



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL

MONITORING REPORT

2013/14

DECEMBER 2014

**AMENDED IN MARCH 2015 TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CLG 2012-BASED
HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS**

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 The Annual Monitoring Report is a statutory document setting out progress on the delivery of Local Plans and the extent to which national and local priorities are being achieved.

1.2 This report covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2014.

Monitoring Policy Implementation

1.3 The prolonged national recession has continued to have a noticeable impact on a wide range of indicators but improvements have continued to take place in some (but not all) key areas.

Population

1.4 The latest mid-year population estimate for 2013, estimates the population in the Borough to have increased to 320,295 from 319,800 in 2011.

1.5 The latest national population and household projections now show the population increasing by 3.4 percent to 331,200 people by 2037 and the number of households increasing by 10.8 percent to 156,600 by 2037.

Economy and Retail

1.6 In 2014, economic activity within the local population reduced slightly to 144,800 people from 146,600 people in 2012/13. The number of residents who were economically inactive remained static, at 45,900 in 2014.

1.7 There were 1,870 fewer working age residents claiming key benefits in February 2014 than in February 2013 and the number of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance had continued to reduce to 6,715 by March 2014.

1.8 The completion of new employment floorspace has, however, continued to be suppressed.

1.9 The completion of new retail and leisure floorspace slowed markedly during 2013/14, after a significant increase during 2011/12. A slightly higher proportion of new floorspace was, however, located within existing centres.

Housing

1.10 Although gross housing completions decreased from 640 to 500 in 2013/14; net performance increased from 252 to 302 but was still significantly below the levels achieved during the previous market peak in 2007/08.

1.11 Net performance was assisted by a lower number of demolitions, which are expected to continue to reduce, as existing targeted programmes draw to a close.

1.12 The proportion of dwellings completed on previously developed land remained high, at 98 percent during 2013/14.

1.13 There was an increase in the completion of new affordable dwellings, to 188 units, from the 92 units delivered in 2012/13.

1.14 Less than 2 percent of the new housing provided during 2013/14 was located more than a 400m walking distance away from a bus stop or railway station.

Environment and Resources

1.15 The inclusion of Central Park and Victoria Gardens, raised the proportion of public open space maintained to the Green Flag Award standard to 41% during 2013/14.

1.16 The Environment Agency submitted three objections to planning applications on issues related to flood risk during 2013/14. Two applications were refused and one was resolved through the provision of additional information.

1.17 The Agency submitted one objection on issues related to water quality, which was subsequently resolved with a planning condition.

1.18 Data based on the new Energy Company Obligation (ECO), designed to measure the implementation of energy efficiency improvements, indicates a higher than average delivery in Wirral overall but that a lower proportion of households had sought to obtain additional funding by undertaking a Green Deal Assessment.

1.19 The proportion of households living in fuel poverty is now less than 1 percent above the average for England, at 11.2%.

Monitoring Plan Preparation

1.20 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West was formally revoked on 20 May 2013.

1.21 The Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton was formally adopted by each of the six partner councils in July 2013.

1.22 A series of initial proposed modifications to the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy were published in July 2013.

1.23 Further modifications to the policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to the policies for Town Centres were published in December 2014.

1.24 A revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy is now expected to be published towards the middle of 2015, following the completion of an up-

to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and a Core Strategy Local Plan Development Viability Assessment.

1.25 The Core Strategy is now expected to be adopted in December 2016.

1.26 A new neighbourhood forum for Leasowe was designated in July 2014.

1.27 The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum submitted their final proposals to the Council for independent examination and local referendum in November 2014.

1.28 The Hoylake Community Planning Forum expects to undertake statutory consultation with the wider community in early 2015.

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

Questions and Comments

1.30 Any questions and comments on the data or analysis provided in this Monitoring Report should be directed to Rob Oates in the Regeneration and Planning Service at Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED, who can be contacted on 0151 691 8110 or at robertoates@wirral.gov.uk.

1.31 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 tenth 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 of Local Plans 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 2014 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/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/annual-monitoring-reports>.

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.

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.

3.3 The Government published a new National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. A further series of Planning Practice Guidance has now also been issued and can be viewed on the national website at:
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

The Development Plan for Wirral

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

- the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted in February 2000.
- the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton adopted in July 2013.

3.5 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West was formally revoked on 20 May 2013.

Unitary Development Plan

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

3.7 The text of the UDP can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udp>.
The Proposals Maps can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udpmaps/index.html>

3.8 The UDP is being progressively replaced by new style Local Plans, such as the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton and the Council's emerging Core Strategy Local Plan.

3.9 The programme for the preparation of the Core Strategy is set out in Section 5 of this AMR.

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

3.11 A list of the UDP policies that are intended to be replaced by new policies within the Council's emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, was included in section 29 of the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy, which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5640>.

Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

3.12 The Merseyside districts and Halton Council formally adopted the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton in July 2013.

3.13 A copy of the adoption documents can be viewed on Wirral Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/joint-merseyside-waste-development-plan>.

3.14 A separate monitoring report for the first nine months of the operation of the Joint Waste Local Plan can also be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/joint-merseyside-waste-development-plan>

Local Development Documents

3.15 The following Local Development Documents are currently in force within the Borough:

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
Local Development Scheme	February 2012
Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton	July 2013
Statement Of Community Involvement	March 2014

Table 3.1 Adopted Documents

3.16 The Council consulted on the contents of a draft revised Statement of Community Involvement in July 2013 and the final revised Statement of Community Involvement was adopted on 10 March 2014

3.17 The text of the revised Statement of Community Involvement can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6732>.

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

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

3.20 The Council has since resolved to prepare four new Supplementary Planning Documents, to cover issues related to housing, employment, town centre uses and telecommunications. Initial consultation on the content of these emerging Documents was undertaken in July 2013 and further information can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/supplementary-planning-documents>.

Neighbourhood Planning

3.21 The latest position with regard to neighbourhood planning proposals can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/neighbourhood-planning>.

3.22 No neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans were made by the Council during the period to 31 March 2014.

3.23 The Council formally designated two Neighbourhood Areas and their accompanying Neighbourhood Forums, at Devonshire Park and at Hoylake, in April 2013. An additional Forum and Area for Leasowe was designated in July 2014.

3.24 The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum consulted on their draft Neighbourhood Plan for Devonshire Park in May 2013. The Forum submitted their final proposals to the Council for independent examination and local referendum in November 2014. Further information can be obtained from the Resident's Association web-blog at <http://devonshirepark.wordpress.com/>

3.25 The Hoylake Community Planning Forum is currently preparing their draft Plan proposals for statutory consultation. Further information can be obtained from the Community Forum website at: <http://www.hoylakevision.org.uk>.

3.26 The Unity in Our Community Neighbourhood Planning Forum has just begun to prepare their proposals for Leasowe. Further information can be

obtained from the Leasowe Development Trust website at www.leasowedt.org.uk/leasowe-neighbourhood-plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy

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

3.28 The likely future viability of a Community Infrastructure Levy in Wirral is expected to be reported in January 2015.

Wirral Council Corporate Plan 2014/16

3.29 A revision to the Council's Corporate Plan was approved in December 2013¹.

3.30 The vision seeks to make Wirral a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected; where employers will want to invest and local businesses thrive; and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives there.

3.31 The Corporate Plan is based on the three principles of: local solutions, local decisions - using devolved powers and responsibilities to address local need; promoting independence - to ensure that all residents, especially the most vulnerable, are recognised for the talents and assets they have; and driving growth and aspiration - to reduce poverty and secure a healthier economic future, supported by the delivery of the Wirral Investment Strategy.

Wirral Investment Strategy

3.32 The Wirral Investment Strategy aims to deliver a strong, vibrant economy, with high levels of employment and investment.

3.33 The Strategy includes commitments to:

- secure investment to deliver economic growth.
- support the development of key growth sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, automotive and offshore renewable engineering;
- promote Wirral on an international stage, to support access to new markets and opportunities; and
- expand the portfolio of high quality employment sites;
- link economic growth with tackling worklessness and increase the number of jobs and employment opportunities available to Wirral residents;
- maximise available resources by co-ordinating business support;
- support the development of successful businesses, through a sector based strategy.

¹ The Corporate Plan can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6538>

3.34 The original Strategy has been reviewed and updated against the backdrop of changing economic conditions and a rapidly shifting national policy landscape.

3.35 The refreshed Strategy sets out the key programmes and projects that will form the direction of travel to 2016, which include:

- the promotion of Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone. Key projects include:
 - the International Trade Centre;
 - Tower Wharf Office Development;
 - Wirral Met College extension;
 - The Automotive Supplier Park; and
 - The Offshore Survival Centre
- Sector Development including:
 - Marine engineering
 - Offshore renewable engineering (maximising the City Region; CORE Status)
 - Civil Nuclear
 - Automotive (the Automotive Supplier Park)
- Wirral International Business Park;
- Birkenhead Town Centre;
- the Hoylake Golf Resort;
- the regeneration of Woodside and Hind Street;
- continued housing market renewal in south Wallasey, north Birkenhead and Rock Ferry;
- Port Wirral at Eastham;
- Employment initiatives including:
 - Health Related Worklessness
 - Youth Employment Gateway
 - The Worklessness Project
 - Skills for Growth agreements
- Business growth grants and development support².

Assisted Areas

3.36 The UK Assisted Area Map 2014 – 2020 came into force on 1 July 2014.

3.37 Assisted Areas are recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development.

3.38 The Electoral Wards in Wirral which are designated as Assisted Areas are: Wallasey; New Brighton; Liscard; Seacombe; Leasowe and Moreton East; Bidston and St James; Upton; Claughton; Birkenhead and Tranmere; Oxtan; Prenton; Rock Ferry; Bebington; Clatterbridge; Bromborough; and Eastham.

² the refreshed Strategy can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/3548>

4 Monitoring Policy Implementation

4.1 This section of the AMR seeks to provide information on the extent to which land use planning policy priorities are being achieved, based on information drawn from nationally published data sets and locally collected statistics.

4.2 The data provided in this section of the AMR has, wherever possible, continued to follow the format provided over previous years.

4.3 The first report of monitoring following the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, prepared by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, is provided in a separate report.

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

4.5 A fuller overview of the main characteristics of the Borough is contained within the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Spatial Portrait, which can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5706>.

Population

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

4.7 The latest revised 2012-based national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase to 331,200 by 2037 and to 325,100 by 2021³, compared to the 324,000 people anticipated in 2021 by the previous interim 2011-based projections.

People (Thousands)	2012	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	Change 2012-2037
Wirral	320.2	320.4	321.3	322.4	323.7	325.1	326.4	328.4	329.9	330.8	331.2	+3.44%
Merseyside	1,386	1,386	1,390	1,395	1,401	1,406	1,412	1,423	1,433	1,441	1,444	+0.56%

Table 4.1 Population Projections (2012-based)

4.8 The Census recorded 140,600 households in Wirral in 2011. The latest 2012-based sub-national household projections expect the number of households to increase to 156,600 by 2037⁴, with the highest rates of growth between 2014 and 2021, followed by lower rates of growth to 2037.

³ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/rft-population-las.xls>

⁴ CLG 2012-based household projections (February 2015)

Households (Thousands)	2012	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	Change 2012-2037
Wirral	141	142	143	145	146	148	149	151	154	156	157	+10.8%
Merseyside	606	609	616	624	631	638	644	656	668	678	683	+12.6%

Table 4.2 Household Projections (2012-based)

4.9 The 2012-based household projections will be used to inform the Council's updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which is expected to report towards the middle of 2015.

National Mid-Year Population Estimate (Wirral)	Young People (0-15 years)	Working Age (males 16-64 & females 16-60) ⁵	Retired (males 65 & over & females 61 & over)
2013	59,366	188,073	72,856
2012	59,500	191,200	69,500
2011	59,200	189,600	71,000
2010	58,700	180,600	69,600
2009	58,900	180,600	69,000
2008	58,900	182,300	68,200
2007	59,500	183,300	67,400
2006	60,300	184,200	66,700
2005	56,800	198,500	57,700
2004	57,600	197,900	57,600
2003	58,400	197,900	57,500
2002	59,400	197,500	57,400

Table 4.3 Population Change 2002-2013

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

Social Context

4.11 Almost a third of the Wirral population lives in areas ranked as having some of the greatest social, economic and environmental needs in England⁶.

4.12 There is a significant gap in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent areas, with a ten-year gap in average life expectancy at birth between areas in east and west Wirral.

4.13 Rates of diabetes, obesity and hypertension are all higher than national and regional averages. Rates of coronary heart disease are still higher than the national average but are now equal to the regional average⁷.

⁵ the ONS Mid-Year Estimate (released 26 June 2014) for males & females 16-64 in 2013 was 196,295. The estimate for males & females 65 and over was 64,634

⁶ Picture 4.1 in the previous AMR shows the spatial distribution of need from the latest national Index of Multiple Deprivation. A revised Index will be published in 2015

⁷ Wirral Compendium of Health Statistics (NHS Wirral, 2014) - <http://tinyurl.com/ocquhcy>

4.14 In 2014, 68.7 percent of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five or more A*-C GCSEs. The national average was 63.2 percent.

4.15 Wirral has a low crime rate. There were 16,278 recorded crimes in Wirral during 2013/14, equivalent to 49 crimes per thousand population. This is the same crime level as home county boroughs generally considered safe, such as Sevenoaks in Kent or Guildford in Surrey. Wirral is well below both the average for England and Wales, which is 62 crimes per thousand population and the average for Merseyside, which is 67 crimes per thousand population.

4.16 The 16,278 recorded crimes in Wirral during 2012/13 represents a halving (47 percent) of the total number of crimes in Wirral over the 10 years to March 2014, following nine successive year-on-year reductions and despite a 13 percent increase during 2013/14, which was also reflected across Merseyside as a whole.

4.17 On average the number of anti-social behaviour calls made to the Police in Wirral has reduced by 5 percent per year since 2003/4 up to and including 2013/14⁸.

Economy

GVA per Capita (£)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Change 2011-2012
Wirral	10,143	10,290	10,805	10,924	11,250	10,592	10,848	11,555	11,599	+0.38%
Merseyside	13,506	13,889	14,983	15,365	15,673	16,063	16,274	16,435	16,753	+1.93%
North West	15,485	15,926	16,874	17,663	17,835	17,833	18,198	18,122	18,438	+1.74%
UK	18,032	18,858	19,808	20,791	21,223	20,563	21,159	21,505	21,674	+0.79%

Table 4.4 Gross Value Added 2004 to 2012

4.18 Wirral has the lowest Gross Value Added per capita of any NUTS3 area in England and growth in Wirral, between 2011 and 2012, was below the national, regional and sub-regional averages⁹.

Total Employees	Full Time (percentage)	Part Time (percentage)	Job Density (2012) ¹⁰
Wirral	63.6%	36.4%	0.56%
Merseyside	64.6%	35.4%	0.66%
North West	67.9%	32.1%	0.75%
Great Britain	67.7%	32.3%	0.78%

Table 4.5 Wirral Employees 2013¹¹

4.19 The most recent data showed 94,500 employee jobs in Wirral in 2013, 3,100 below the pre-recession figure of 97,600 in 2007. There was still a

⁸ Office for National Statistics: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/index.html>

⁹ ONS Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach) NUTS3 Tables, Table 3:2 (Updated July 2014)

¹⁰ Job Density data: NOMIS 2012

¹¹ Nomis Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2013

higher proportion of part-time jobs in the local economy, compared with the averages for Merseyside, the North West and Great Britain¹².

4.20 The ratio of total jobs to the working-age population (job density) remains considerably lower than the national, regional and sub-regional averages.

4.21 Wirral still has a high reliance on service-related employee jobs, with a higher than average proportion of jobs in public administration, education and health and other services.

Employment Sector	Wirral (Employee Jobs)	Wirral	Merseyside Met County	North West Region	Great Britain
Primary Services (A-B: agriculture and mining)	100	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0.3%
Energy and Water (D-E)	1,200	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	1.1%
Manufacturing (C)	7,500	8%	7.1%	10.1%	8.5%
Construction (F)	4,200	4.4%	3.9%	4.7%	4.4%
Services (G-S)	81,500	86.2%	88.2%	83.9%	85.7%
Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G)	14,300	15.1%	15.3%	16.2%	15.9%
Transport Storage (H)	3,300	3.5%	5.0%	4.8%	4.5%
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	5,900	6.2%	6.6%	6.6%	7%
Information and Communication (J)	1,500	1.6%	2.9%	2.8%	4%
Financial and other business services (K – N)	15,500	16.3%	17.9%	20.7%	21.8%
Public admin, education and health (O – Q)	36,600	38.7%	35.9%	28.6%	28.0%
Other Services (R – S)	4,400	4.7%	4.5%	4.2%	4.6%

Table 4.6 Employee Jobs by Industry¹³

4.22 The categories of jobs reported have been changed since the previous AMR was published in order to reflect the change in the collection of National Statistics.

District	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2013	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2014	% of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises in Merseyside 2014	Change 2013- 2014
Knowsley	2,280	2,440	7.9%	+7.0%
Liverpool	9,770	10,560	34.3%	+8.1%
St Helens	3,570	3,750	12.2%	+5.0%
Sefton	6,270	6,615	21.5%	-5.5%
Wirral	6,950	7,400	24.0%	+6.5%
Merseyside	28,840	30,770	100.0%	+6.7%

Table 4.7 Change in VAT and PAYE Enterprises¹⁴

4.23 The latest figures show 7,400 VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Wirral in 2014, which represents almost a quarter (24%) of all

¹² Local Authority Profile for Wirral: NOMIS 2013

¹³ Nomis Labour Market Profile Merseyside / Wirral

¹⁴ UK Business 2014: Table B1.3 (ONS, 2013 and 2014)

the VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Merseyside. The yearly increase of 450 enterprises this year is a 6.5 percent improvement which is the biggest improvement over the last three years.

Percentage of Working Age Population	Economically Active	In Employment (employees)	In Employment (self-employed)	Economically Inactive
Wirral	75.3%	60.0%	8.6%	24.7%
Merseyside	74.1%	58.6%	7.5%	25.9%
North West	75.0 %	59.5%	8.9%	25.0%
Great Britain	77.4%	61.4%	9.8%	22.6%

Table 4.8 Economic Activity

4.24 144,800 people were classified as economically active in 2014, with 132,800 people in employment including 16,800 self-employed. This represents a slight decrease from 75.6 percent in 2013¹⁵, compared with the most recent high point of 76.4 percent in 2007.

4.25 The number of people who were economically inactive has remained static since 2013, at 45,900 in 2014, compared to the most recent high point of 54,400 in 2010.

Average Weekly Earnings	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Wirral	£482.70	£507.80	£484.90	£498.10	£497.80
Merseyside	£452.60	£472.60	£463.70	£477.30	£491.50
North West	£460.20	£471.20	£460.00	£472.50	£484.60
Great Britain	£491.00	£501.80	£503.10	£508.00	£520.80

Table 4.9 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Residence 2009/10 to 2013/14¹⁶

4.26 Average weekly pay for employees living in Wirral was only 4 percent below the national average in 2013/14.

Average Weekly Earnings	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Wirral	£406.20	£414.80	£417.70	£432.60	£485.60
Merseyside	£460.60	£469.60	£462.10	£474.00	£491.90
North West	£460.00	£467.10	£460.30	£469.90	£482.50
Great Britain	£490.00	£500.40	£502.60	£507.60	£520.20

Table 4.10 Gross Weekly Full Time Pay by Workplace 2009/10 to 2013/14¹⁷

4.27 In contrast, average weekly earnings for employees working in Wirral remained below sub-regional and national levels but slightly above regional levels. Average weekly earnings for employees working in Wirral were also below the average for employees living in Wirral.

¹⁵ Employment and Unemployment (Apr 2013 – March 2014) Nomis September 2014

¹⁶ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, November 2014)

¹⁷ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Workplace (NOMIS, November 2014)

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	February 2010	February 2011	February 2012	February 2013	February 2014
Wirral	21.8%	21.2%	21.6%	20.0%	19.2%
Merseyside	23.2%	22.6%	23.0%	21.7%	20.7%
North West	18.4%	17.8%	18.2%	17.4%	16.3%
Great Britain	15.1%	14.7%	15.0%	14.3%	13.3%

Table 4.11 Key Benefits Claimants 2010 to 2014¹⁸

4.28 By February 2014, 37,600 working age residents in Wirral were claiming one or more key benefits, compared to the most recent high point of 41,580 in February 2010 and 39,470 in February 2013¹⁹.

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014
Wirral	4.8%	4.9%	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	3.2%
Merseyside	5.6%	5.7%	5.5%	5.9%	5.4%	4.4%
North West	4.2%	4.4%	4.1%	4.6%	4.4%	3.2%
Great Britain	3.8%	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%	3.8%	2.9%

Table 4.12 Job Seekers Allowance Claimants²⁰

4.29 By March 2014, 6,345 people in Wirral were actively seeking work as claimants for Job Seekers' Allowance, a decrease of almost a quarter (23%) since March 2013, compared to the most recent high point of 10,353 in September 2009. The highest number of claimants continued to be focused in the east of the Borough, in the Electoral Wards of Birkenhead and Tranmere; Bidston and St James; Seacombe; and Rock Ferry.

Business Development

4.30 As previously reported, a higher than average proportion of Wirral's factory, office and warehouse building stock originates from between 1940 and 1970.

4.31 Figures from the Valuation Office Agency, for a range of classes of property liable for business rates between 2000 and 2012, included in the previous AMR, showed that the amount of industrial floorspace rose by 5 percent between 2000 and 2005 but had since declined year on year to 2012. By contrast, the amount of office floorspace reached a high point in 2008, declined by 3 percent to 2010 but was rising once again to 2012.

¹⁸ DWP Benefit Claimants Working Age Client Group

¹⁹ Key Benefits include jobseekers allowance, bereavement benefits, carer's benefits, disability living allowance, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income-related benefits

²⁰ ONS Claimant Counts with Rates and Proportions (NOMIS)

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)	560	0	621	0	1,234	2,415
Completed floorspace (net)	-1,344	0	-665	-45	874	-1,180
Total completed on previously developed land (gross)	560	0	621	0	1,234	2,415
Percentage completed on previously developed land (gross)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4.13 Amount of Floorspace Developed by Type and on Previously Developed Land 2013/14

4.32 The year to April 2014 saw a further reduction in the amount of new employment floorspace completed from the previous financial year.

4.33 The amount of completed new business and office floorspace (Use Class B1) had increased slightly when compared to the previous year but new general industrial floorspace (Use Class B2) and storage and distribution floorspace (Use Class B8) were both lower than in 2012/13. The overall trend was for the loss of employment floorspace to demolition and to other uses.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Use Class B1(a)	961	4,857	8,542	3,801	8,803	275	1,426	91	1,008	619
Use Class B1(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use Class B1(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	621
Use Class B2	23,497	24,407	13,576	12,797	19,099	1,948	14,380	7,571	159	0
Use Class B8	0	0	53	0	0	0	440	18,964	1,956	1,234
Total Floorspace	24,458	29,264	22,171	16,598	27,902	2,223	16,246	26,626	3,123	2,474

Table 4.14 Amount of Floorspace Developed by Type (gross)

4.34 Projects to provide up to 4,620 square meters of light industrial floorspace (Use Class B1c) and up to 1,862 square meters of new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2) were, however, registered as under construction at the end of the reporting period.

4.35 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 the Primarily Industrial Areas and 185 hectares on allocated Employment Development Sites. Less than a third (27%) of the land allocated as an Employment Development Site remained undeveloped at April 2014.

Land Area (hectares)	Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone	Wirral International Business Park	Borough Total
Land Allocated for B1 Uses	0.00	0.00	1.50
Land Allocated for B1, B2 and B8 Uses	1.01	23.13	49.28
Other Land Falling Within Primarily Industrial Areas	1.18	30.11	77.64
Other Land with Planning Permission for B1, B2 or B8 Uses	41.63	0.00	42.21
Total	43.82	53.24	170.63

Table 4.15 Employment Land Available by Type (April 2014)

4.36 There was an additional 28.46ha of vacant land within the Dock Estates at April 2014, which is not included within the figures in the table above, including a further 10.97ha within the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone.

Town Centres

4.37 A large amount of spending by Wirral residents on comparison (non-food) goods continues to leak outside the Borough to places like Liverpool, Chester and the Cheshire Oaks retail outlet in Ellesmere Port. Internet sales are also forming an increasingly significant part of comparison expenditure. Expenditure on convenience goods is largely contained within the Borough²¹.

4.38 Liverpool is a significant destination for visits to restaurants, pubs, bars and nightclubs, museums and art galleries, theatres and concerts, in addition to existing centres and attractions in Wirral²².

Use Class	Town Centre		Borough Total		% in Town Centres	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Use Class A1	486	198	828	471	59%	42%
Use Class A2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use Class B1a	560	560	619	619	90%	90%
Use Class D2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.16 Total Amount of Floorspace Developed for Town Centre Uses 2013/14

4.39 Whilst there has been a significant reduction in completed A1 (retail) floorspace, compared with the previous monitoring period, there was a slight increase in the percentage provided within an existing town centre.

²¹ the latest expenditure forecasts are included in the Wirral Retail Strategy Update (GVA, March 2012)

²² Further information on local spending is contained within the Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure Study (Roger Tym and Partners, 2009)

4.40 Table 4.17 shows the changing trend over time.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Use Class A1 (gross)	5,363	2,385	10,366	967	2,332	1,603	22,300	4,635	828
(percentage in town centres)	11%	28%	66%	63%	0%	23%	55%	55%	59%
Use Class A1 (sales)	4,602	1,786	7,844	559	2012	1,236	12,205	2,418	471
(percentage in town centres)	8%	28%	58%	59%	0%	21%	35%	56%	42%
Use Class A2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	265	-
(percentage in town centres)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43%	-
Use Class D2	5,594	488	4,044	1,826	-	3,739	4,304	4,195	-
(percentage in town centres)	8%	34%	14%	6%	-	27%	0%	2%	100%

Table 4.17 Completed Floorspace for Town Centre Uses 2005/06 to 2013/2014

4.41 Town Centre Action Plans for Liscard, New Ferry, Seabank Road, Seacombe (Poulton Road), Irby and Wallasey Village were completed during 2013.

4.42 A second round of Action Plans are nearing completion for Bromborough, Heswall, Hoylake, Moreton, Prenton, Victoria Road (New Brighton).

4.43 The Council is also working with partners on Action Plans for a number of other centres, including Eastham (Mill Park Drive/New Chester Road), Laird Street, Lower Bebington, Oxtown Village, Upton Village and West Kirby.

Tourism

4.44 The visitor economy in Wirral was valued at £328 million in 2013, up by 5 percent since 2012.

4.45 The total number of visits to Wirral rose by 1.5 percent, to over 7 million during 2013, of which 780,000 were staying visits, up by 3.5 percent on 2012²³.

4.46 In Wirral, the sector also supported over 4,600 full-time equivalent jobs, up by 4.1 percent since 2012.

²³ STEAM (Global Tourism Solutions Limited via the LCR LEP, 2013)

Expenditure by Sector (£ million)	2012	2013	% Change: 2012-2013
Accommodation	28.49	28.65	+0.5
Food & Drink	59.23	62.30	+5.2
Recreation	15.80	16.62	+5.2
Shopping	108.49	114.04	+5.1
Transport	23.85	25.08	+5.1
Total Direct Revenue	235.86	246.69	+4.6
Indirect Expenditure	77.54	81.16	+4.7
Total	313.40	327.85	+4.6

Table 4.18 Visitor Spending by Sector

4.47 Over the past 5 years (2009 to 2013):

- the visitor economy in Wirral has increased by a third (from £251.53 million in 2009 to £327.85 million in 2013)
- tourism employment has increased by 15 percent (from 3,998 in 2009 to 4,606 in 2013)
- visitor numbers have increased by 6.5 percent (from 6.65 million in 2009 to 7.08 million in 2013).

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2012	2013	% Change: 2011-2012
Accommodation	601	622	+3.3
Food & Drink	913	953	+4.4
Recreation	295	308	+4.4
Shopping	1,524	1,590	+4.3
Transport	164	171	+4.4
Total Direct Employment	3,497	3,644	+4.2
Indirect Employment	926	962	+3.9
Total	4,424	4,606	+4.1

Table 4.19 Visitor-Related Employment by Sector

Housing

4.48 Wirral has many areas of attractive high quality housing but large concentrations of poorer stock, particularly in east Wirral. In 2013, it was estimated that approximately 12,000 private sector dwellings (9.8 percent) were subject to Category 1 Hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System²⁴.

Dwelling Stock by Sector (number of dwellings)	Total Stock	Vacant	Percentage Vacant
Registered Provider	23,030	745	3.23%
Private Sector	123,746	4,461	3.6%
Totals	146,776	5,206	3.55%

Table 4.20 Wirral Dwelling Stock (April 2014)

4.49 Wirral had 146,776 residential properties in April 2014. Just over 84 percent were privately owned and just under 16 percent were owned by a

²⁴ Wirral Private Sector House Condition Survey 2013

Registered Provider. The vast majority of vacancies (86 percent) were within the private sector housing stock. There were 45 vacant dwellings awaiting demolition at the end of 2013/14.

4.50 The number of occupied dwellings has increased from 142,775 in 2004 to 146,776 in 2014, representing an annual average increase of 400 over the last ten years.

Housing Stock	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Private	120,708	121,139	121,725	122,524	122,957	123,276	122,679	123,301	121,376	123,746
RSL	22,432	22,258	22,275	22,193	22,461	22,837	23,074	23,037	25,027	23,030
Other Public	81	25	23	9	9	2	-	-	-	-
Total Stock	143,221	143,422	144,023	144,726	145,427	146,115	145,753	146,338	146,403	146,776
% Vacant	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	5.0%	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%

Table 4.21 Changes in Wirral Dwelling Stock 2004 to 2014

4.51 Average house prices decreased by only 1 percent in Wirral in the year to March 2014. This was higher than the overall decline for Merseyside (0.2 percent but contrary to the pattern in the North West Region, where there was an increase, overall, of almost 2 percent (1.8%).

Average House Prices	Wirral	Merseyside	North West
Overall	£111,995	£102,588	£108,683
Detached	£250,153	£203,005	£211,171
Semi-detached	£125,580	£107,969	£110,872
Terraced	£72,302	£61,907	£65,444
Flat/Maisonette	£92,374	£103,716	£103,219

Table 4.22 Average House Prices (April 2013 - March 2014)

4.52 The average property price for the Borough as a whole was over four times the average salary for the Borough in 2013/2014²⁵.

Housing Land Supply

4.53 The Borough's gross housing land supply with planning permission at 31 March 2014 was 1,933 units, with an additional outline consent for 13,521 units at Wirral Waters. The proportion of units with planning permission on previously developed land had increased slightly from 94 percent to 95 percent.

4.54 The table below shows the revised capacity of additional sites without planning permission based on the Council's Strategic Housing Land

²⁵ Calculated using the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, October 2013) and <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/hpi>

Availability Assessment 2014 and the initial findings of the Core Strategy
Viability Assessment.

Source of Supply	April 2013	April 2014
Category 1 Sites - developable within five years	1,354	994
Category 2 Sites - deliverable within ten years	1,731	1,626
Category 3 Sites - not currently deliverable	3,818	3,400
Total	6,903	6,020

Table 4.23 Capacity of Housing Land Supply (dwellings)

4.55 The former Regional Spatial Strategy was revoked by the Government in May 2013 and no longer remains in force.

4.56 The Council initially resolved to adopt the national CLG 2008-based household projections to calculate housing requirements in the period between the revocation of RSS and the adoption of the Core Strategy Local Plan. CLG 2012-based household projections have now also been published, to take account of the 2011 Census.

4.57 An initial calculation of the Borough's five-year housing land supply at April 2014, based on the latest Stage One CLG 2012-based household projections, is therefore set out in Appendix 3 to this AMR, which will need to be re-assessed following the completion of the Council's latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which is expected to report towards the middle of 2015.

Housing Delivery

Completed Dwellings	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Gross New Build	606	639	422	284	258	254	463	420
Demolitions	215	230	242	131	175	242	355	181
Net New Build	391	409	180	153	83	12	108	239
Gross Conversions	130	181	177	56	14	14	177	80
Net Conversions	115	155	154	47	14	10	144	63
Total Gross Additional	736	820	599	340	272	268	640	500
Total Net Additional	506	564	334	200	97	22	252	302

Table 4.24 Completed Dwellings 2006/07 to 2013/14

4.58 Gross completions totalled 500 during 2013/14 and the percentage of residential completions on previously developed land increased from 96 percent in 2012/13 to 98 percent in 2013/14.

4.59 The number of demolitions declined to 181 in 2013/14 and are expected to continue to reduce as existing targeted programmes draw to a close.

4.60 Table 4.25 shows how the geographical pattern of development has changed across the Borough since April 2005²⁶.

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	77 11%	153 19%	62 10%	66 19%	100 37%	13 5%	130 20%	87 17%
Settlement Area 2 – Commercial Core	76 10%	49 6%	92 15%	34 10%	0 0%	0 0%	8 1%	4 1%
Settlement Area 3 – Suburban Birkenhead	404 55%	329 40%	295 49%	92 27%	89 33%	108 40%	219 34%	198 40%
Settlement Area 4 – Bromb & Eastham	93 13%	185 23%	73 12%	65 19%	56 21%	130 49%	135 21%	83 17%
Settlement Area 5 – Mid Wirral	60 8%	84 10%	20 3%	78 23%	19 7%	4 1%	89 14%	64 13%
Settlement Area 6 – Hoylake & West Kirby	16 2%	7 1%	43 7%	0 0%	1 0%	0 0%	36 6%	42 8%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	10 1%	10 1%	7 1%	2 1%	3 1%	3 1%	10 2%	10 2%
Settlement Area 8 – Rural Areas	0 0%	3 0%	7 1%	3 1%	4 1%	10 4%	13 2%	12 2%
Total	736	820	599	340	272	268	640	500

Table 4.25 Completed Dwellings (Gross) 2006/07 to 2013/14

Gypsies and Travellers

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

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

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

Affordable Housing

4.64 The number of affordable housing completions increased from 92 in 2012/13 to 188 in 2013/14. The new dwellings were located in Moreton (49), Rock Ferry (34), Birkenhead (26), Hoylake (24), Seacombe (15), Bromborough (10) New Ferry (10), Beechwood (9), Tranmere (6), New Brighton (3) and Liscard (2)²⁷.

²⁶ Settlement Areas used for this analysis are defined in the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012) which can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5706>

²⁷ The figures in Table 4.26 are taken from submitted planning applications where the tenure of future properties has been declared. The total number of affordable dwellings provided within the Council area and submitted to the HCA Information Management System for 2013/14 was however 277 which included additional properties subsequently acquired or converted by Registered Providers after planning permission was granted. Another 36 units,

4.65 The current targets for the provision of affordable housing based on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update and Affordable Housing Viability Assessment 2010 are 10 percent within the former Newheartlands Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area and 20 percent across the rest of Wirral, applied to sites with a capacity of 5 dwellings and above.

4.66 These targets will be re-assessed in response to the findings of the revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Core Strategy Local Plan Viability Assessment, which will report towards the middle of 2015.

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	19	87	22%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	0	4	0%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	75	198	38%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromborough & Eastham	20	83	24%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	49	64	77%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	24	42	57%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	1	10	10%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	0	12	0%
Total Borough	188	500	38%

Table 4.26 Affordable Housing Completions (Gross) 2013/14

Heritage

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

4.68 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with 735 nationally designated entries on the English Heritage National Heritage List for England, including nine Scheduled Ancient Monuments and four Historic Parks and Gardens²⁸ and twenty-six Council-designated Conservation Areas²⁹.

which also met the Government's definition of affordable housing, were submitted on DCLG's Local Authority Housing Statistics return, having been funded from sources additional to HCA grant.

²⁸ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/> (2013)

²⁹ <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/built-conservation/conservation-areas>

4.69 The following heritage assets are currently included on the English Heritage at Risk Register³⁰:

- Storeton Hall, Storeton Village (North Wing)
- Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton
- Church of St Peter and St Paul, New Brighton
- Church of St James, New Brighton
- Christ Church, Port Sunlight
- St Paul's Church, Wallasey
- Birkenhead Priory
- Bromborough Court House (Moated Site and Fishponds)
- Moated site 400m North East of New Hall
- Flaybrick Memorial Gardens
- Thornton Manor, Bebington
- Flaybrick Cemetery, Conservation Area, Bidston
- Hamilton Square Conservation Area, Birkenhead
- Trinity with Palm Grove United Reformed Church, Alton Road, Birkenhead
- Oxton Road Congregational Church, Woodchurch Road

4.70 Since the previous AMR, Rock Park Conservation Area has been removed from the English Heritage at Risk Register.

4.71 Big Heritage are currently undertaking a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) community archaeology project at the Bromborough Court House.

4.72 Stage II HLF funding has now been secured for further repairs to the Church of St Peter and St Paul, New Brighton.

4.73 Phase 3 of the HLF funded conservation work at Oxton Congregational Church is now underway.

4.74 Investigations are currently underway regarding opportunities for a funded project at Flaybrick Memorial Gardens which has been identified by English Heritage as a Priority Heritage at Risk site.

4.75 An enabling residential development is being considered at Storeton Hall and at Bidston Observatory.

4.76 The Council has recently secured HLF funding of £393,100, to undertake work which should remove Birkenhead Priory from the Register.

4.77 The Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight has also recently received £1.2 million of HLF funding to contribute towards a £2.8 million restoration scheme, to restore galleries in the south end of the Gallery.

³⁰ <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&di=Wirral&ctype=all&crit> (2014)

Biodiversity

4.78 Five of the Borough's ten nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), at Dee Cliffs; Dibbinsdale; Meols Meadows; Red Rocks; and the North Wirral Foreshore are currently not considered to be meeting the Government's Public Service Agreement Target to have at least 95 percent of the SSSI in favourable or recovering condition³¹.

4.79 The latest information from monitoring undertaken by Local Sites Partnerships, indicates that positive conservation management has been or is being implemented on almost half (42 percent) of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites³², up from 26 percent in 2009.

Public Open Space

4.80 Seventeen of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards in 2014. The addition of Central Park in Liscard and Victoria Gardens in West Kirby means that the percentage of public open space managed to Green Flag Award Standard has increased from 1 percent in 2005/06 to 41 percent in 2013/14.

4.81 Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm also retained its Green Flag Community Award, for sites managed by voluntary and community groups and Birkenhead Park its Green Heritage Site Accreditation, in recognition of achieving the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance³³.

Total Public Open Space	1,192 hectares ³⁴
Area of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	484.84 hectares
Percentage of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	41%

Table 4.27 Amount of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Standards 2013 / 2014

4.82 The Council current target is to increase the number of new Green Flag Award parks by at least one every year³⁵.

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

³¹ The report generated 01/08/2014 can be seen at <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/reportAction.cfm?Report=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1027>

³² Nature Conservation: Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management 2013/14 (DEFRA November 2013) - <http://tinyurl.com/nnbryd4>

³³ The Green Flag Awards 2014 - <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/award-winning-sites/north-west/>

³⁴ includes sites within the designated Green Belt

³⁵ Wirral Strategy for Green and Open Spaces 2014-2024

Water Quality

4.84 Wirral's beaches have consistently been among the cleanest in the North West and four of Wirral's beaches, at Meols, Moreton, Leasowe and West Kirby were named in the 2014 Good Beach Guide as beaches that meet the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the Environment Agency³⁶.

4.85 Only three of the Borough's European designated bathing waters, at Meols, Moreton and at West Kirby, achieved the 'higher' water quality standard in the year to 31 March 2014. Wallasey was initially classified as only meeting the 'minimum' standard for water quality but has since been upgraded to higher quality following further monitoring between May and September 2014³⁷.

4.86 The Council's current target is to achieve a Blue Flag Award for one beach by December 2016 and for a second beach by December 2019³⁸.

4.87 The latest information on river water quality shows both Dibbinsdale Brook and Clatter Brook classified as poor overall and The Birket including Arroe Brook and Fender classified as moderate³⁹.

4.88 The Environment Agency submitted only one objection to a planning application on water quality grounds during 2013/14 which was subsequently resolved via a planning condition⁴⁰.

Flood Risk

4.89 The Environment Agency submitted three objections to planning applications on flood risk grounds during 2013/14.

4.90 Two of the applications were refused - one because of the absence of a Risk Assessment⁴¹ and the other on the grounds that the site had a medium to high probability of flooding⁴². The issues related to the other application were subsequently resolved by the provision of additional information⁴³.

Energy

4.91 Wirral was estimated to have consumed a total of 5,718 GWh of energy in 2011, compared to 5,908 GWh of energy in 2009. The majority was taken up for domestic needs. The proportion taken up by industry and

³⁶ Marine Conservation Society, Good Beach Guide 2014, Recommended Beaches

³⁷ Environment Agency, Bathing Water Data Explorer, 2014

³⁸ Wirral Strategy for Green and Open Spaces 2014-2024

³⁹ Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer - Water Bodies Classifications for 2013

⁴⁰ Planning application 13/01547

⁴¹ Planning application 12/01516

⁴² Planning application 14/00046

⁴³ Planning application 13/00918

commerce had dropped from 35 percent in 2003 to just below a third (31%) in 2011⁴⁴.

Total Final Energy Consumption (percentages)	Industry & Commerce	Domestic	Transport
Wirral	30.7%	44.5%	24.8%
North West	38.5%	32.5%	29.0%
Great Britain	39.9%	32.1%	30.0%

Table 4.28 Energy Consumption by Sector 2011⁴⁵

4.92 A very small percentage of the total energy consumed currently comes from renewable energy and waste, estimated at 3.0GWh in 2011⁴⁶.

Energy Consumption from Renewables and Waste (percentage of total energy consumption)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Wirral	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
North West	0.54%	0.47%	0.46%	0.49%	0.60%	0.43%	0.42%
Great Britain	1.03%	1.15%	1.34%	1.46%	1.84%	1.12%	1.21%

Table 4.29 Renewable Energy Consumption 2005 to 2011⁴⁷

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

4.94 Twenty-five wind turbines, capable of supplying electricity to the equivalent of up to 80,000 households, already operate off the Wirral shoreline at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay. A proposed extension of up to 69 turbines received Government approval in September 2014, with an estimated additional generating capacity of up to 250MW, enough to supply approximately 170,000 homes⁴⁸.

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

4.96 In terms of the more local generation of renewable energy, only three planning applications for solar panels were approved during 2013/14, down from twenty nine in 2012/13 and eleven in 2011/12, principally due to extended permitted development rights for solar panels. National figures now show that there were 1,459 domestic photovoltaic installations in Wirral, in

⁴⁴ DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2011 (September 2013)

⁴⁵ DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2011 (Published September 2013)

⁴⁶ DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2011 (September 2013)

⁴⁷ DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2011 (Published September 2013)

⁴⁸ <http://www.burbobankextension.co.uk/en/news/articles/dong-energy-welcomes-development-consent-decision-for-burbo-bank-extension>

June 2014, compared to only nine in June 2010, with 492 added since March 2013⁴⁹.

4.97 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bidston Moss landfill, continued to further diminish to 1,548.8 MWh during 2013/14, compared to the 9,701 MWh achieved during 2003.

Household Energy Efficiency

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

4.99 Although data on the uptake of ECO is provided at local authority level, no detail is included on the type of energy efficiency improvements being secured. The table below, nevertheless, shows the data that is available for ECO, from the beginning of the scheme on 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Area	ECO measures per 1,000 households	Total number of ECO measures delivered	Green Deal assessments per 1,000 households	Total number of Green Deal Assessments
Wirral	54.2	7,615	6.0	843
Great Britain	30.2	776,369	7.3	188,234

Table 4.30 ECO and Green Deal Assessments to 31 March 2014⁵⁰

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

Area	2009	2010	2011	2012
Wirral	22.0%	20.5%	18.5% (13.5%)	15.6% (11.2%)
England	18.4%	16.4%	14.6% (10.9%)	13.9% (10.4%)

Table 4.31 Households in Fuel Poverty⁵¹

4.101 In 2013, the Government began using a new definition for fuel poverty estimates, whilst continuing to release estimates based on the previous definition. The rates of fuel poverty in 2011 and 2012 using the new definition are shown in brackets. Both sets of statistics show a decreasing trend in fuel poverty in Wirral and a reducing variance against the national average since 2010.

⁴⁹ DECC, Local Authority Datasets 2014

⁵⁰ DECC, "Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Insulation Levels in Great Britain, Quarterly Report: to March 2014" (June 2014)

⁵¹ DECC, Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2009-2012 (released 2011-2014)

Minerals

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

4.103 The jointly prepared Local Aggregate Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington, submitted to the North West Aggregate Working Party in March 2014, showed that the average for ten-year sales for crushed rock and sand and gravel was currently below the sub-regional apportionment and that existing landbanks for crushed rock and sand and gravel exceeded minimum requirements but that there may be a shortfall in sand and gravel reserves over the next fifteen years.

4.104 Marine-won sand and gravel from Liverpool Bay is currently landed at a strategically significant purpose-built facility on the Bromborough coast. The latest available figures indicate that annual landings have been as high as 124,000 tonnes but over recent years had reduced to just over 40,000 tonnes, representing just over 14 percent of total landings in the North West in 2010⁵².

4.105 Up to 1,700 tonnes of aggregate stone chippings were also handled at a separate facility at Bromborough Wharf in the period up to 31 March 2014.

Waste

4.106 The amount of household waste arising continues to reduce, showing the largest reduction (by 5,000 tonnes) in 2013/14, since the Alternate Weekly Collection Service was introduced in 2006/7⁵³.

4.107 This significant change is primarily due to the introduction of the Garden Waste Subscription Service, which has led to an estimated 3,000 tonnes of organic waste being composted at home and an additional 3,216 tonnes being diverted to the HWRC compared to the year before. Wirral sold over 1,200 home compost bins in 2013/14 and has also introduced a waste prevention budget in order to promote home composting and the popular Love Food, Hate Waste Campaign.

4.108 The overall proportion of dry recycling⁵⁴ has also slightly increased and Wirral Council and the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority have been successful in improving the quality collected of the kerbside recyclables over time through focussed awareness campaigns and application of enforcement policies where necessary.

⁵² Table 6.3 North West Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2013 - <http://tinyurl.com/ghz6hvj>

⁵³ Wirral Data from Environmental and Waste Services

⁵⁴ collected predominantly through the grey co-mingled recycling bins but also including street litter segregation

4.109 The contractual target for contamination rates with the Materials Recycling Facility processor is 8 percent. In 2011/12 the rate was 15 percent, reducing to 8 percent in 2012/13 and to 7.7 percent in 2013/14, achieving the highest quality of dry recycling of any other co-mingled scheme within the City Region Waste Partnership.

4.110 Maximising the quantity and quality of dry recyclables continues to be a priority for the Council, in order to achieve value for money, to comply with the revised EU Framework Directive and to demonstrate that collection and treatment systems are Technologically, Environmentally and Economically Practical. This will also assist the Council's partners to comply with Schedule 9A of the Environmental Permitting Regulations, which will come into force in October 2014.

Waste Managed (tonnes)	Landfill	Recycled	Composted	Borough Total
Amount of household waste arising and managed by management type	75,938	31,682	13,429	121,049
Percentage of household waste arising and managed by management type	63%	26.17%	11.09%	100%

Table 4.32 Amount of Household Waste Arising and Managed by Management Type 2013/14

4.111 The table below shows the pattern of change over time⁵⁵.

Waste Arisings (tonnes)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Landfill	121,693	93,655	86,186	83,639	79,168	77,150	75,232	75,938
(percentage of total arisings)	86%	68%	64%	63%	60%	59%	60%	63%
Recycled	12,794	28,448	30,265	28,521	29,770	32,094	31,599	31,682
(percentage of total arisings)	9%	21%	22%	22%	22%	25%	25%	26.17%
Composted	7,095	14,727	18,879	19,483	23,600	21,194	19,335	13,429
(percentage of total arisings)	5%	11%	14%	15%	18%	16%	15%	11.09%
Total Arisings	141,519	136,820	135,330	131,142	131,719	129,820	126,166	121,049

Table 4.33 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2006/07 to 2013/14

4.112 The amount of collected household waste per person reduced from 395kg in 2012/13 to 378kg in 2013/14. The average for England was 403kg per person in 2013/14, meaning Wirral continues to work effectively to minimise the amount of waste arising from households.

⁵⁵ Waste Data Flow: <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

Transport

4.113 In 2011, almost three-quarters (72%) of households in Wirral had access to one or more cars or vans, significantly higher than the average for Merseyside (65%) but lower than the average for England and Wales (74%)⁵⁶.

4.114 While the 2011 Census showed that Wirral continues to have a higher than average dependency on the car or van for journeys to work, it also showed that Wirral had one of the highest proportions of people who work from home in Merseyside (5.4%)⁵⁷.

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

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

Table 4.34 Commuting Patterns and Daily Net Movements 2011⁵⁸

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

Table 4.35 Commuting Patterns – 2011 Census⁵⁹

4.116 The accessibility of new residential development completed during 2013/14 has been calculated against the accessibility standards set out in the Council's Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan.

⁵⁶ 2011 Census, Table KS404EW: Car or Van Availability for Local Authorities in England and Wales

⁵⁷ 2011 Census, Table CT0015: Method of Travel to Work (Alternative) for Local Authorities in England and Wales

⁵⁸ Nomis: Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work -

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

⁵⁹ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/dvc193/index.html>

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	87	85	2	98%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	4	4	0	100%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	198	198	0	100%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromb & Eastham	83	83	0	100%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	64	64	0	100%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	42	40	2	95%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	10	10	0	100%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	12	9	3	75%
Total Borough	500	493	7	99%

Table 4.36 Accessibility of New Residential Development 2013/14

4.117 Over 98 percent of new dwellings were within 400 metres walking distance of a high frequency public transport service or railway station. Only the Rural Area showed a figure below 95 percent.

5 Monitoring Plan Preparation

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

Local Development Scheme

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

5.3 The latest LDS came into effect on 13 February 2012. A revised LDS was however submitted for Council approval in December 2014.

5.4 The timetables set out in the LDS are continuously updated to take account of the ongoing programme of work and the latest changes can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/local-development-scheme>.

Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

5.5 The Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton was adopted by the six constituent councils in July 2013.

Core Strategy Local Plan

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

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

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

5.9 A Revised Proposed Submission Draft is expected to be re-published towards the middle of 2015, following the completion of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update and the Core Strategy Development Viability Assessment, before being submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination.

5.10 The Core Strategy is currently expected to be adopted in December 2016.

Site Allocations Local Plan

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

Evidence Base

5.12 Appendix 4 to this AMR sets out the latest position on the evidence base to support the preparation of the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy.

6 Cross-Boundary Co-Operation

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

Liverpool City Region Structures and Initiatives

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

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

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

- bi-monthly meetings of the Liverpool City Region District Planning Officers and Policy Managers including 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
- establishing a new shared archaeological records management service with the councils for Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens and English Heritage (from April 2013)
- exploring the feasibility of preparing joint guidance on air quality, with the councils for Greater Merseyside, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East (September 2013)
- approval and quarterly monitoring of a Strategic Local Investment Plan to identify agreed investment priorities for employment and housing during 2014/17 (October 2013)
- contributing towards the Growth Strategy being prepared by the Local Enterprise Partnership (October 2013)
- the launch of the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership (December 2013)
- contributing to a joint 'Strategic Planning in the Liverpool City Region' event, to explore the potential for closer and more structured joint working, facilitated by the Planning Advisory Service (July 2014)
- agreement to further enhance joint working through the formation of a Liverpool City Region Strategic Planning Working Group and to re-establish a Strategic Planning Framework for the City Region (August 2014)

6.5 Work on joint evidence base studies has included:

- completion of a joint Mersey Heartlands Water Cycle Study with Liverpool City Council (February 2014)
- the submission of a revised Local Aggregates Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Halton and Warrington to the North West Aggregates Working Party (March 2014)
- the completion of the Merseyside and West Lancashire Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment (September 2014)
- agreement in principle to undertake a future joint sub-regional strategic housing market assessment following the publication of the CLG 2014-based household projections (September 2014)

- contributing to the SuperPort Logistics Study commissioned by the Local Enterprise Partnership, which reported in September 2014 and membership of the SuperPort Forum (ongoing)
- securing further refinements to the emerging Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework (ongoing)
- securing continued joint consultancy for the consistent provision of Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessments (Extended January 2014)

6.6 Wirral Council has in addition provided formal responses to:

- the Preferred Options for the Sefton Local Plan (Delegated Decision, September 2013)
- the Flintshire County Council Draft Delivery Framework (September 2013)
- the Publication Draft Part One Strategic Policies for the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Delegated Decision, October 2013)
- the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part Two, Land Allocations and Detailed Policies Issues Consultation, including a joint City Region response co-ordinated by MEAS (June 2014)
- the Main Modifications to the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part One Strategic Policies (September 2014)

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

- providing data to support the United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan (April 2013)
- Liverpool City Region Infrastructure Group meetings with Scottish Power (August 2013) and National Grid (October 2013)
- commenting on the draft tender brief for the Liverpool Local Plan Evidence for Housing, Employment and Open Space (November 2013)
- Review of cross border strategic issues and joint working for the Mersey Dee Alliance (January 2014)
- Joint approach to updating forecast data for the Liverpool City Region Transport Model (February 2014)
- agreeing a joint record of co-operation with Cheshire West and Chester Council on the preparation of the emerging Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One, March 2014)
- attendance at the Liverpool Housing Partnership (March 2014)
- contributing towards the joint City Region position statement for the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part One Examination (May 2014)
- membership of the Scottish Power Energy Networks Strategic Stakeholder Panel for England and Wales (July 2014 and ongoing)
- exchange of Wirral housing market information with Flintshire County Council (August 2014)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Viability Assessment stakeholder workshop (October 2014)
- agreement to participate in a Key Stakeholder Forum for the Flintshire Local Development Plan (November 2014)

- exploring the scope to establish a new shared archaeology advisory service (ongoing)

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

- draft tender brief for a Strategic Housing Market Assessment Refresh for Sefton (May 2013)
- Sefton Local Plan consultation on Additional Sites and the calculation of an allowance for windfalls (June 2013)
- United Utilities Draft Water Resources Management Plan to 2040 (June 2013) and draft five year business plan to 2020 (October 2013)
- Liverpool City Council SHLAA 2012 Update (September 2013)
- Proposed Methodology for the Halton, Widnes and Hale Green Belt Study (September 2013)
- Initial Scoping of a Provision for Traveller Sites Local Plan for West Lancashire (September 2013)
- Draft Affordable Housing SPD for Halton (October 2013)
- Initial Consultation on the potential content of a Liverpool Local Plan (December 2013)
- Proposed Local Development Order for Hooton Park (January 2014)
- Sefton Local Plan consultation on Draft SHMA and SHLAA (February 2014)
- Flintshire Local Development Plan 'Call for Sites' (February 2014)
- Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan Scoping Document (February 2014)
- Liverpool City Council consultation on SHLAA methodology and SHMA Update (March 2014)
- Inspectors Interim Findings on the Knowsley Local Plan (May 2014)
- Proposed modifications to the Knowsley Local Plan (September 2014)

Core Strategy Local Plan

6.9 In addition to the formal consultation reported in section 5 of this AMR, the following activities have also been undertaken to continue to secure appropriate cross-boundary co-operation as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan:

- consultation with City Region partners and the councils for Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and West Lancashire, to agree the terms of reference for the revised SHMA for Wirral (between March and May 2013)
- discussions on initial modifications to the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy with United Utilities (April 2013), the Environment Agency (August 2013), Cheshire West and Chester Council (September 2013 including policies for minerals in October 2013 agreed in January 2014), English Heritage (October 2013), Liverpool City Council (December 2013), the Highways Agency (January 2014) and Natural England (April 2014)

- consultation on the methodology and assumptions and initial findings of the Core Strategy Viability Assessment (through workshops held in June 2013 and September 2013)
- consultation to test the robustness of assumptions and local perspectives for the revised SHMA for Wirral (through workshops held in October 2013)
- liaison with City Region partners and the councils for Flintshire and West Lancashire on the potential cross-boundary implications of the SHMA for Wirral, including meetings with Liverpool, Sefton and Cheshire West and Chester (December 2013)
- liaison with City Region partners and the councils for Cheshire West and Chester, Flintshire and West Lancashire on information to be contained in the SHMA for Wirral on the position in each surrounding authority (June 2014)

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 at 31 March 2014 (Gross)

	Previously Developed	Greenfield	Total
<i>(i) New build sites</i>			
Sites under construction > 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	392	0	392
Sites not started > 0.4 ha (units not started)	721	3	724
Sites under construction < 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	99	10	109
Sites not started < 0.4 ha (units not started)	338	76	414
Total units on new build sites	1,550	89	1,639
<i>(ii) Conversions and changes of use</i>			
Changes of use under construction (units not started + under construction)	9	0	9
Changes of use not started (units not started)	197	0	197
Conversions under construction (units not started + under construction)	31	0	31
Conversions not started (units not started)	57	0	57
Total units conversions and changes of use	294	0	294
Total units with planning permission	1,844	89	1,933
% on previously developed land			95%

Notes

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

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

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

Appendix 2

Table 2 - Recorded Demolitions

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

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

Notes

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

The median average of 75 recorded net conversions and changes of use between 2003 and 2014 has, however, now been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3.

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

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

Appendix 2

Table 4 - Windfall Site Generation

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

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.

The Actual year End New Build Supply at 2014 is significantly below that for 2013, as 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.

Although a precise completion date cannot be attributed to these additional completions and they cannot be apportioned back to previous years, they have now been excluded from the Actual Year End New Build Supply for 2013/14.

Had the 741 additional new build completions continued to be included, the Actual Year End New Build Supply for 2013/14 would have been 2,380 and Derived New Build Windfalls 348.

Appendix 3

Based on CLG 2012-based Household Projections (published 27 February 2015)

Table A1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2014) - Plus 5%

A	Increase in Households 2012 - 2014	1,180
B	Demolitions 2012 - 2014 (actual)	536
C	Gross Completions 2012 - 2014 (actual)	1,140
D	Net Completions 2012 - 2014 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)	554
E	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	626
F	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2014-2019	119
G	Net Household Formation 2014-2019 based on CLG 2012-based Household Projections	3,622
H	Five Year Housing Target 2014- 2019 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.05 x G) + E + F	4,548
I	Current Five Year Supply	3,190
J	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	910
K	Years' Supply (I/J)	3.5

Table A2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2014) - Plus 20%

A	Increase in Households 2012 - 2014	1,180
B	Demolitions 2012 - 2014 (actual)	536
C	Gross Completions 2012 - 2014 (actual)	1,140
D	Net Completions 2012 - 2014 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)	554
E	Shortfall of Completions against Target (A - D)	626
F	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2014-2019	119
G	Net New Households 2014-2019 based on CLG 2012-based Household Projections	3,622
H	Five Year Housing Target 2014- 2019 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.20 x G) + E + F	5,091
I	Current Five Year Supply	3,190
J	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (H/5)	1,018
K	Years' Supply (I/J)	3.1

Appendix 3

Notes

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

- Five Year Projected Demolitions (Row F) is based on programmed public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions for 2014/15 to 2018/19, equivalent to 119 demolitions over a five year period. This reflects the near completion of demolitions relating to the Housing Market Renewal Initiative and the programme to remove poor quality, obsolete stock owned by Magenta Living (formerly Wirral Partnership Homes).
- Five Year Housing Target (Row H) assumes that any shortfall will be met in the five year period from April 2014. The potential additional capacity at Wirral Waters has not yet been included, as the future rate of delivery is still uncertain⁶⁰. The tables show the positions with a five and twenty per cent buffer included, as required by paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Current Five Year Supply (Row I) includes the following:
 - Category 1 Sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Assessment (**994 units**);
 - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2014, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Study (**1,571 units**);
 - An allowance for net additional conversions and changes of use between 2014 and 2019 based on the actual median average delivery of 75 units per year between 2003 and 2014 (**375 units**);
 - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2014 and 2019 based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since 2008, at 50 units per year (**250 units**);
- Net Completions in Row D are based on the figures in Table 3 of Appendix 2, equating to 252 units in 2012/13 and 302 units in 2013/14.

The number of new households identified in Row A and in Row G is based on the latest Stage One CLG 2012-based household projections, which are currently derived from 2008-based household rates, pending further analysis of the 2011 Census.

CLG has identified that the 2008-based projections overestimated the rate of household formation when compared against the 2011 Census and further information on household representative rates based at 2011 will be incorporated into

⁶⁰ outline planning permission for up to 15,193 units was granted subject to a section 106 legal agreement signed in May 2012. No reserve matters applications have yet been submitted.

Stage Two projections, to be released later in 2015. The projected level of new household formation may therefore be subject to further change.

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

Evidence collected through the New Homes Bonus, which calculates net new housing delivery through Council Tax records, indicates that almost 900 empty homes have also been brought back into use since 2011. This highlights the significant contribution of empty properties to the delivery of new homes in Wirral.

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

Appendix 4

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 Sections 7, 8, 12 & 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
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

Local Development Framework for Wirral - Monitoring Report December 2014
(Revised March 2015)

Study	Commissioned	Current Status	Documents Affected
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
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 Market Assessment Update (including 2012-based household projections)	August 2013	Ongoing	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations

8 GLOSSARY

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Adoption		The stage at which the Council formally decides to adopt the final version of a Local Development Document to make it legally operative
Allocated		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in the Unitary Development Plan
Allocation		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in a Local Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan or the Unitary Development Plan
Assisted Areas		Recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development.
Biodiversity		A collective term for the full variety of biological life on earth including plants, animals and eco-systems
Category 1 Hazard		A Category 1 Hazard is the most severe rating within the new Housing Health and Safety Rating System. A hazard is a risk of harm to the health or safety of an actual or potential occupier of a dwelling or House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) arising from a deficiency in the dwelling or in any building or land in the vicinity (whether the deficiency arises as a result of the construction of any building, an absence of maintenance or repair, or otherwise)
Category 1 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five years
Category 2 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five to ten years
Category 3 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites not currently developable for housing within ten years
Climate Change Local Area Support Programme	CLASP	The local authority and public sector sustainability support service for the NW of England, dealing with the challenges of environmental resilience, reducing energy use and renewable energy planning issues
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	A financial charge that can be levied on new development to pay for local infrastructure to be provided
Community Strategy		See "Sustainable Community Strategy"
Conservation Area		An identified area designated by the Council to allow the character and appearance of that area to be protected

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
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 of Energy and Climate Change	DECC	The Government Department responsible for all aspects of UK energy policy and for tackling global climate change on behalf of the UK
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA	The Government Department responsible for sustainable development, environmental protection and rural policy
Department for Work and Pensions	DWP	The Government Department responsible for distributing national benefits and allowances such as jobseekers allowance, child support and pensions
Development Plan		A statutory document that individual planning decisions must legally be made in accordance with unless material considerations indicate otherwise
Dock Estate		An area of land owned and operated by a port operator, which was set aside for port-related land uses in the Unitary Development Plan
Environment Agency	EA	A government body with responsibility for preventing harmful impacts on the environment
English Heritage	EH	A government body with responsibility for protecting and promoting the historic environment
Green Flag Awards		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
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
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

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
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
Interim Planning Policy for New Housing Development		A policy document adopted by the Council in October 2005, which restricted the location of new housing development in line with the priorities set out in the former Regional Spatial Strategy
Liverpool City Region		The functional economic area based around the City of Liverpool
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
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	A statement of national planning policy, published by the Government, which all planning decisions should normally follow
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority	MRWA	Joint waste disposal authority responsible for the management of municipal waste collected by the five constituent councils of Merseyside or delivered to one of the Authority's Household Waste Recycling Centres.
Neighbourhood Development Order		An Order prepared by the local community, following a local referendum, that allows development to take place without the need to apply for planning permission
Neighbourhood Development Plan		A new type of Development Plan, prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council after a local referendum
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

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Permitted Development		Development that can be undertaken without the need to apply to the Council for planning permission
Planning Inspector		A person appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the Independent Examination of a Local Plan
Preferred Options		The stage at which the development options preferred by the Council, for inclusion in a Local Plan, are published, alongside an explanation of why they have been chosen
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
Proposals Map		An annotated map showing the areas of land where the policies and proposals contained within the Unitary Development Plan or a Local Plan will apply
Proposed Submission Draft		A preliminary version of a Local Plan that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination
Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West	RSS	A statutory document, now revoked, which was previously issued by the Secretary of State to set out the vision and priorities for future development within the North West Region
Registered Provider	RP	An organisation registered as a provider of housing to meet the needs of people unable to afford to own their own home
Scheduled Ancient Monument	SAM	An identified area designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its national importance for archaeology
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
Site Allocations Local Plan		A Local Plan which will identify and allocate specific areas of land for specific types of development
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
Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor	STEAM	A nationally agreed methodology for calculating the economic value of the tourist and visitor economy

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A site designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its scientific importance for nature conservation and/or earth science
Stakeholder		A person or organisation with an interest in the future planning and development of the Borough
Statutory		A document or process which has a special legal status, as set out in national law
Submission		The stage at which a proposed Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration at an Independent Examination
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A Local Development Document which provides additional information to help landowners and developers prepare acceptable planning applications
Unitary Development Plan	UDP	An old-style Development Plan, which will be progressively replaced by the new-style Local Plans contained within the emerging Local Development Framework
Use Class		A category of land use defined in national law
Use Class A1	A1	Land uses falling within the category of shops
Use Class A2	A2	Land uses falling within the category of financial and professional services
Use Class B1 (a)	B1(a)	Land uses falling within the category of business, as an office which will not be used to provide services to the visiting public
Use Class B1 (b)	B1(b)	Land uses falling within the category of business, which will be used for research and development
Use Class B1 (c)	B1(c)	Land uses falling within the category of business, for an industrial process that can be carried out within a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B2	B2	Land uses falling within the category of general industry, which could not be carried out in a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B8	B8	Land uses falling within the category of storage and distribution
Use Class D2	D2	Land uses falling within the category of assembly and leisure
Wirral Waters		A project to create an internationally recognised city waterfront, focused on the East Float of the Birkenhead and Wallasey dock system and part of the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone