Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit  
(April 2014)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Robert Oates

Email address: robertoates@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Andrew Fraser – Forward Planning Manager

Chief Officer: David Ball – Assistant Director Environmental Services

Directorate: Environmental Services

Date: 23/09/2016

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Liverpool City Region Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning

Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Policy & Performance Committee?

If ‘yes’ please state which meeting and what date

Delegated Decision – Council Leader and Cabinet Member for the Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution Council – September 2016

Please select hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council’s website

Regeneration & Environment (Environment & Regulation, Housing & Community Safety, Regeneration)

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect…… (please tick relevant boxes)

☑ Services
☑ The workforce
☑ Communities
☐ Other (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

☐ None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@ wirral.gov.uk for publishing)
Section 4: Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which group(s) of people could be affected</th>
<th>Potential positive or negative impact</th>
<th>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</th>
<th>Lead person</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Resource implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>The preparation of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) for the seven LCR authorities will consider what Housing Market Area(s) and Functional Economic Market Area(s) exist in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and set out the Objectively Assessed Need within the area of the seven City Region authorities in terms of housing numbers and employment land. This approach coupled with close cooperation on strategic cross-boundary issues will work towards ensuring the delivery of sufficient new housing to meet the needs of growth aspirations of the LCR overall.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is considered this approach will have a positive effect on meeting the needs of all groups of people.

The Statement of Cooperation accepts the need identified by the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) as the need for each authority to be taken forward. This will have a potentially positive effect on individuals falling within the protected group for race.

**Economic Development**

The LCR LEP Strategic Economic Plan (2014) identified an £8.2bn output gap between the LCR and the national average, with average GVA per head in the City Region at 75% of the national average.

The Statement of Cooperation sets out a commitment from the LCR authorities to work together on the LCR SHELMA which will take account of employment land needs, including the implications of Superport. The SHELMA will inform the emerging LCR Single Spatial Framework and Local Plans in the LCR area.

It is considered that the focus on cross boundary and strategic understanding of employment needs in the LCR will have a positive impact on all groups of people.
### Transport

The LCR Combined Authority (CA) document ‘A Transport Plan for Growth’ (March 2015) aims to improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the City Region by delivering a world-class transport network.

The Merseyside Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3), as well as the LTP3 for Halton and LTP3 for Lancashire, provides a long-term strategy and delivery programme of transport investment and service improvements across the LCR. These documents aim to provide a safer, sustainable, efficient and integrated transport network, accessible to all.

It is considered that a long-term, cross-boundary, strategic programme of transport improvements and investment will have a positive impact upon all groups of people.

### Utilities Infrastructure

The Statement of Cooperation states that every local authority, as part of the preparation of its Local Plan, has produced an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), within which the key issues relating to utilities infrastructure within the relevant district are highlighted, alongside the presentation of on-going and forthcoming infrastructure developments.

The Statement of Cooperation states that the
LCR authorities have engaged with key utilities infrastructure partners, with each other and with adjoining authorities outside the LCR, in preparing their IDP’s.

The Statement of Cooperation sets out that a priority for all LCR authorities is the effective operation of utilities infrastructure which serves the LCR communities.

It is considered that this approach will have a positive impact towards all groups.

**Community Infrastructure**

The Statement of Cooperation states that community infrastructure is at the heart of successful places. It ensures the provision of critical services including healthcare and education. Its importance is reflected in the LCR Growth Plan, which emphasises the role of different elements of community infrastructure in facilitating economic growth. Institutions such as universities, colleges and hospitals are identified as strategic assets in supporting key growth sectors.

Each local authority, as part of the preparation of its local plan has produced an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This highlights the key issues relating to community infrastructure within the relevant district, alongside the presentation of ongoing and forthcoming infrastructure developments. The LCR authorities have
engaged with key community infrastructure partners, with each other and with adjoining authorities outside the LCR, in preparing their IDP’s.

The Statement of Cooperation states that the effective operation of community infrastructure which serves and supports the LCR’s communities must be an ongoing priority for all local authorities.

It is considered that this approach will have a positive impact towards all groups.

**Environment**

The Statement of Cooperation for the LCR identifies the role of the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) in aiding the local planning authorities of the City Region to work together to identify and jointly address strategic environmental issues.

The environment presents a number of planning issues for all of the City Region, particularly given the proximity of and ease of travel from urban redevelopment areas to European Natura 2000 nature conservation sites and their supporting habitats, the presence of protected species in the City Region and broader aspirations to improve environmental quality for both ecological and social benefit.
The Statement of Cooperation recognises that although many issues can be managed locally by individual authorities, issues affecting key sites and their connectivity often require trans-boundary approaches.

It is considered that this approach will have a positive impact on all groups.

**Retail, Leisure and Tourism**

The Statement of Cooperation sets out that the on-going review of retail and leisure provision will be undertaken on a local authority basis, through the preparation and review of Local Plans. Regular review of the type, location and geographical catchments of retail centres across the city region can be a key part of this work.

It is considered that effective cross-boundary working practices and working to ensure the vitality of both the regional and sub-regional centres as well the vitality and viability of other centres across the sub-region will have a positive impact on all groups.

The visitor economy is recognised in the LCR Growth Plan as one of the key growth sectors in the LCR. It is worth around £3.8bn to the economy and supports around 49,000 jobs directly and indirectly across the LCR. The Statement of Cooperation states that there is a need to keep under review the implications of future visitor economy development and to
promote liaison.

It is considered that this approach will have a positive impact on all groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is considered that appropriate consultation both with authorities within the LCR and authorities beyond the LCR where outer authorities need to take into account cross boundary issues with neighbouring authorities laying outside the City Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is considered that appropriate discussion between neighbouring authorities on strategic planning matters will have a positive impact on all groups.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Action Plan – Appendix One</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At this stage, on the basis of the above assessment, it is considered that the nineteen actions listed in the Action Plan will have a positive impact on any affected groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any project-specific proposals arising from the actions will be subject to separate additional equalities impact assessment before any approval is granted.</td>
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</table>
Section 4a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The Statement of Cooperation will be reviewed and updated on at least an annual basis by the Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board.

Section 4b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The individual sections contained within the Statement of Cooperation for the Liverpool City Region have been assessed under Section 4 of this EIA. The Document aims to foster effective cross-boundary working practices and strategic thinking for the benefit of the whole city region. Any project-specific proposals arising from the actions identified will be subject to separate additional equalities impact assessment before any approval is granted.

Section 5: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

The documents and information that has been used is set out within the main body of the Statement of Cooperation.

Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No

If ‘no’ please state your reason(s) why:

There is no requirement to undertake public consultation on the preparation of the Statement of Cooperation, which is a requirement of the Liverpool City Region Devolution Agreement with Government.

The Statement has been prepared by District Planning Policy managers together with Mersey Travel and the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service under the direction of District Planning Officers on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board and was approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 15 July 2016.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)
Section 7:  How will consultation take place and by when?

N/A

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it’s legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 8: Have you remembered to:

a) Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2a)
b) Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)
c) Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?
d) Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?