land Supply with Planning Permission April 2018

Land with Planning Permission at 31 March 2018 (gross)	Previously Developed	Greenfield	Total
<i>(i) New build sites</i>			
Sites under construction > 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	448	136	584
Sites not started > 0.4 ha (units not started)	425	102	527
Sites under construction < 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	314	85	399
Sites not started < 0.4 ha (units not started)	382	126	508
Total units on new build sites	1,569	449	2,018
<i>(ii) Conversions and changes of use</i>			
Changes of use under construction (units not started + under construction)	86	0	86
Changes of use not started (units not started)	347	4	351
Conversions under construction (units not started + under construction)	69	0	69
Conversions not started (units not started)	113	0	113
Total units conversions and changes of use	615	4	619
Total units with planning permission	2,184	453	2,637
Percentage on previously developed land			83%

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 a residential dwelling (gross).

Table 1 does not include additional sites without planning permission assessed as part of the Council's latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 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	
Year									
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
2016/2017	0	0	7	1	1	5	3	2	19
2017/2018	5	0	12	8	2	22	6	1	56

Notes

Demolitions have reduced significantly in recent years, following the completion of residual activity begun under the former Housing Market Renewal Initiative and previous social housing demolition programmes.

Council data for April 2018 showed approximately 153 demolitions were currently programmed or expected to take place under existing planning permissions, compared with 195 the previous year.

As the median for the last five years, which includes the significantly higher figure for 2013/14, was 52, the previous allowance for expected public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions, of 50 demolitions each year, has been retained in future estimates for 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Appendix 2

Table 3 - Actual Net Change in Dwelling Stock

A	B	C	D	E
Year	Total Demolitions	Total Net Conversions	Total New Build	Net Change (C+D)-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
2016/2017	19	86	261	328
2017/2018	56	91	669	704

Notes

The UDP Inquiry Planning 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.

An allowance of 85 units per annum has been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4, based on recorded net conversions and changes of use over the last three years, consistent with average performance over the last fifteen years.

The total number of conversions and changes of use with planning permission at April 2018 was 619, of which 155 were registered as under construction.

Although not included in Table 3 above or the analyses in Section 4 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

A	B	C	D	E	F
Year	Base New Build Supply (gross)	Gross Completions (including conversions)	Draft Year End Residual Supply (B-C)	Actual Year End New Build Supply	Derived New Build Windfalls (E-D)
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
2016/2017	1,786	384	1,402	2,004	602
2017/2018	2,004	806	1,198	2,018	820

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 (SHLAA).

Appendix 3

A. Based on 795 dwellings per annum (MHCLG 2014-based Standard Method Calculation⁶⁴)

Table A1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 5%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023 ⁶⁵	3,975
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.05 x B) + A	4,424
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	885
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	2.9

Table A2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 10%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023	3,975
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.10 x B) + A	4,623
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	925
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	2.8

Table A3 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 20%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023	3,975
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.20 x B) + A	5,020
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	1,004
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	2.6

Notes

The calculations in Tables A1, A2 and A3 are based on the following assumptions:

⁶⁴ Housing Need Assessment (CLG, September 2018) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

⁶⁵ Calculations are based on the period 2018-2028 at December 2018.

- Five Year Projected Demolitions (Row A) is based on the previous allowance for expected public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions, of 50 demolitions each year, for 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- Local housing need (Row B) is based on the National Planning Policy Framework standard method (NPPF, paragraph 60 refers), using the 2014-based CLG household projections, from 2018, which includes the following:

Average household growth over ten years (2018 to 2028):

145,403 to 152,492 = 7,089 divided by 10 = 709 dwellings

Market Signals adjustment:

Workplace based median house price to median earnings for most recent year available (2017) = 5.92

Adjustment factor = (5.92 minus 4)/4 = 0.48 x 0.25 = 0.12

Local Housing Need = (1 + 0.12) = 1.12 x 709 = 795

- Five Year Housing Target (Row C) show the positions with a five, ten and twenty per cent buffer included, as required by paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Current Five Year Supply (Row D) includes the following:
 - SHLAA Category 1 Sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the interim findings of the SHLAA 2018⁶⁶ and the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018 (**549 units**);
 - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2018, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018 (**1,356 units**);
 - An allowance of 85 net additional conversions and changes of use per year between 2018 and 2023, based on actual previous delivery over the last three years (**425 units**);
 - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2018 and 2023, based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since 2008, at 60 units per year (**300 units**);
 - Potential additional capacity at Wirral Waters has not yet been included, as the future rate of delivery was still uncertain at April 2018⁶⁷.

⁶⁶ The finalised Assessment is expected to be published in January 2019

⁶⁷ Outline planning permission for up to 13,521 units was granted at East Float subject to a section 106 legal agreement signed in May 2012. No reserve matters applications had yet been submitted by April 2018 but projects with a potential capacity of 1,100 units were being discussed, at Northbank East and Northbank West. A reserved matters application for 538 units was submitted on part of Northbank West in May 2018 (Legacy) and an application for a 72-bedspace care facility with 34 residential apartments was submitted on part of Northbank East in April 2018 (Belong), which will be reflected in future monitoring reports.

Appendix 4

B. Based on 490 dwellings per annum (MHCLG 2016-based Standard Method Calculation⁶⁸)

Table B1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 5%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023 ⁶⁹	2,450
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.05 x B) + A	2,823
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	565
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	4.6

Table B2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 10%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023	2,450
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.10 x B) + A	2,945
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	589
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	4.4

Table B3 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2018) - Plus 20%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2018-2023	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2018-2023	2,450
C	Five Year Housing Target 2018- 2023 (1.20 x B) + A	3,190
D	Current Five Year Supply	2,630
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	638
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	4.1

Notes

The calculations in Tables B1, B2 and B3 are based on the following assumptions:

⁶⁸ Housing Need Assessment (CLG, September 2018) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

⁶⁹ Calculations are based on the period 2018-2028 at December 2018.

- Five Year Projected Demolitions (Row A) is based on the previous allowance for expected public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions, of 50 demolitions each year, for 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- Local housing need (Row B) is based on the National Planning Policy Framework standard method (NPPF, paragraph 60 refers), using the 2016-based ONS household projections, from 2018, which includes the following:

Average household growth over ten years (2018 to 2028):

143,012 to 147,373 = 4,361 divided by 10 = 437 dwellings

Market Signals adjustment

Workplace based median house price to median earnings for most recent year available (2017) = 5.92

Adjustment factor = (5.92 minus 4)/4 = 0.48 x 0.25 = 0.12

Local Housing Need = (1 + 0.12) = 1.12 x 437 = 490

- Five Year Housing Target (Row C) show the positions with a five, ten and twenty per cent buffer included, as required by paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Current Five Year Supply (Row D) includes the following:
 - SHLAA Category 1 Sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the interim findings of the SHLAA 2018⁷⁰ and the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018 (**549 units**);
 - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2018, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018 (**1,356 units**);
 - An allowance of 85 net additional conversions and changes of use between 2018 and 2023, based on actual previous delivery over the last three years (**425 units**);
 - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2018 and 2023, based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since 2008, at 60 units per year (**300 units**);
 - Potential additional capacity at Wirral Waters has not yet been included, as the future rate of delivery was still uncertain at April 2018⁷¹.

⁷⁰ The finalised Assessment is expected to be published in early 2019

⁷¹ Outline planning permission for up to 13,521 units was granted at East Float subject to a section 106 legal agreement signed in May 2012. No reserve matters applications had yet been submitted by April 2018 but projects with a potential capacity of 1,100 units were being discussed, at Northbank East and Northbank West. A reserved matters application for 538 units was submitted on part of Northbank West in May 2018 (Legacy) and an application for a 72-bedspace care facility with 34 residential apartments was submitted on part of Northbank East in April 2018 (Belong), which will be reflected in future monitoring reports.

Appendix 5

Core Strategy Timetable

Document Name: Core Strategy Local Plan		Status: Development Plan Document
Purpose: To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: 15 years
Chain of Conformity: National Planning Policy Framework		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
Departmental Responsibility: Environmental Services (Forward Planning)		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk
Key Milestones		
Preparation (Regulation 18):		
Commencement:	July 2005*	Key Stakeholders (Regulation 2 bodies): Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Sefton Borough Council Liverpool City Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Flintshire County Council Other Liverpool City Region Authorities 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
SA Scoping:	July 2006*	
Initial Consultation:	September 2007*	
Issues Vision and Objectives:	February 2009*	
Spatial Options: (Regulation 18)	January 2010*	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 18)	November 2010*	
Settlement Areas: (Regulation 18)	January 2012*	
Publication (Regulation 19)		
Proposed Submission Draft:	December 2012*	
Initial Modifications:	July 2013*	
Further Modifications:	December 2014*	
Further consultation on housing needs and land supply	August 2016*	
Development Options Review	July 2017 to July 2019	
Re-Publication: (Regulation 19)	September 2019	
Representations: (Regulation 20)	September/ October 2019	
Submission (Regulation 22)		
Submission: (Regulation 22)	January 2020	
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	March 2020	
Hearing: (Regulation 24)	May 2020	
Main Modifications (if required)	September 2020	
Inspectors Report: (Regulation 25)	December 2020	
Adoption: (Regulation 26)	January 2021	

Based on the LDS approved in March 2018, which will be subject to further review during early 2019. An asterisk (*) indicates stages that have already been completed.

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Appendix 6

Evidence Base – Progress

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

Wirral Sites of Geological Importance Update	n/a	Reported September 2011	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Retail Strategy Update	November 2011	Reported March 2012	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Core Strategy Transport Impacts Assessment	February 2012	Reported August 2012	UDP Section 15 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2012)	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update	November 2011	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 5 & 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Open Space Assessment Update	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 8, 9 & 10 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment	September 2012	Reported September 2012	Core Strategy Site Allocations
Core Strategy Proposed Submission Draft Spatial Portrait	n/a	Reported September 2012	Core Strategy
Wirral Water Cycle Study	January 2011	Reported February 2014	UDP Section 19 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Merseyside and West Lancashire Accommodation Assessment for Gypsies and Travellers	April 2013	Reported September 2014	Core Strategy Site Allocations
Retail Floorspace Guidelines and Impact Assessments	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	Baseline 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
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2016)	n/a	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (May 2016)	August 2013	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy
Wirral Retail and Leisure Study Update (March 2016)	April 2015	Reported July 2016	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Liverpool City Region Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning	n/a	October 2016	Core Strategy
Wirral Sites of Biological Importance Update	n/a	Reported July 2017	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations

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Wirral Playing Pitch Strategy Update	April 2015	Reported November 2017	UDP Section 9 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment	March 2016	Draft published October 2017	UDP Sections 5 & 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update	January 2017	Reported March 2018	UDP Sections 5 & 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Initial Green Belt Review (Methodology, Background Report and Summary of Initial Assessment)	February 2017	Reported September 2018	UDP Sections 5, 6 & 7 Core Strategy Site Allocations
LCR Clean Air Preliminary Options Study	November 2017	Ongoing	UDP Section 21 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Liverpool City Region Recreation Mitigation Strategy	December 2017	Ongoing	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Viability Assessment Baseline Update	January 2018	Expected January 2019	Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2018)	n/a	Expected January 2019	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 Update	May 2018	Expected January 2019	UDP Sections 19 & 20 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Liverpool City Region Large Scale Warehouse Logistics Sites Study	October 2018	Expected February 2019	UDP Section 5 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Archaeology, Biodiversity and Contamination Site Screening	October 2018	Expected March 2019	UDP Sections 11,13,21 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Transport Impacts Assessment Update	November 2018	Expected April 2019	UDP Section 15 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Update	Expected January 2019		Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Update	Expected January 2019		Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Recreation and Open Space Assessment	Expected early 2019		UDP Sections 8, 9 & 10 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Heritage Site Assessment	Expected early 2019		UDP Section 11 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Gypsy and Traveller Sites Assessment	Expected early 2019		UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Local Plan Landscape Site Assessment	Expected early 2019		UDP Section 14 Core Strategy

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			Site Allocations
Wirral Agricultural Economy and Land Assessment	Expected early 2019		UDP Section 12
			Core Strategy
			Site Allocations

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.
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	BEIS	Government department with responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy, and climate change.
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
Combined Authority		A formally constituted strategic authority with powers over transport, economic development and regeneration

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
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
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
Energy Company Obligation	ECO	A government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
Environment Agency	EA	A government body with responsibility for preventing harmful impacts on the environment
Green Deal Assessments		Assessment to determine if a householder could benefit from home improvements previously funded by the Government's Green Deal scheme.
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

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
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 Aggregate 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
Objectively Assessed Need	OAN	A 'policy-off' calculation of the local need for housing, without taking account of any other constraints on future development

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
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
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
Spatial Development Strategy		A statutory land use planning framework prepared by the elected Mayor for the Liverpool City Region
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
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

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Strategic Regeneration Framework	SRF	A strategy that sets out the Council's corporate regeneration priorities.
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 with in 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