



**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL**

**MONITORING REPORT**

**2014/15**

**DECEMBER 2015**

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## **1 Executive Summary**

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

1.2 This report covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2015.

### **Monitoring Policy Implementation**

1.3 Recovery from the national recession has continued to take place but is still having a noticeable impact on a number of indicators.

### **Population**

1.4 The latest national mid-year estimate for 2014, expects the Borough's population to have increased to 320,900 from 319,800 in 2011.

1.5 The latest 2012-based national population and household projections expect the population to increase by 3.4 percent to 331,200 people and the number of households to increase by 10.8 percent to 156,600 by 2037.

### **Economy and Retail**

1.6 In 2015, economic activity within the local population increased to 147,400 people from 144,800 people in 2014. The number of residents who were economically inactive increased to 52,900.

1.7 There were 3,090 fewer working age residents claiming key benefits in February 2015 than in February 2014 and the number of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance had continued to reduce to 3,172 by March 2015, a faster reduction than anywhere in the City Region.

1.8 The completion of new employment floorspace rose significantly but the completion of new office and storage and distribution floorspace continued to reduce.

1.9 There was also a significant increase in completed retail floorspace during 2014/15, the majority of which took place at Croft Retail and Leisure Park in Bromborough.

### **Housing**

1.10 Gross housing completions increased from 500 in 2013/14 to 563 in 2014/15 and net performance increased significantly from 302 to 537, close to the level achieved during the previous market peak in 2007/08, assisted by a significantly lower number of demolitions.

1.11 The number of future demolitions is expected to remain low, as existing targeted programmes draw to a close.

1.12 The proportion of dwellings completed on previously developed land remained high, at 95 percent, during 2014/15.

1.13 There was a further increase in the completion of new affordable dwellings, to 315 units, from the 188 units delivered in 2013/14.

1.14 The proportion of new housing located more than 400 metres away from a bus stop or railway station remained low, at just over 2% in 2014/15.

## **Environment and Resources**

1.15 The inclusion of Queens Park, Mayer Park and Rake Lane Cemetery, raised the proportion of public open space maintained to the Green Flag Award standard to 42% during 2014/15.

1.16 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of flood risk or water quality during 2014/15.

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

1.18 The proportion of households living in fuel poverty is now only half a percentage point above the national average for England.

## **Monitoring Plan Preparation**

1.19 A revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy is now expected to be published towards the middle of 2016, following the completion of an up-to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Development Viability Assessment and Retail Study.

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

1.21 The Core Strategy is now expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination towards the end of 2016.

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

1.23 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park is expected to be adopted in December 2015, following a successful local referendum in October 2015.

1.24 The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake was submitted and published for independent examination in November 2015

1.25 A new Neighbourhood Area for Birkenhead and Tranmere was designated on 27 July 2015 and the accompanying Neighbourhood Forum was designated in November 2015.

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

## Questions and Comments

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

1.28 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 eleventh Annual Monitoring Report for Wirral (AMR) prepared under Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

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

2.3 This AMR principally covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2015 but also includes more up-to-date information where this is available.

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

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

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

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

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

### **3 Policy Context**

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West was revoked by the Government 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 UDP can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan>

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

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

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

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

## Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

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

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

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

## Local Development Documents

3.15 The following Local Development Documents are currently in force:

Document	Adopted
SPD1 - Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Mast Operators	October 2006
SPD2 - Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions	October 2006
SPD3 - Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments	October 2006
SPD4 - Parking Standards	June 2007
Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton	July 2013
Statement Of Community Involvement (Revised)	March 2014
Local Development Scheme (Revised)	July 2015

**Table 3.1 Adopted Documents**

3.16 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park is expected to come into force in December 2015.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

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

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

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

3.25 The Hoylake Community Planning Forum published a draft Plan for public consultation in January 2015 and submitted their final plan to the Council in September 2015. The Council published the proposals in November 2015, with a view to submitting them to independent examination in early 2016.

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

3.27 A neighbourhood area for Birkenhead and Tranmere was designated on 27 July 2015 and the accompanying neighbourhood forum was designated on 5 November 2015. The latest information can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/birkenhead-and-tranmere> or on the Forum's website at <http://batnpf.org/>.

## Community Infrastructure Levy

3.28 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.

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

## Wirral Council Corporate Plan 2015/20

3.30 The Council's latest five-year plan was approved by the Council in July 2015. The Wirral Plan – A 2020 Vision has now also been adopted by the wider Wirral Partnership, to guide all future public investment to 2020.

3.31 A Phase One Delivery Plan was endorsed in October 2015, to be aligned with the Council's five-year medium-term financial strategy.

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

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

3.33 Targets include:

- the creation and safeguarding of 5,000 jobs;
- attracting £250 million of private sector investment;
- 250 net additional new businesses;
- building 3,500 new homes;

- improving 2,250 private sector properties;
- bringing 1,250 empty homes back into use;
- achieving over 50% recycling of municipal waste; and
- achieving less than 10% of non-recycled waste collected and landfilled.

## **Wirral Investment Strategy**

3.34 The Wirral Investment Strategy has previously set out Wirral's programme for economic growth and outlined key projects and emerging opportunities to attract private sector investment.

3.35 The Council has been working closely with other local authorities within the City Region through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and with partners through the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership to gain more powers and funding from Government to attract more investment and jobs.

3.36 The Wirral Investment Strategy is currently being updated, to be replaced by a Wirral Growth Plan as part of the Wirral Plan – A 2020 Vision, to deliver the following benefits:

- economic growth linked to supporting local people into employment;
- a stronger recognition of apprenticeships as a route to employment and business growth;
- additional employment opportunities and improved quality of life for Wirral residents; and
- the promotion of Wirral as a preferred destination for employers, investors and an increasingly highly skilled workforce.

3.37 The key programmes and projects that will form the direction of travel to 2020 will include:

- a new college campus for Wirral Metropolitan College;
- the delivery of skills for growth agreements;
- development of a maritime knowledge hub with local universities, business growth services and an offshore survival training facility;
- a £12million, 50,000 square foot office development at Tower Wharf;
- a £42million investment in a 17,000 square metre building to serve the civil nuclear industry;
- multi-agency support for the Wirral Worklessness Support Programme;
- a youth employment gateway programme;

- addressing high levels of health related worklessness;
- new and improved infrastructure for key economic opportunities;
- enhancement of the Borderlands (Bidston-Wrexham) railway line;
- employment-related facilities for public transport, walking and cycling;
- large scale waterfront regeneration at Wirral Waters;
- a new and improved port facility at the entrance to the Manchester Ship Canal;
- re-instatement of the Birkenhead Docks freight line, to allow ease of movement to and from the West Float;
- creation of an advanced marine and energy supplier park at West Float;
- continued support to strengthen the logistics and supply chain offer at key locations such as Wirral International Business Park;
- for the Advanced Manufacturing and Automotive Sector:
  - development and marketing of an advanced manufacturing supplier park at Wirral Waters; and
  - partnership with the Government's Automotive Investment Organisation to help support potential investors;
- for the Renewable Energy Sector:
  - further enhanced facilities at Cammell Laird;
  - creation of two new business parks to develop the industry supply chain; and
  - targeted financial assistance to reduce barriers to entry and increase private investment in the supply chain; and
- for Research and Development:
  - a partnership with Unilever to extend Port Sunlight and establish a Research and Development park;
  - a new knowledge hub for advanced and maritime engineering; and
  - establishing the feasibility of a digital enterprise network for the City Region.

3.38 The new Wirral Growth Plan will set the direction for the next 20 years, by creating a more comprehensive approach to growth in Wirral, including housing, tourism, transport and infrastructure, with closer integration with

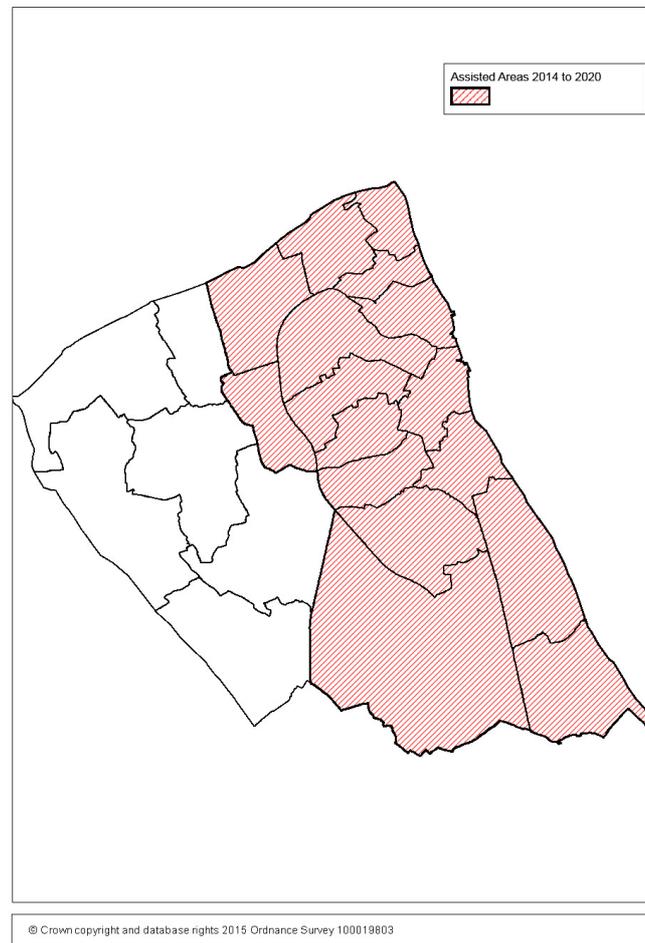
partners from all sectors to fully reflect the ambition of Wirral and provide an improved platform for partnership delivery.

## Assisted Areas

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

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

3.41 The Electoral Wards in Wirral that currently benefit from Assisted Area status include: Wallasey; New Brighton; Liscard; Seacombe; Leasowe and Moreton East; Bidston and St James; Upton; Claughton; Birkenhead and Tranmere; Oxtton; Prenton; Rock Ferry; Bebington; Clatterbridge; Bromborough; and Eastham.



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

## 4 Monitoring Policy Implementation

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

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

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

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

4.5 A fuller overview of the main characteristics of the Borough is contained within the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Spatial Portrait, which can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-0>.

### Population

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

4.7 The latest 2012-based national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase to 331,200 by 2037 and to 325,100 by 2021<sup>1</sup>, 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	+3.4%
Merseyside	1,386	1,386	1,390	1,395	1,401	1,406	1,412	1,423	1,433	1,441	1,444	+0.6%

**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 2037<sup>2</sup>, with the highest rates of growth between 2014 and 2021, followed by lower rates of growth to 2037.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/snpp/sub-national-population-projections/2012-based-projections/rft-population-las.xls>

<sup>2</sup> 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 are being used to inform an updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Wirral, which is now expected to report in early 2016.

National Mid-Year Population Estimate (Wirral)	Young People (0-15 years)	Working Age (males 16-64 & females 16-60) <sup>3</sup>	Retired (males 65 & over & females 61 & over)
2014	59,637	187,105	74,172
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 2002-2014**

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 (31 percent) lives in areas ranked as having some of the greatest social, economic and environmental needs in England.

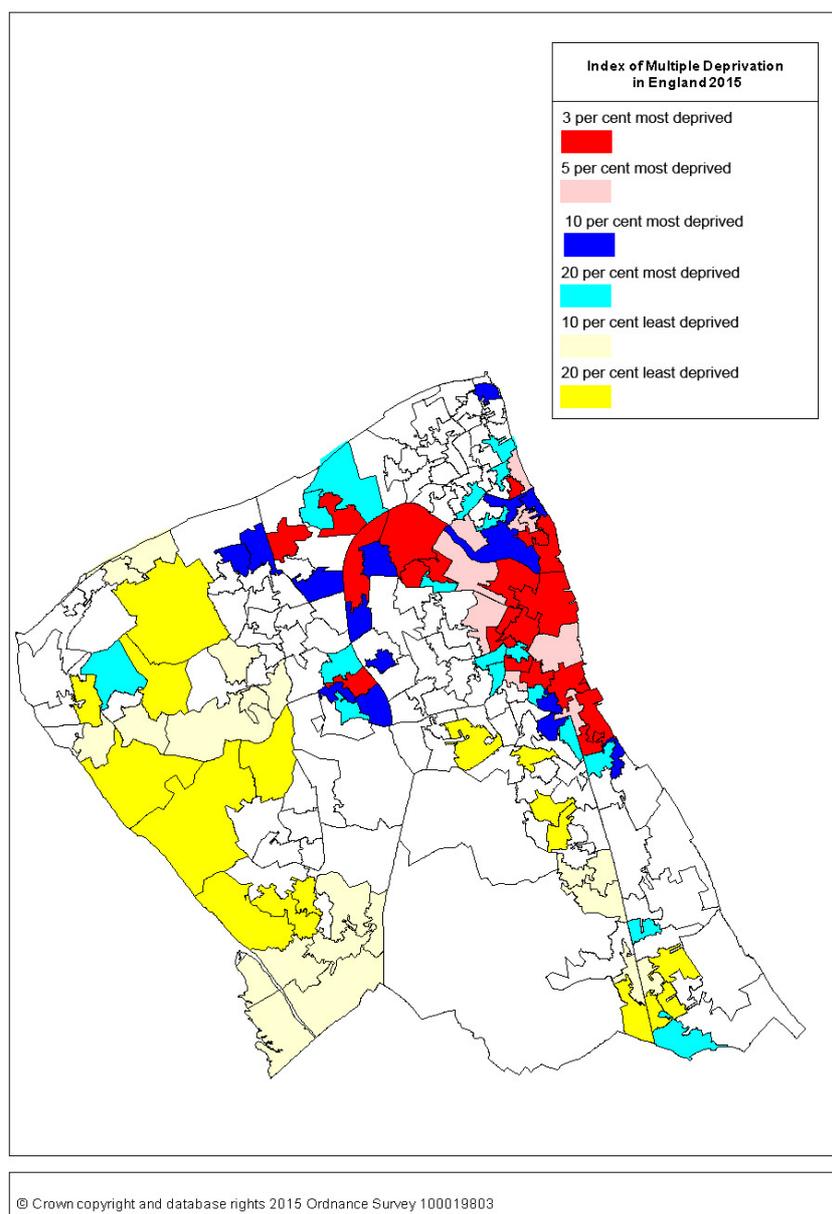
4.12 Over 22 percent of children in Wirral also currently live in low income households<sup>4</sup>.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 24)



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

4.15 Currently, just over two thirds of children in Wirral (70 percent) reach their development target at the age of five. Over three-quarters of Wirral schools (78.5 percent) are rated 'good' or better by OFSTED<sup>5</sup> and in 2014, 60 percent of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at Grades A\* to C including English and Maths. The national average for England was 53.4 percent.

4.16 Wirral still has a relatively low crime rate despite increases during the last two financial years. The same pattern, of nine years of annual reductions followed by increases in both 2013/14 and 2014/15, are also reflected across the rest of Merseyside.

<sup>5</sup> Wirral Compendium of Health Statistics (NHS Wirral, 2015) <http://tinyurl.com/pn6srry>

<sup>6</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 20)

4.17 There were 19,061 recorded crimes in Wirral during 2014/15, equivalent to 59.5 crimes per thousand people, representing a decrease of 10 percent in the total number of crimes in Wirral over the 11 years to March 2015. Wirral remains below both the average for England and Wales, of 62.5 crimes per thousand and the average for Merseyside, of 77.0 crimes per thousand people.

4.18 On average, the number of anti-social behaviour calls made to the Police in Wirral has reduced by 5 percent per year since 2003/04, up to and including 2014/15<sup>7</sup>.

## Economy

4.19 Wirral's economy is currently worth around £3.9 billion, its highest ever value and makes up around 15 percent of the Merseyside total<sup>8</sup>.

GVA per Capita (£)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change 2012-2013
Wirral	11,667	11820	12,229	11,632	11,913	12,478	11,668	12,482	+6.9%
Merseyside	16,081	16,440	16,839	17,284	17,697	17,619	17,412	17,852	+2.4%
North West	17,860	18,619	18,738	18,763	19,303	18,997	19,288	19,937	+3.4%
UK	20,699	21,656	22,139	21,604	22,318	22,779	23,168	23,755	+2.5%

**Table 4.4 Gross Value Added 2006 to 2013**

4.20 Growth in Gross Value Added per capita was above the national, regional and sub-regional average between 2012 and 2013<sup>9</sup>.

Total Employees	Full Time (percentage)	Part Time (percentage)	Job Density (2012) <sup>10</sup>
Wirral	62.0%	38.0%	0.58%
Merseyside	65.3%	34.7%	0.67%
North West	67.7%	32.3%	0.77%
Great Britain	68.3%	31.7%	0.80%

**Table 4.5 Wirral Employees 2014<sup>11</sup>**

4.21 The total number of all jobs in the Borough, at 113,000, is the highest figure for 5 years<sup>12</sup>.

4.22 The most recent data show 97,700 employee jobs in Wirral in 2014, 100 above the pre-recession figure of 97,600 in 2007. There was still a higher proportion of part-time jobs in the local economy, compared with the averages for Merseyside, the North West and Great Britain<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Office for National Statistics: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/index.html>

<sup>8</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 32)

<sup>9</sup> ONS Regional Gross Value Added (Income Approach) NUTS3 Table 3:2 (July 2014)

<sup>10</sup> Job Density data: NOMIS 2013

<sup>11</sup> Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2014

<sup>12</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 32)

<sup>13</sup> Local Authority Profile for Wirral: NOMIS 2014

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

4.24 Wirral also 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%	0.1%	0.4%
Energy and Water (D-E)	1,000	1.1%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%
Manufacturing (C)	9,500	9.7%	7.8%	10.3%	8.5%
Construction (F)	4,100	4.2%	3.9%	4.5%	4.5%
Services (G-S)	83,000	84.9%	87.5%	84.1%	85.6%
Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G)	15,000	15.3%	16.2%	16.2%	15.9%
Transport Storage (H)	3,000	3.1%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	6,300	6.5%	6.8%	7.1%	7.1%
Information and Communication (J)	1,500	1.5%	1.9%	2.7%	4.1%
Financial and other business services (K – N)	15,700	16.0%	18.1%	20.5%	22.2%
Public admin, education and health (O – Q)	36,700	37.5%	35.1%	28.5%	27.4%
Other Services (R – S)	4,900	5.0%	4.7%	4.5%	4.4%

**Table 4.6 Employee Jobs by Industry 2014**<sup>14</sup>

4.25 Wirral currently has the highest concentration of fast growing businesses in the UK<sup>15</sup>.

District	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2014	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2015	% of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises in Merseyside 2015	Change 2014-2015
Knowsley	2,440	2,915	8.5%	+19.5%
Liverpool	10,560	11,690	34.1%	+10.7%
St Helens	3,750	4,195	12.2%	+11.9%
Sefton	6,615	7,265	21.2%	+9.8%
Wirral	7,400	8,220	24.0%	+11.1%
Merseyside	30,770	34,285	100.0%	+11.4%

**Table 4.7 Change in VAT and PAYE Enterprises**<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral [2014]

<sup>15</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 32)

<sup>16</sup> UK Business 2014: Table B1.3 (ONS, 2013 and 2014)

4.26 The latest figures show 8,220 VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Wirral in 2015, almost a quarter (24 percent) of all the VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Merseyside. The yearly increase of 820 enterprises this year is the largest in the last three years.

Percentage of Working Age Population	Economically Active	In Employment (employees)	In Employment (self-employed)	Economically Inactive
Wirral	72.9%	59.9%	6.7%	27.1%
Merseyside	71.5%	57.6%	7.2%	28.5%
North West	74.7%	69.8%	8.7%	25.3%
Great Britain	77.4%	72.7%	10.1%	22.6%

**Table 4.8 Economic Activity 2015**

4.27 147,400 people were classified as economically active in 2015, with 120,800 people in employment including 14,100 self-employed. Economic activity has therefore reduced from 75.3 percent in 2014<sup>17</sup>, compared with the most recent pre-recession high point of 76.4 percent in 2007.

4.28 The number of people who were economically inactive increased from 45,900 in 2014 to 52,900 in 2015, 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 2013/14<sup>18</sup>**

4.29 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 2013/14<sup>19</sup>**

4.30 Average weekly earnings for employees working in Wirral moved above the regional average for the first time in 2013/14.

<sup>17</sup> Employment and Unemployment (Apr 2013 – March 2014) Nomis September 2014

<sup>18</sup> ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, November 2014)

<sup>19</sup> ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Workplace (NOMIS, November 2014)

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	February 2011	February 2012	February 2013	February 2014	February 2015
Wirral	21.2%	21.6%	20.0%	19.2%	17.7%
Merseyside	22.6%	23.0%	21.7%	20.7%	19.0%
North West	17.8%	18.2%	17.4%	16.3%	15.0%
Great Britain	14.7%	15.0%	14.3%	13.3%	12.5%

**Table 4.11 Key Benefits Claimants 2011 to 2015<sup>20</sup>**

4.31 By February 2015, 34,510 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 37,600 in February 2014<sup>21</sup>.

Claimants (Percentage of Working Age Population)	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015
Wirral	4.9%	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	3.2%	1.6%
Merseyside	5.7%	5.5%	5.9%	5.4%	4.4%	1.8%
North West	4.4%	4.1%	4.6%	4.4%	3.2%	2.0%
Great Britain	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%	3.8%	2.9%	2.4%

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

4.32 Wirral has seen a faster reduction in Job Seekers Allowance claimants than anywhere in the City Region<sup>23</sup>.

4.33 By March 2015, 3,172 people in Wirral were actively seeking work as claimants for Job Seekers' Allowance, a decrease of half (50 percent) since March 2014, compared to the most recent high point of 10,353 in September 2009.

4.34 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

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

4.36 Figures from the Valuation Office Agency, for a range of classes of property liable for business rates between 2000 and 2012 (included in a 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.

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

<sup>21</sup> 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

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

<sup>23</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 32)

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.

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)	178	0	0	10,432	290	10,900
Completed floorspace (net)	-6,412	0	-1,026	0	-126	2,868
Total completed on previously developed land (gross)	178	0	0	10,432	0	10,610
Percentage completed on previously developed land (gross)	100%	0%	100%	100%	0%	97%

**Table 4.13 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type and on Previously Developed Land 2014/15**

4.37 The year to April 2015 saw a significant increase in the amount of new employment floorspace completed, with a significant increase in new general industrial floorspace (Use Class B2).

4.38 The amount of completed new office (Use Class B1) and new storage and distribution floorspace (Use Class B8) nevertheless continued to reduce.

4.39 The overall trend was, however, positive, compared to the previous financial year, when demolitions and other losses had led to a net loss of employment floorspace overall.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Use Class B1(a)	4,857	8,542	3,801	8,803	275	1,426	91	1,008	619	178
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	621	0
Use Class B2	24,407	13,576	12,797	19,099	1,948	14,380	7,571	159	0	10,432
Use Class B8	0	53	0	0	0	440	18,964	1,956	1,234	290
Total Floorspace	<b>29,264</b>	<b>22,171</b>	<b>16,598</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>16,246</b>	<b>26,626</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>10,900</b>

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

4.40 Projects to provide up to 8,804 square meters of new office floorspace (Use Class B1a) and up to 2,209 square meters of new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2) were also registered as under construction at the end of the reporting period.

4.41 An additional 3,512 square meters of education floorspace for the construction industry (Use Class D1) was also being developed at Tower Quay, at Wirral Waters.

## Employment Land Supply

4.42 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 percent) of the land allocated as an Employment Development Site remained undeveloped at April 2015.

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 Within Primarily Industrial Areas	0.00	29.22	73.01
Other Land with Permission for B1, B2 or B8 Uses	42.86	0.00	43.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.87</b>	<b>52.35</b>	<b>167.21</b>

**Table 4.15 Employment Land Available by Type (April 2015)**

4.43 There was an additional 26.67 hectares of vacant land within the Dock Estates at April 2015 (which is not included in the table above), of which 9.18 hectares are within the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone.

4.44 Table 4.16 shows the take up of employment land over the last ten years.

Year	Small Sites (0-0.2 hectares)	Large Sites (>0.2 hectares)	Total Land
2005/06	0.10	6.32	6.42
2006/07	0.37	11.49	11.86
2007/08	0.46	4.75	5.21
2008/09	0.72	5.94	6.66
2009/10	0.25	0.21	0.46
2010/11	0.48	4.01	4.49
2011/12	0.02	7.24	7.26
2012/13	0.47	19.22	19.69
2013/14	0.58	0.00	0.58
2014/15	0.57	7.28	7.85

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

## Town Centres

4.45 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 Borough<sup>24</sup>.

4.46 Liverpool remains 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 Wirral<sup>25</sup>.

4.47 There was a significant increase in completed retail (Use Class A1) floorspace in Wirral during 2014/15, most of which took place at Croft Retail and Leisure Park in Bromborough. All of the additional floorspace for financial and professional services took place within an existing town centre.

Use Class	Town Centre		Borough Total		% in Town Centres	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Use Class A1	374	374	7,954	7,489	5%	5%
Use Class A2	413	413	413	413	100%	100%
Use Class B1a	109	109	178	178	61%	61%
Use Class D2	0	0	30	30	0%	0%

**Table 4.17 Total Amount of Floorspace Developed for Town Centre Uses 2014/15**

4.48 The table below shows the changing trend over time.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Use Class A1 (gross)	2,385	10,366	967	2,332	1,603	22,300	4,635	828	7,954
(percentage in town centres)	28%	66%	63%	0%	23%	55%	55%	59%	5%
Use Class A1 (sales)	1,786	7,844	559	2012	1,236	12,205	2,418	471	7,489
(percentage in town centres)	28%	58%	59%	0%	21%	35%	56%	42%	5%
Use Class A2	-	-	-	-	-	-	265	-	413
(percentage in town centres)	-	-	-	-	-	-	43%	-	100%
Use Class D2	488	4,044	1,826	-	3,739	4,304	4,195	-	30
(percentage in town centres)	34%	14%	6%	-	27%	0%	2%	100%	0%

**Table 4.18 Completed Floorspace for Town Centre Uses 2006/07 to 2014/2015**

<sup>24</sup> the latest expenditure forecasts are included in the Wirral Retail Strategy Update (GVA, March 2012)

<sup>25</sup> Further information on local spending is contained within the Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure Study (Roger Tym and Partners, 2009)

4.49 The Council's latest assessment of retail spending and capacity and centre health is expected to be published in early 2016.

## Town Centre Action Plans

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

4.51 Work on an Action Plan for Oxtton Village began in November 2015.

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

## Tourism

4.53 Wirral has the fastest growing visitor economy in the Liverpool City Region<sup>26</sup> and the Borough's visitor sector was valued at over £355 million in 2014, up by 8.4 percent since 2013.

<b>Expenditure by Sector (£ million)</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
Accommodation	28.65	28.61	-0.1
Food & Drink	62.30	68.10	+9.3
Recreation	16.62	18.12	+9.0
Shopping	114.04	125.00	+9.6
Transport	25.08	27.47	+9.5
<b>Total Direct Revenue</b>	<b>246.69</b>	<b>267.30</b>	<b>+8.4</b>
Indirect Expenditure	81.16	88.17	+8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>327.85</b>	<b>355.47</b>	<b>+8.4</b>

**Table 4.19 Visitor Spending by Sector in 2013 and 2014**

4.54 The total number of visits to Wirral rose by 7.2 percent, to over 7.5 million during 2014.

4.55 Wirral's tourism sector also supported over 4,800 full-time equivalent jobs, up by 4.3 percent since 2013.

<b>Employment by Sector (jobs)</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
Accommodation	622	622	0
Food & Drink	953	1,000	+5.0
Recreation	308	323	+4.8
Shopping	1,590	1,674	+5.3
Transport	171	180	+5.2
<b>Total Direct Employment</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>3,799</b>	<b>+4.2</b>
Indirect Employment	962	1,004	+4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,606</b>	<b>4,803</b>	<b>+4.3</b>

**Table 4.20 Visitor Related Employment by Sector in 2013 and 2014**

<sup>26</sup> The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Delivery Plan - Phase One (page 40)

## 4.56 Since 2009:

- the visitor economy has increased by over 40 percent (from £251.53 million in 2009 to £355.47 million in 2014);
- employment in tourism has increased by over 20 percent (from 3,998 in 2009 to 4,803 in 2014); and
- visitor numbers have increased by 14 percent (from 6.65 million in 2009 to 7.59 million in 2014).

## Housing

4.57 Wirral has many areas of attractive high quality housing but large concentrations of poorer stock, particularly in east Wirral. The Council's latest condition survey estimated that approximately 12,000 private sector dwellings (9.8 percent) were subject to Category 1 Hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System<sup>27</sup>.

Dwelling Stock by Sector (number of dwellings)	Total Stock	Vacant	Percentage Vacant
Registered Provider	23,341	680	2.91%
Private Sector	125,857	4,467	3.55%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>149,198</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>3.45%</b>

**Table 4.21 Wirral Dwelling Stock April 2015**

4.58 Wirral had 149,198 residential properties in April 2015. Just over 84 percent were privately owned. Just under 16 percent were owned by a Registered Provider. The vast majority of vacancies (86 percent) were within the private sector housing stock.

4.59 The number of occupied dwellings has increased from 143,221 in 2005 to 149,198 in 2015, representing an annual average increase of nearly 600 over the last ten years.

Housing Stock	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Private	121,725	122,524	122,957	123,276	122,679	123,301	121,376	123,746	125,857
RSL	22,275	22,193	22,461	22,837	23,074	23,037	25,027	23,030	23,341
Other Public	23	9	9	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total Stock	144,023	144,726	145,427	146,115	145,753	146,338	146,403	146,776	149,198
% Vacant	4.3%	5.0%	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.1%	4.0%	3.6%	3.45%

**Table 4.22 Changes in Wirral Dwelling Stock 2007 to 2015**

4.60 Average house prices increased by 3.5 percent in Wirral in the year to March 2015, higher than the overall increase for both Merseyside (2.1 percent) and for the North West Region (2.7 percent).

<sup>27</sup> Wirral Private Sector House Condition Survey 2013

Average House Prices	Wirral	Merseyside	North West
Overall	£115,630	£104,776	£111,661
Detached	£257,998	£207,536	£216,957
Semi-detached	£129,519	£110,379	£113,910
Terraced	£74,570	£63,289	£67,238
Flat/Maisonette	£95,271	£106,031	£106,048

**Table 4.23 Average House Prices April 2014 - March 2015**

4.61 The average property price for the Borough as a whole was just under five times the average salary for the Borough in 2014/2015<sup>28</sup>.

## Housing Land Supply

4.62 The Borough's housing land supply with planning permission at 31 March 2015 was 1,932 units, with additional outline consent for 13,521 units at Wirral Waters. The proportion of units with planning permission on previously developed land decreased from 95 percent to 87 percent.

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

Source of Supply	April 2014	April 2015
Category 1 Sites - developable within five years	994	1,093
Category 2 Sites - deliverable within ten years	1,626	1,490
Category 3 Sites - not currently deliverable	3,400	2,911
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>5,494</b>

**Table 4.24 Capacity of Additional Housing Land Supply (dwellings)<sup>29</sup>**

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

4.65 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 been published, to take account of the 2011 Census.

4.66 An initial calculation of the Borough's five-year housing land supply at April 2015, based on the latest Stage One CLG 2012-based household

<sup>28</sup> Calculated using the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, 2014) and <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/hpi>

<sup>29</sup> A copy of the findings of the latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment April 2015 has been published alongside this AMR and can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-4>

projections, is set out in Appendix 3 to this AMR. The calculation will need to be re-assessed following the completion of the Council's latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which is now expected to report in early 2016<sup>30</sup>.

## Housing Delivery

Completed Dwellings	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Gross New Build	422	284	258	254	463	420	395
Demolitions	242	131	175	242	355	181	16
Net New Build	180	153	83	12	108	239	379
Gross Conversions	177	56	14	14	177	80	168
Net Conversions	154	47	14	10	144	63	158
Total Gross Additional	599	340	272	268	640	500	563
Total Net Additional	334	200	97	22	252	302	537

**Table 4.25 Completed Dwellings 2008/09 to 2014/15**

4.67 Gross completions totalled 563 during 2014/15<sup>31</sup>. The percentage of residential completions on previously developed land was 95 percent, compared to 98 percent in 2013/14.

4.68 The number of recorded demolitions reduced significantly, to only 16 in 2014/15 and is expected to continue to remain low as existing targeted programmes draw to a close.

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Settlement Area 1 – Wallasey	153	62	66	100	13	130	87	131
	19%	10%	19%	37%	5%	20%	17%	23%
Settlement Area 2 – Commercial Core	49	92	34	0	0	8	4	26
	6%	15%	10%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%
Settlement Area 3 – Suburban Birkenhead	329	295	92	89	108	219	198	122
	40%	49%	27%	33%	40%	34%	40%	22%
Settlement Area 4 – Bromb & Eastham	185	73	65	56	130	135	83	35
	23%	12%	19%	21%	49%	21%	17%	6%
Settlement Area 5 – Mid Wirral	84	20	78	19	4	89	64	196 <sup>32</sup>
	10%	3%	23%	7%	1%	14%	13%	35%
Settlement Area 6 – Hoylake & West Kirby	7	43	0	1	0	36	42	13
	1%	7%	0%	0%	0%	6%	8%	2%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	10	7	2	3	3	10	10	13
	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Settlement Area 8 – Rural Areas	3	7	3	4	10	13	12	27
	0%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>563</b>

**Table 4.26 Completed Dwellings (Gross) 2007/08 to 2014/15**

<sup>30</sup> Following the publication of the more detailed CLG 2012-based Stage Two household data

<sup>31</sup> Gross completions in 2007/08, prior to the onset of the recession, totalled 820 (564 net)

<sup>32</sup> includes 155 units at the Former St Benedicts School, Woodchurch

4.69 Table 4.26 shows how the geographical pattern of development has changed across the Borough since April 2007<sup>33</sup>.

## Gypsies and Travellers

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

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

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

## Affordable Housing

4.73 The number of affordable housing completions increased from 188 in 2013/14 to 315 in 2014/15. The new dwellings were located in Woodchurch (149), Poulton (55), New Brighton (32), Oxton (21), Beechwood (18), Liscard (15), Bidston (12), Moreton (7) and Eastham (6).

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	102	131	78%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	0	26	0%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	51	122	42%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromborough & Eastham	0	35	0%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	156	196	80%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	0	13	0%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	0	13	0%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	6	27	22%
<b>Total Borough</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>56%</b>

**Table 4.27 Affordable Housing Completions (Gross) 2014/15**

4.74 The current targets for the provision of affordable housing, based on the existing Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update and Affordable Housing Viability Assessment from 2010, are 10 percent within areas of greatest need<sup>34</sup> and 20 percent across the rest of Wirral, applied to sites with a capacity of 5 dwellings and above.

<sup>33</sup> Settlement Areas used for this analysis are defined in the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012)

<sup>34</sup> Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20% of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation

4.75 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 during 2016.

## Heritage

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

4.77 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with 729 nationally designated entries on the Historic England National Heritage List for England, including nine Ancient Monuments, four Historic Parks and Gardens and twenty-six Council-designated Conservation Areas.

4.78 The following heritage assets are currently included on the national Historic England Heritage at Risk Register<sup>35</sup>:

- 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
- Church of St Paul, Wallasey
- Bromborough Court House (Moated Site and Fishponds)
- Moated site 400m North East of New Hall
- Flaybrick Memorial Gardens and Flaybrick Cemetery Conservation Area, Bidston
- Thornton Manor, Bebington
- Hamilton Square Conservation Area, Birkenhead
- Trinity with Palm Grove United Reformed Church, Birkenhead

4.79 Since the last AMR, Birkenhead Priory; Oxton Road Congregational Church; and Christ Church, Port Sunlight, have been removed from the Register

4.80 Stage II HLF funding has been secured for repairs to the Church of St Peter and St Paul and Philomena, New Brighton and a further HLF bid has now also been submitted.

4.81 Birkenhead High School Academy received £81,000 for the restoration and interpretation of World War II Air Raid Shelters, which is now complete.

4.82 St Anslem's College has received £18,000 for a HLF 'Young Roots' project to research and interpret the history of Outwood House.

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<sup>35</sup> <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&di=Wirral&ctype=all&crit> (2015)

4.83 Tranmere Tunnels Volunteers Limited has received funding from HLF and other sources to explore the feasibility of re-opening the World War II shelters at Tranmere.

4.84 Friends of Hilbre Island, in association with Liverpool University, have applied for HLF funding to support a community archaeology project.

4.85 The Council in partnership with Historic England and the Friends Group, continue to work together to secure the long term future of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens. A Condition Survey of the derelict chapels has been funded by Historic England and funding for major consolidation works is now being sought.

4.86 A Conservation Area Forum has been established to represent the interests of all Wirral's Conservation Areas. The Forum has already produced a leaflet which will be given to residents within each of Wirral's designated Conservation Areas.

4.87 West Kirby Museum, which is run by local volunteers, re-opened in 2014, following major refurbishment and re-display and has recently been awarded a regional heritage interpretation award for excellence.

## **Biodiversity**

4.88 Five of the Borough's twelve nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), at Dee Cliffs; Dibbinsdale; Meols Meadows; Red Rocks; and the North Wirral Foreshore, are 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 condition<sup>36</sup>.

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

## **Public Open Space**

4.90 Twenty of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards in 2015. The addition of Queen's Park, Mayer Park and Rake Lane Cemetery, means that the percentage of public open space managed to Green Flag Award standards had increased to 42 percent.

4.91 Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm retained its Green Flag Community Award, for sites managed by voluntary and community groups. New Ferry Butterfly Park also received a Community Award. Birkenhead Park retained its Green Heritage Site Accreditation, in recognition of achieving the required standard

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/reportAction.cfm?Report=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1027>

<sup>37</sup> Nature Conservation: Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management 2013/14 (DEFRA November 2013) <http://tinyurl.com/nnbryd4>

in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance<sup>38</sup>.

<b>Total Public Open Space</b>	1,192 hectares <sup>39</sup>
<b>Area of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard</b>	505.65 hectares
<b>Percentage of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard</b>	42%

**Table 4.28 Amount of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Standards 2014/2015**

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

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

## Water Quality

4.94 Wirral's beaches have consistently been among the cleanest in the North West and four of Wirral's beaches were named in the 2015 Good Beach Guide as beaches that meet the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the Environment Agency<sup>41</sup>. West Kirby, Meols and Moreton received an 'Excellent' rating and Wallasey was rated as 'Good'.

4.95 The Council's current target is to achieve a Blue Flag Award for one beach by December 2016 and for a second beach by December 2019<sup>42</sup>.

4.96 The latest information on river water quality shows both Dibbinsdale Brook and Clatter Brook classified as 'Poor' overall and The Birket including Arroe Brook and Fender classified as 'Moderate'<sup>43</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>41</sup> Marine Conservation Society, Good Beach Guide 2015, Recommended Beaches

<sup>42</sup> Wirral Strategy for Green and Open Spaces 2014-2024

<sup>43</sup> Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer - Water Bodies Classifications for 2013

## Flood Risk

4.99 No objections were submitted by the Environment Agency to planning applications on flood risk grounds during 2014/15.

## Energy

4.100 Wirral was estimated to have consumed a total of 5,409 GWh of energy in 2013, compared to 5,637 GWh of energy in 2012 and 7,330 GWh in 2005<sup>44</sup>.

4.101 Average domestic consumption per household in Wirral was estimated at 17.3 tonnes of oil equivalent (MWh) in 2013, which was below the national and regional average<sup>45</sup>.

4.102 The majority of energy consumed was taken up for domestic needs. The proportion of energy in Wirral taken up by industry and commerce had dropped from 35 percent in 2003 to just above 29 percent in 2013<sup>46</sup>.

Total Final Energy Consumption (percentages)	Industry & Commerce	Domestic	Transport
Wirral	29.6%	45.2%	25.1%
North West	36.9%	33.5%	29.6%
Great Britain	37.3%	33.2%	29.6%

**Table 4.29 Energy Consumption by Sector 2013<sup>47</sup>**

4.103 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 is being 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.

4.104 Twenty-five wind turbines, capable of supplying electricity to up to 80,000 households, already operate off the Wirral shoreline at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay. An extension at Burbo Bank, consisting of a further thirty-two 8MW wind turbines with an additional generating capacity of 258MW, enough to supply approximately 180,000 homes, is expected to be commissioned in 2017<sup>48</sup>.

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

<sup>44</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2013 (September 2015)

<sup>45</sup> the average for Great Britain was 17.9 tonnes of oil equivalent and the average for the North West 17.7 tonnes of oil equivalent

<sup>46</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2013 (September 2015)

<sup>47</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2013 (Published September 2015)

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.burbobankextension.co.uk/en/news/articles/burbo-bank-extension-offshore-wind-farm-on-track-as-it-meets-key-milestone>

4.106 In terms of the more local generation of renewable energy, only two planning applications for solar panels were approved during 2014/15, principally due to extended permitted development rights for solar panels<sup>49</sup>.

4.107 Previous national figures showed that there were 1,667 domestic photovoltaic installations in Wirral, in December 2014, compared to only nine in June 2010, with 700 added since March 2013<sup>50</sup>.

4.108 A very small percentage of the total energy consumed currently comes from bioenergy and waste, estimated at 0.4 GWh in 2013, compared to 0.1 GWh in 2005<sup>51</sup>.

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

4.110 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bromborough Landfill was 6,533MWh during 2014/15, down from 7,673MWh in 2013/14.

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

## Household Energy Efficiency

4.112 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).

4.113 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 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

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	75.15	10,594	14.85	2093
Great Britain	44.08	1,145,641	15.25	399,064

**Table 4.30 ECO and Green Deal Assessments to 31 March 2015<sup>52</sup>**

<sup>49</sup> Application numbers LBC/14/01087 and APP/14/00748 refer

<sup>50</sup> DECC, Interactive Maps, Domestic Solar PV Installations 2014

<sup>51</sup> DECC Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom 2005-2013 (September 2015)

<sup>52</sup> DECC, "Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Insulation Levels in Great Britain, Quarterly Report: to March 2014" (June 2014)

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

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

**Table 4.31 Households in Fuel Poverty<sup>53</sup>**

4.115 The latest figures for fuel poverty show a decreasing trend in fuel poverty in Wirral and a reducing variance against the national average.

## Minerals

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

4.117 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 2010<sup>54</sup>.

4.118 Up to 1,700 tonnes of aggregate stone chippings have also previously been handled at a separate facility at Bromborough Wharf.

4.119 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. Existing landbanks for crushed rock and sand and gravel exceeded minimum requirements but there could be a shortfall in sand and gravel reserves over the next fifteen years.

4.120 At regional level, while sand and gravel sales were more stable, crushed rock sales were at a record low. Landbanks for the region as a whole had, however, remained at acceptable levels. The market for marine aggregate had grown by 1mt nationally, according to the Crown Estate.

4.121 The latest North West Aggregates Working Party Local Aggregates Assessment, for 2014 and copies of previous annual reports can be viewed at [http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc\\_ldf/minerals\\_and\\_waste/nwawp/](http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/minerals_and_waste/nwawp/)

<sup>53</sup> DECC, Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2009-2012 (released 2011–2014)

<sup>54</sup> Table 6.3 North West Aggregate Working Party Annual Monitoring Report 2014 - <http://tinyurl.com/o53nten>

4.122 The latest National Aggregate Mineral Survey had begun in July 2015.

## Waste

4.123 The amount of household waste arising continued to reduce in 2014/15.

4.124 The number of garden waste subscribers also increased further in 2014/15.

4.125 Although the measured contamination rate at the Materials Recovery Facility at Bidston rose to 9.1 percent in 2014/15, this was still the highest quality of dry recycling of any other co-mingled scheme within the City Region Waste Partnership.

Waste Managed (tonnes)	Landfill	Recycled	Composted	Borough Total
Amount of household waste arising and managed by management type	76,438	30,263	12,674	119,375
Percentage of household waste arising by management type	64%	25%	11%	100%

**Table 4.32 Amount of Household Waste Arising and Managed by Management Type 2014/15**

4.126 Table 4.33 below shows the pattern of change over time<sup>55</sup>.

Waste Arisings (tonnes)	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Landfill	93,655	86,186	83,639	79,168	77,150	75,232	75,938	76,438
(percentage of total arisings)	68%	64%	63%	60%	59%	60%	63%	64%
Recycled	28,448	30,265	28,521	29,770	32,094	31,599	31,682	30,263
(percentage of total arisings)	21%	22%	22%	22%	25%	25%	26%	25%
Composted	14,727	18,879	19,483	23,600	21,194	19,335	13,429	12,674
(percentage of total arisings)	11%	14%	15%	18%	16%	15%	11%	11%
Total Arisings	136,820	135,330	131,142	131,719	129,820	126,166	121,049	119,375

**Table 4.33 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2007/08 to 2014/15**

4.127 The amount of collected household waste per person reduced from 378kg in 2013/14 to 373kg in 2014/15. The average for England was 403kg per person in 2013/14<sup>56</sup>, showing that Wirral continues to work effectively to minimise the amount of waste arising from households.

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

<sup>56</sup> Table 2.2: [Digest of Waste and Resource Statistics](#)

## Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

4.128 The accompanying Joint Waste Local Plan monitoring report for 2014/15 continues to show progress against several performance indicators.

4.129 The latest monitoring report includes a plan showing the location of existing, consented and allocated waste management sites across the plan area (Figure 2, page 46 of the report refers).

4.130 Only one application to provide additional capacity was approved in Wirral in 2014/15, for a recycling facility at Wheatland Lane, Seacombe, with a capacity of up to 12,200 tonnes per annum, equivalent to 5% of the increase in consented capacity across the plan area as a whole (Table 13, page 44 of the report refers)<sup>57</sup>.

4.131 A revised scheme for the materials recycling facility with gasification and CHP technology at North Road, Eastham, with the same capacity as previously approved in 2009, was also approved in September 2014, which should be capable of delivering enough electricity to power up to 103,400 homes a year<sup>58</sup>. An environmental permit application was submitted for this facility in September 2015.

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

## Transport

4.133 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 2011**<sup>59</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Planning application number 14/00805, approved on 20 November 2014 refers

<sup>58</sup> Planning application number 14/00314, with a capacity of up to 400,000 tonnes per annum, previously approved in July 2009 under planning application 08/06316 refers

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

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

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

	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 Census<sup>61</sup>**

4.135 The 2011 Census also showed that Wirral had one of the highest proportions of people who work from home in Merseyside<sup>62</sup>.

4.136 The accessibility of new residential development completed during 2014/15 has been calculated against the accessibility standards set out in the Council's Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan.

Settlement Area	Gross Completions	Number within 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service	Number beyond 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service	Percentage Within 400m of a High Frequency Public Transport Service
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	131	131	0	100%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	26	26	0	100%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	122	122	0	100%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromb & Eastham	35	34	1	97%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	196	196	0	100%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	13	10	3	77%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	13	5	8	38%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	27	26	1	96%
<b>Total Borough</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>98%</b>

**Table 4.36 Accessibility of New Residential Development 2014/15**

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

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/dvc193/index.html>

<sup>62</sup> Table CT0015: Method of Travel to Work for Local Authorities in England and Wales

4.137 Just under 98 percent of new dwellings were within 400 metres walking distance of a high frequency public transport service or railway station. A number of completions in Hoylake, West Kirby and Heswall were, however, further than 400 metres from a high frequency public transport service.

## **5 Monitoring Plan Preparation**

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

### **Local Development Scheme**

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

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

5.4 A revised LDS will be submitted for Council approval once the timetable for the submission of the Core Strategy Local Plan has been confirmed, following the completion of further housing, viability and retail evidence, in early 2016.

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

### **Core Strategy Local Plan**

5.6 The Core Strategy will set the overall spatial framework for future development and investment in the Borough for the next 15 years, to 2030 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 published towards the middle of 2016, following the completion of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update, the Core Strategy Development Viability Assessment and the Wirral Retail Study Update, for submission to the Secretary of State for public examination by the end of 2016.

5.10 The Core Strategy is therefore currently expected to be adopted, subject to the examination timetable, by the end of 2017 (Appendix 4 refers).

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.4 A Devolution Agreement, which was approved in principle with Government in November 2015, will now give strategic planning powers to an elected Liverpool City Region Mayor, to help accelerate economic growth and new housing development throughout the City Region and to prepare a Single Statutory City Region Framework, from May 2017.

6.5 The Devolution Agreement, which is currently subject to parliamentary approval and the enactment of the necessary legislation, can be viewed at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/477385/Liverpool\\_devolution\\_deal\\_unsigned.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477385/Liverpool_devolution_deal_unsigned.pdf)

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

- meetings of the Combined Authority Housing and Spatial Planning Board and Coordinating Committee

- bi-monthly meetings of the Liverpool City Region District Planning Officers and Policy Managers including Halton and West Lancashire
- shared specialist environmental services provided through Sefton Council by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
- participation in the North West Coastal Forum Management Board
- a shared archaeological records management service with the councils for Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens (from April 2013)
- the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership (from December 2013)
- continued joint consultancy for the consistent provision of City Region Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessments (from January 2014)
- agreement to establish a City Region archaeological planning advisory service (June 2015)

#### 6.7 Work on joint evidence has included:

- publication of the North West Aggregates Working Party Local Aggregates Assessment (February 2015)
- joint working to prepare a Liverpool City Region Statement of Cooperation on Local Plans, to identify the matters on which cooperation is required and how this cooperation will be undertaken (from March 2015)
- approval of the jointly funded Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework (November 2015)
- joint working and agreement to approve a memorandum of understanding and to jointly fund a sub-regional strategic housing and employment land market assessment (November 2015)

#### 6.8 Wirral Council has in addition provided formal responses to:

- 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)
- Sefton Local Plan Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement (January 2015)
- Sefton Publication Draft Local Plan (March 2015)
- the Liverpool Integrated Evidence Study, on housing markets and functional economic areas (March 2015)
- Topic Papers on minerals, spatial strategy, energy and transport and on the Candidate Sites methodology and Assessment Process for the Flintshire Local Development Plan (April 2015)
- The Marine Management Organisation, to agree relevant policies for the North West marine plan area (May 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Open Spaces Study (September 2015)
- the Sefton Local Plan Consequences Study Update, on the potential future housing requirement for Sefton (September 2015)

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

- 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 (from July 2014)

- exchange of Wirral housing market information with Flintshire County Council (August 2014)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Viability Assessment stakeholder workshop (October 2014)
- joint response to the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Review Scoping Consultation (December 2014)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Housing Partnership (January 2015)
- participation in the Key Stakeholder Forum for the Flintshire Local Development Plan, including comments on the skeleton LDP (February 2015)
- attendance at a presentation on the Liverpool Integrated Evidence Study (March 2015)
- joint response to a Supplementary Planning Document for Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Distribution, for the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (March 2015)
- joint responses on minerals and waste movements to inform the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (November 2014 and May 2015)
- a joint response to revised migration and commuting assumptions for the Cheshire East Local Plan (July 2015)
- attendance at the Sefton Local Plan Pre-Hearing Meeting (September 2015)
- contributing with City Region partners to the Transport Investment Pipeline Baseline Report, to support the delivery of the Combined Authority Transport Plan for Growth (from October 2015)

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

- Inspectors Interim Findings on the Knowsley Local Plan (May 2014)
- Proposed modifications to the Knowsley Local Plan (September 2014)
- Halton Council Widnes and Hale Green Belt Study Site Assessment and Local Centres Review (February 2015)
- Notification that the Coal Authority no longer wish to be consulted on Local Plan proposals in Wirral (March 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Local Service Centre Consultation (March 2015)
- the issues and broad content of Supplementary Planning Documents related to Affordable, Special Needs and Older Peoples Housing; House Extensions; Nature Conservation; New housing Development; and the Control of Retail Uses for the Sefton Local Plan (April 2015)
- The Sefton Coast Plan, as part of a Local Plan commitment for a Merseyside-wide approach under the Habitats Regulations (August 2015)
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies Draft Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Methodology (October 2015)
- Sefton Council Draft Supplementary Planning Documents for New Housing and for House Extensions (October 2015)

## 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 2015 (Gross)**

	Previously Developed	Greenfield	Total
<i>(i) New build sites</i>			
Sites under construction > 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	158	0	158
Sites not started > 0.4 ha (units not started)	554	91	645
Sites under construction < 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	181	35	216
Sites not started < 0.4 ha (units not started)	494	123	617
<b>Total units on new build sites</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,636</b>
<i>(ii) Conversions and changes of use</i>			
Changes of use under construction (units not started + under construction)	11	0	11
Changes of use not started (units not started)	230	0	230
Conversions under construction (units not started + under construction)	13	0	13
Conversions not started (units not started)	42	0	42
<b>Total units conversions and changes of use</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>Total units with planning permission</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,932</b>
% on previously developed land			87%

### Notes

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

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

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

## Appendix 2

**Table 2 - Recorded Demolitions**

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

## Appendix 2

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

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

### 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 78 recorded net conversions and changes of use between 2003 and 2015 has, however, now been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3.

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

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

## Appendix 2

**Table 4 - Windfall Site Generation**

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

### Notes

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

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

## Appendix 3

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

**Table A1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2015) - Plus 5%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2012 - 2015</b>	<b>1,881</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2012 - 2015 (actual)	552
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2012 - 2015 (actual)	1,703
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2012 - 2015 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,091</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target ( <b>A - D</b> )	790
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2015-2020	129
<b>G</b>	Net Household Formation 2015-2020 based on CLG 2012-based Household Projections	3,634
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2015- 2020 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.05 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>4,735</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,249
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) ( <b>H/5</b> )	947
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply (I/J)</b>	<b>3.4</b>

**Table A2 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2015) - Plus 20%**

<b>A</b>	<b>Increase in Households 2012 - 2015</b>	<b>1,881</b>
<b>B</b>	Demolitions 2012 - 2015 (actual)	552
<b>C</b>	Gross Completions 2012 - 2015 (actual)	1,703
<b>D</b>	<b>Net Completions 2012 - 2015 (new build plus net gain from conversions minus demolitions)</b>	<b>1,091</b>
<b>E</b>	Shortfall of Completions against Target ( <b>A - D</b> )	790
<b>F</b>	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2015-2020	129
<b>G</b>	Net New Households 2015-2020 based on CLG 2012-based Household Projections	3,634
<b>H</b>	<b>Five Year Housing Target 2015- 2020 - including shortfall, if met within first five years and projected demolitions (1.20 x G) + E + F</b>	<b>5,280</b>
<b>I</b>	Current Five Year Supply	3,249
<b>J</b>	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) ( <b>H/5</b> )	1,056
<b>K</b>	<b>Years' Supply ( I/J )</b>	<b>3.1</b>

## 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 2015/16 to 2019/20, equivalent to 129 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 2015. The potential additional capacity at Wirral Waters has not yet been included, as the future rate of delivery is still uncertain<sup>63</sup>. The tables show the positions with a five and twenty per cent buffer included, as required by paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Current Five Year Supply (Row I) includes the following:
  - Category 1 Sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Assessment (**1,093 units**);
  - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2015, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Study (**1,526 units**);
  - An allowance for net additional conversions and changes of use between 2015 and 2020 based on the actual median average delivery of 78 units per year between 2003 and 2015 (**390 units**);
  - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2015 and 2020 based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since 2008, at 48 units per year (**240 units**);
- Net Completions in Row D are based on the figures in Table 3 of Appendix 2, equating to 252 units in 2012/13, 302 units in 2013/14 and 537 in 2014/15.

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.

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).

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<sup>63</sup> outline planning permission for up to 13,521 units was granted subject to a section 106 legal agreement signed in May 2012. No reserve matters applications have yet been submitted.

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

### Core Strategy Timetable

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

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

## Appendix 5

### Evidence Base – Progress

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

Local Development Framework for Wirral - Monitoring Report December 2015

Management Act 2010)			Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Sites of Geological Importance Update</a>	n/a	Reported September 2011	UDP Section 13 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Retail Strategy Update</a>	November 2011	Reported March 2012	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Core Strategy Transport Impacts Assessment</a>	February 2012	Reported August 2012	UDP Section 15 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2012)</a>	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update</a>	November 2011	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 5 & 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Open Space Assessment Update</a>	n/a	Reported September 2012	UDP Sections 8, 9 & 10 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment</a>	September 2012	Reported September 2012	Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Wirral Water Cycle Study</a>	January 2011	Reported February 2014	UDP Section 19 Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Merseyside and West Lancashire Accommodation Assessment for Gypsies and Travellers</a>	April 2013	Reported September 2014	Core Strategy Site Allocations
<a href="#">Retail Floorspace Guidelines and Impact Assessments</a>	December 2013	Reported November 2014	Core Strategy
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2014)	n/a	Reported December 2014	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Core Strategy Viability Assessment	April 2013	<a href="#">Baseline</a> Reported January 2015	Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (April 2015)	n/a	Reported December 2015	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (including 2012-based household projections)	August 2013	Ongoing	UDP Section 6 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Retail Study Update	April 2015	Ongoing	UDP Section 16 Core Strategy Site Allocations
Wirral Playing Pitch Strategy Update	April 2015	Ongoing	UDP Section 9 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
Areas of Greatest Need		Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20% of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation
Assisted Areas		Recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development.
Biodiversity		A collective term for the full variety of biological life on earth including plants, animals and eco-systems
Category 1 Hazard		A Category 1 Hazard is the most severe rating within the new Housing Health and Safety Rating System. A hazard is a risk of harm to the health or safety of an actual or potential occupier of a dwelling or House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) arising from a deficiency in the dwelling or in any building or land in the vicinity (whether the deficiency arises as a result of the construction of any building, an absence of maintenance or repair, or otherwise)
Category 1 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five years
Category 2 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites capable of being developed for housing within five to ten years
Category 3 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - sites not currently developable for housing within ten years
Climate Change Local Area Support Programme	CLASP	The local authority and public sector sustainability support service for the NW of England, dealing with the challenges of environmental resilience, reducing energy use and renewable energy planning issues
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	A financial charge that can be levied on new development to pay for local infrastructure to be provided

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

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

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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
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
Settlement Area		A geographical area identified in the Core Strategy Local Plan, to represent one of the eight main groups of settlements within the Borough
Statement of Community Involvement	SCI	A statutory document setting local standards for community involvement in the preparation of policy documents and planning decisions
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
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

<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
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