



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL

MONITORING REPORT

2018/19

JANUARY 2021

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 This document sets out progress on the delivery of the Council's Local Plan and the extent to which national and local priorities are being achieved within the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

1.2 This report covers the period of twelve months ending on 31 March 2019.

Monitoring Policy Implementation

Population

1.3 The latest national mid-year estimate for 2019, expects the Borough's population to have increased to 323,300, from 319,800 in 2011.

1.4 The latest national population projections now expect the population in Wirral to increase more slowly, to 328,700 by 2041.

1.5 The latest national household projections now expect the number of households in Wirral to increase to 152,000 by 2041, from 140,600 in 2011.

Economy and Retail

1.6 The number of people in Wirral who were economically active increased to 79.2 percent in 2019, compared to the pre-recession high-point of 76.4 percent in 2007.

1.7 Approximately 3.6 percent of the working age population (6,880 people) were claiming Universal Credit in October 2019, which was higher than the national and regional averages.

1.8 The amount of newly completed employment floorspace increased to 11,647 square metres in 2018/19 from 7,916 square metres during 2017/18, resulting in a net gain in employment floorspace, of 3,085 square metres overall.

1.9 There was a very small amount of new retail (Use Class A1) floorspace completed, at 25 square metres in 2018/19 compared to 4,122 square metres in 2017/18.

Housing

1.10 Gross housing completions decreased slightly to 798 new dwellings in 2018/19, from 806 new dwellings in 2017/18 and the number of new dwellings under construction had also fallen to 1,020 in April 2019 from 1,138 in April 2018.

1.11 The capacity of land with planning permission for new housing, outside Wirral Waters, had continued to rise, to 3,087 in April 2019, compared to 2,637 dwellings in April 2018.

1.12 The reduced proportion of new dwellings completed on previously developed land fell to 80 percent in 2018/19, compared to 83 percent in 2017/18.

1.13 The number of new affordable dwellings completed in 2018/19 increased to 177, from 153 in 2017/18.

1.14 The proportion of new housing located more than 400 metres away from a high-frequency public transport service continued to remain low, at just over 3%, with only 27 dwellings in 2018/19.

Environment and Resources

1.15 The proportion of public open space maintained to Green Flag Award standard increased slightly to 48% during 2018/19.

1.16 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of water quality during 2018/19.

1.17 The Environment Agency objected to only one planning application on grounds of flood risk during 2018/19, to request the provision of a Flood Risk Assessment for an office development within the Birkenhead docks.

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

1.19 The proportion of households living in fuel poverty in Wirral had, however, moved further ahead of the national average for England, to 13.5%.

Monitoring Plan Preparation

Local Plan

1.20 A Local Plan Action Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2019.

1.21 Consultation under Regulation 19 was due to take place in Summer 2020, with the draft plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2020.

Neighbourhood Planning

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

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

Cross-boundary Co-operation

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

1.25 Regulations governing the preparation of a City Region Spatial Development Strategy came into force in August 2018. Initial pre-preparation consultation began in October 2019.

1.26 A Statement of Common Ground with City Region Partners was approved by Wirral Council in September 2019.

Questions and Comments

1.27 Any questions and comments on the data or analysis provided in this Monitoring Report should be directed to the Forward Planning Team for Regeneration and Place at PO Box 290, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH27 9FQ or at 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 fifteenth Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (formerly Annual Monitoring Report) for Wirral prepared in accordance with Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011 and 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 from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, but also includes more up-to-date information where available.

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

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

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

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

2.8 Section 6 of the AMR sets out details of the action that has been taken to co-operate with other local authorities and prescribed bodies under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

3 Policy Context

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

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

3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), February 2019, sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

3.4 The NPPF and its accompanying Planning Practice Guidance can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>.

The Development Plan for Wirral

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

- the remaining policies in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted in February 2000;
- the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, adopted in July 2013;
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Devonshire Park, made on 14 December 2015; and
- the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake, made on 19 December 2016.

Unitary Development Plan

3.6 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 an 'old style' development plan that will be replaced by new style Local Plans, such as the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton and the new Wirral Local Plan, supplemented by a series of Neighbourhood Development Plans prepared by the local community.

3.9 The programme for the preparation of the emerging Wirral 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, is reproduced in 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 Wirral Local Plan, was included in section 29 of the previous Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy, which can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-0>.

Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton

3.12 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 <https://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 in Wirral:

Document	Adopted
SPD1 - Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Mast Operators	October 2006
SPD2 - Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions	October 2006
SPD3 - Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments	October 2006
SPD4 - Parking Standards	June 2007
Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton	July 2013
Statement Of Community Involvement (Revised)	March 2014
Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2015
Hoylake Neighbourhood Development Plan	December 2016
Local Development Scheme (Revised)	October 2019

Table 3.1 Adopted Documents

Statement of Community Involvement

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

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

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

Supplementary Guidance

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

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

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

3.22 Initial consultation was undertaken in July 2013 and the latest information can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents>.

Local Development Scheme

3.23 A revised Local Development Scheme was approved by the Council in October 2019 and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>

3.24 The preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan will now be replaced by the preparation of a full Wirral Local Plan.

3.25 A summary of the progress on the preparation of the Wirral Local Plan is set out in Appendix 5 to this AMR.

Neighbourhood Planning

3.26 Four neighbourhood forums are currently in operation in Wirral. The latest position can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>.

Devonshire Park

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

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

Hoylake

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

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

Leasowe

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

3.32 The latest information can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/leasowe> or from the Wirral Development Trust at <http://www.wirraldevelopmenttrust.org.uk/about-us/>

Birkenhead North

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

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

Birkenhead and Tranmere

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

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

Community Infrastructure Levy

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

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

3.39 An updated 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

3.40 The Wirral Plan – A 2020 Vision is intended to guide all public investment in Wirral to 2020.

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

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

3.42 Targets include:

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

3.43 A review of the Wirral Plan and its pledges was carried out in March 2019 and a copy of the relevant updated strategies and refreshed Action Plans for 2019/20 can be found on the Council's website at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision/wirral-plan-strategies>

3.44 An initial outline for the Wirral Plan 2025 was approved in October 2019. This new Plan will build on the 2020 Vision and set out what the Council will deliver over the next five years for Wirral residents.

3.45 The rolled-forward Plan takes forward the following key outcomes and priorities with the ambition for:

- a prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations;
- a cleaner, greener borough which celebrates, protects and improves our environment and urgently tackles the environmental emergency;
- brighter futures for our young people and families – regardless of their background or where they live;
- safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families ; and
- services which help people and live happy, healthy, independent and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it.

3.46 The Wirral Plan 2025 can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ie/IssueDetails.aspx?IId=50036083&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI50225>.

Wirral Growth Plan (January 2016)¹

3.47 The Wirral Partnership's Growth Plan seeks to attract and guide investment; overcome barriers and maximise sustainable growth from local opportunities to benefit Wirral's communities, businesses and residents; and to provide the framework to develop Wirral's strategic approach to place-shaping.

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

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

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

Wirral Housing Strategy (July 2016)²

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

Wirral Strategic Regeneration Framework (October 2017)³

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

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

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

National Assisted Areas

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

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

3.54 The Electoral Wards in Wirral that currently benefit from Assisted Area status include: Wallasey; New Brighton; Liscard; Seacombe; Leasowe and Moreton East; Bidston and St James; Upton; Claughton; Birkenhead and Tranmere; Oxtton; Prenton; Rock Ferry; Bebington; Clatterbridge; Bromborough; and Eastham, as shown on Figure 3.1 below.

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

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

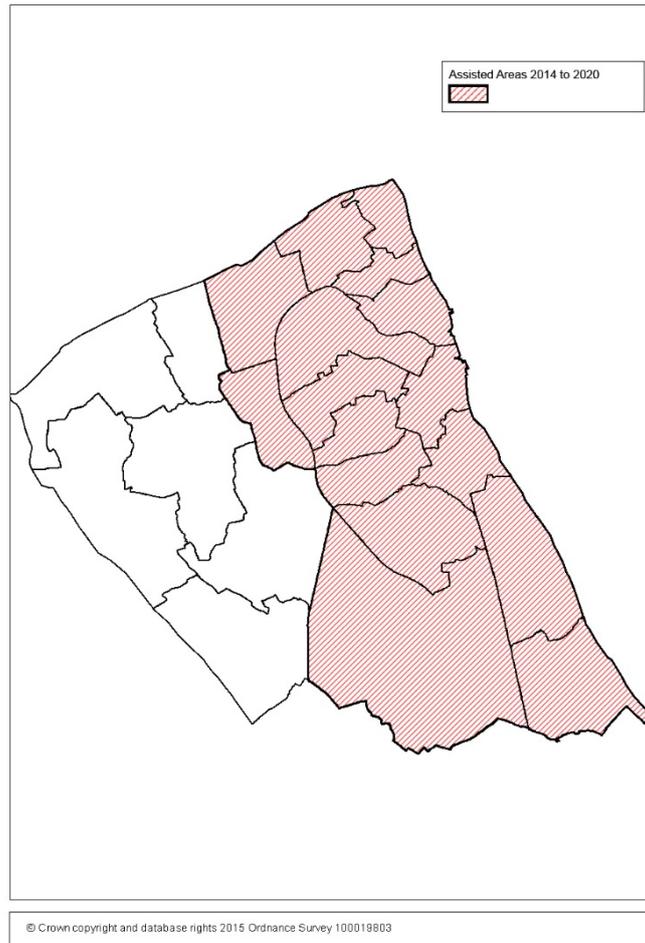


Figure 3.1 – National Assisted Areas in Wirral 2014 to 2020. Figure 3.1 shows the areas in the Borough that qualify for additional financial assistance which are mainly located in the eastern half of the Borough.

4 Monitoring Policy Implementation

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

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

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

Population

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

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

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

Table 4.1 Population Projections (ONS 2016-based)⁴

Households

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

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

Households (Thousands)	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	Change 2016-2041
Wirral	142	144	146	149	150	152	+7.0%
Merseyside	618	635	648	662	676	689	+11.5%

Table 4.2 Household Projections (ONS 2016-based)⁵

⁴ ONS 2016-based population projections (April 2019)

⁵ ONS 2016-based household principal projections (October 2019)

4.8 The Government consulted on their proposals for the use of the 2016-based household projections in the planning system in October 2018⁶.

4.9 The Council responded to the consultation, in November 2018, to stress the need for local decision-making and to support the continued use of the lower 2016-based projections.

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

4.11 As a result, the Government proposed to continue using calculations based on the previous 2014-based projections and asked ONS to prepare revised projections⁷. The changes have now been reflected in the revisions to the national policy and guidance published in February⁸ and July 2019⁹.

Households (Thousands)	2014	2021	2023	2027	2031	2035	2037	Change 2014-2037
Wirral	143	148	149	152	154	157	158	+10.6%
Merseyside	614	642	648	662	662	675	693	+12.9%

Table 4.3 Household Projections (ONS 2014-based)¹⁰

4.12 The 2014-based projections were previously reported in the AMR in December 2018.

National Mid-Year Population Estimate (Wirral)	Young People (0-15 years)	Working Age (males 16-64 & females 16-60)	Retired (males 65 & over & females 61 & over)
2019	60,400	184,700	78,100
2018	60,800	184,000	78,000
2017	60,400	185,100	76,900
2016	60,000	185,000	76,200
2015	59,700	186,200	75,200
2014	59,600	187,100	74,200
2013	59,400	188,100	72,900
2012	59,500	191,200	69,500
2011	59,200	189,600	71,000
2010	58,700	180,600	69,600
2009	58,900	180,600	69,000

Table 4.4 Population Change 2009-2019

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> (paragraph 60 refers)

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

¹⁰ CLG 2014-based household projections

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

Social Context

4.14 A quarter of the Wirral population lives in areas with some of the greatest social, economic and environmental needs in England¹¹.

4.15 Over 22 percent of children in Wirral also currently live in low-income households¹². There is also a significant gap in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent areas, with an eleven-year gap in average life expectancy at birth between areas in east and west Wirral.

4.16 Significant local health issues include high rates of hypertension; diabetes; coronary heart disease; kidney disease; depression; and asthma¹³.

4.17 Over two thirds of children in Wirral (69.5 percent) currently reach their development target at the age of five¹⁴. Eighty-nine percent of Wirral schools were rated as 'Good' or better at 1 September 2019 and two thirds (66.6 percent) of pupils achieved Grade 4 or above in English and Maths in 2019. The national average for state-funded schools in England in 2018 was 64.2 percent¹⁵.

Crime

4.18 Wirral maintained a relatively low crime rate of 78.6 crimes per thousand population during 2018/19, the joint lowest in Merseyside with Sefton and below the average for Merseyside of 94.9 crimes per thousand people.

4.19 There was an increase in total reported crimes between 2017/18 and 2018/19, from 68 to 79 crimes per thousand population but this is mainly thought to be due to changes in recording practices.

4.20 The number of calls made to the Police reporting anti-social behaviour in Wirral in 2018/19 was 6,032, a reduction of 30 percent from the 8,626 incident reports made in 2017/18.

¹¹ [English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

¹² [Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision](#) (page 11)

¹³ Wirral Compendium of Statistics (JSNA Wirral, 2019)

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/media/2778/compendium-2019-final.pdf>

¹⁴ [Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2019 \(Table 2 refers\)](#)

¹⁵ [GCSE and equivalent results: 2018 to 2019 \(provisional\)](#)

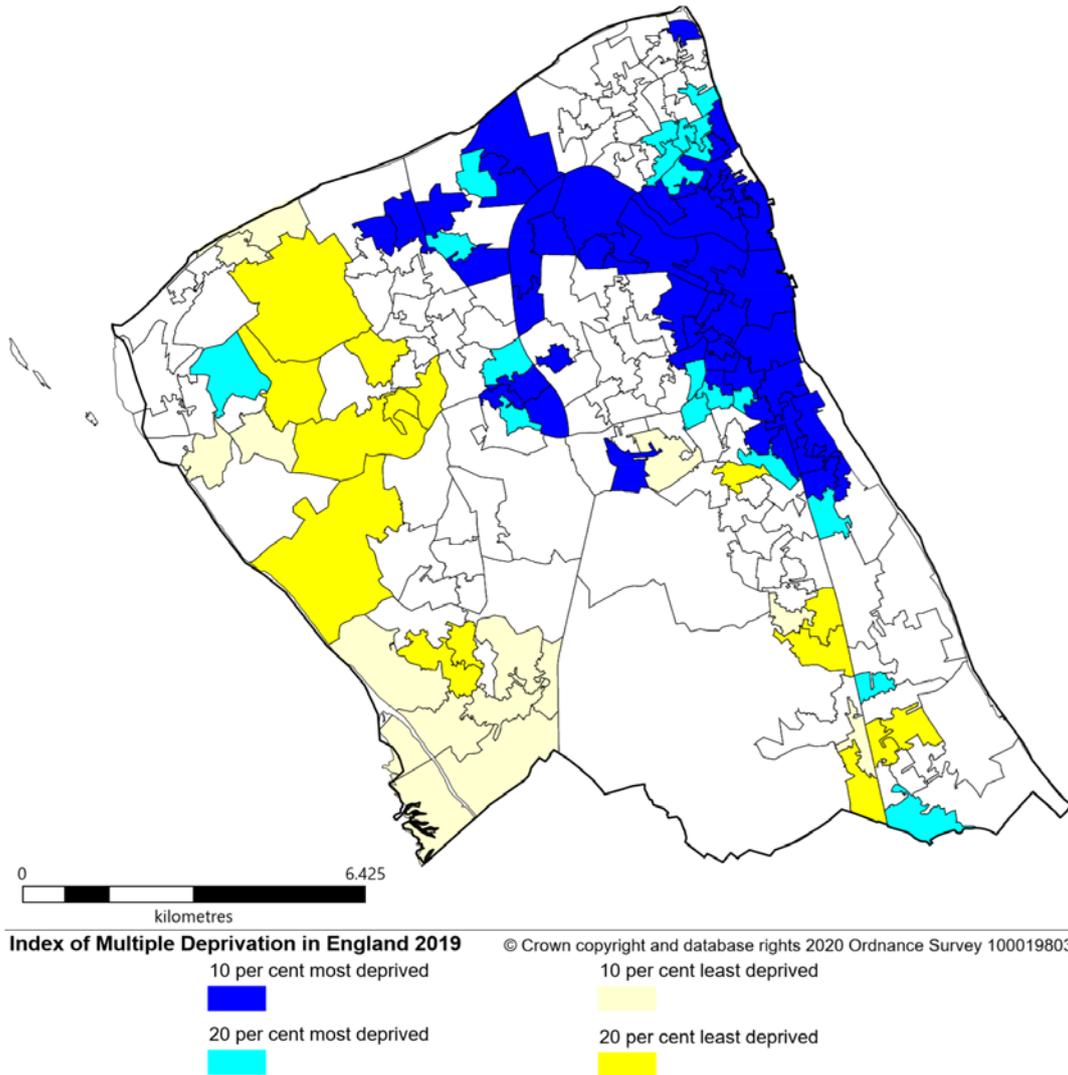


Figure 4.1 - Areas of Multiple Deprivation in Wirral – Figure 4.1 shows the most and least disadvantaged areas in the Borough. The most disadvantaged areas are concentrated in and around the older urban areas and the Borough’s social housing estates, while the least disadvantaged areas are mainly located in the west and in the suburban fringes of the urban area.¹⁶

Economy

4.21 Recent growth in Gross Value Added per capita in Wirral was above the sub-regional, national and regional average¹⁷.

GVA per Capita (£)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016/17 (% change)
Wirral	13,308	13,946	13,217	13,697	14,113	14,733	14,705	15,164	+3.12
Merseyside	18,431	18,356	17,745	18,167	19,009	19,660	19,512	19,984	+2.41
North West	19,872	19,792	20,354	21,003	21,593	22,294	23,053	23,563	+2.21

¹⁶ For further information: <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/this-is-wirral/wirral-indices-of-deprivation/> and https://wirral.communityinsight.org/?indicator=imd19_rank_20190101

¹⁷ [ONS Regional Gross Value Added \(Income Approach\) NUTS3 Table 2 \(December 2018\)](#)

GVA per Capita (£)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016/17 (% change)
UK	22,779	23,202	23,780	24,541	25,480	25,987	26,749	27,430	+2.55%

Table 4.5 Gross Value Added 2010 to 2017

4.22 The most recent data shows 101,000 employee jobs in Wirral in 2018, a decrease of 2 percent or 2,000 jobs since 2017.

Total Employees	Full Time (percentage)	Part Time (percentage)	Job Density (2018) ¹⁸
Wirral	62.4%	38.6%	0.61
Merseyside	64.6%	35.4%	0.72
North West	67.9%	32.1%	0.84
Great Britain	67.6%	32.4%	0.86

Table 4.6 Wirral Employees 2018¹⁹

4.23 There is still a higher proportion of part-time jobs in the local economy, when compared with the national, regional and sub-regional averages²⁰ and the ratio of total jobs to the working age population (job density) remained below the national, regional and sub-regional averages, in 2017.

Employment Sector	Wirral (Jobs)	Wirral	North West Region	Great Britain
Primary Services (A-B: agriculture and mining)	0	0%	0%	0.2%
Energy and Water (D-E)	1,100	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Manufacturing (C)	8,000	7.9%	9.6%	8.1%
Construction (F)	4,000	4.0%	4.7%	4.7%
Wholesale and retail including motor trades (G)	16,000	15.8%	16.9%	15.2%
Transport Storage (H)	3,500	3.5%	5.5%	4.8%
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	7,000	6.9%	7.1%	7.6%
Information and Communication (J)	1,500	1.5%	2.7%	4.2%
Financial and other business services (K – N)	17,500	17.3%	21.5%	23%
Public adm, education and health (O – Q)	38,000	37.7%	26.4%	26.5%
Other Services (R – S)	5,000	5.0%	4.3%	4.5%

Table 4.7 Employee Jobs by Industry 2019²¹

¹⁸ [Job Density data: NOMIS 2019](#)

¹⁹ Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2019

²⁰ Local Authority Profiles for Wirral and Merseyside: NOMIS 2019

²¹ Nomis Labour Market Profiles for Merseyside and Wirral 2019.

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

District	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2018	Number of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises 2019	% of VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises (Merseyside 2019)	Wirral Change 2018-2019
Knowsley	3,295	3,290	84.0%	-0.15%
Liverpool	14,600	14,700	37.8%	+0.7%
St Helens	4,560	4,495	11.5%	-1.4%
Sefton	7,965	7,830	20.0%	-1.7%
Wirral	8,550	8,705	22.3%	+1.8%
Merseyside	38,975	39,090	100%	+0.3%

Table 4.8 Change in VAT and PAYE Enterprises 2018/19²²

4.25 The latest figures show 8,705 VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Wirral in 2019, equivalent to just over a fifth of all the VAT registered and/or PAYE-based enterprises in Merseyside, up by 2 percent since 2018.

Percentage of Working Age Population	Economically Active	In Employment (employees)	In Employment (self-employed)	Economically Inactive
Wirral	79.2%	67.0%	9.8%	20.8%
Merseyside	75.3%	64.4%	7.9%	24.7%
North West	77.1%	64.3%	9.0%	22.9%
Great Britain	78.9%	64.6%	10.7%	21.1%

Table 4.9 Economic Activity 2018/19²³

4.26 155,300 Wirral residents were classified as economically active in 2019, with 150,800 residents in employment including 20,300 self-employed²⁴. Economic activity is now higher than the most recent pre-recession high point, of 76.4 percent in 2007, and is now higher than the national average.

4.27 The number of people who were economically inactive correspondingly fell to 39,600 in 2019, compared to the most recent high point of 54,400 in 2010.

²² NOMIS UK Business Counts 2019

²³ April 2018 to March 2019 (NOMIS, November 2019)

²⁴ Employment and Unemployment (Jul 2018 – June 2019, NOMIS September 2019)

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

Average Weekly Earnings	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	£497.80	£518.20	£526.40	£529.50	£532.10	£579.40
Merseyside	£491.50	£487.60	£503.90	£513.60	£530.60	£556.70
North West	£484.60	£492.00	£502.10	£514.50	£529.60	£555.80
Great Britain	£520.80	£529.60	£541.00	£552.70	£571.10	£587.90

Table 4.10 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Residence 2012/13 to 2017/18²⁵

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

Average Weekly Earnings	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	£485.60	£499.90	£489.90	£498.20	£492.00	£517.20
Merseyside	£491.90	£485.30	£501.30	£510.80	£534.60	£549.30
North West	£482.50	£488.80	£503.20	£514.00	£529.60	£549.80
Great Britain	£520.20	£529.00	£540.20	£552.30	£570.90	£586.50

Table 4.11 Gross Weekly Full-time Pay by Workplace 2012/13 to 2017/18²⁶

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

4.31 6,880 Wirral residents were claiming Universal Credit 'Out-Of Work Benefits' in October 2019, a rate of 3.6 percent, compared to 3.5 percent for the North West and 2.9 percent for Great Britain²⁷.

Business Development

4.32 The year to April 2019 saw an increase in the amount of gross new employment floorspace completed, from 7,916 square metres in 2017/18.

²⁵ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, October 2019)

²⁶ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Workplace (NOMIS, October 2019)

²⁷ ONS Annual Survey of Claimant Count by Sex (NOMIS, October 2019)

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)	371	0	0	9,325	1,951	11,647
Completed floorspace (net)	-7,387	0	-158	8,907	1,723	3,085
Total completed on previously developed land (gross)	371	0	0	9,325	1,951	11,647
Percentage completed on previously developed land (gross)	100%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4.12 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type and on Previously Developed Land 2018/19

4.33 All of the new employment development took place on previously developed brownfield land in 2018/19.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Use Class B1(a)	1,426	91	1,008	619	178	11,189	166	3,511	371
Use Class B1(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,451	0	0
Use Class B1(c)	0	0	0	621	0	418	1,109	0	0
Use Class B2	14,380	7,571	159	0	10,432	5,631	9,857	4,405	9,325
Use Class B8	440	18,964	1,956	1,234	290	2,070	98	0	1,951
Total Floorspace	16,246	26,626	3,123	2,474	10,900	19,308	18,681	7,916	11,647

Table 4.13 Amount of Employment Floorspace Developed by Type (gross)

4.34 Projects to provide up to 566 square metres of new business floorspace (Use Class B1), 75 square metres of new industrial floorspace (Use Class B2), and 546 square metres of warehouse space (Use Class B8) were registered as under construction at the end of the reporting period.

Employment Land Supply

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

4.36 Just under 15 percent (27.68 hectares) of the land allocated as an Employment Development Site remained in the land supply at April 2019:

Land Area (hectares)	Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone	Wirral International Business Park	Borough Total
Land Allocated for B1, B2 and B8 Uses	1.01	12.97	27.68
Other Land Within Primarily Industrial Areas	0.00	32.47	37.31

Land Area (hectares)	Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone	Wirral International Business Park	Borough Total
Former Dockland	23.90	0.00	46.48
Land Currently Subject to Other Designations	0.00	0.00	2.76
Total	24.91	45.44	114.23

Table 4.14 Recommended Employment Land Supply (April 2019)

4.37 There was a further 23.49 hectares of land identified for mixed uses at Wirral Waters (which is not included in the table above), all of which also falls within the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone.

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

Year	Small Sites (0-0.2 hectares)	Large Sites (>0.2 hectares)	Total Land (hectares)
2009/10	0.25	0.21	0.46
2010/11	0.48	4.01	4.49
2011/12	0.02	7.24	7.26
2012/13	0.47	19.22	19.69
2013/14	0.58	0.00	0.58
2014/15	0.57	7.28	7.85
2015/16	0.84	2.83	3.67
2016/17	0.13	5.56	5.69
2017/18	0.16	6.65	6.81
2018/19	0.45	2.33	2.78
Total	3.95	55.33	59.28
Annual average	0.40	5.53	5.93

Table 4.15 Take-Up of Employment Land Since April 2009 (hectares)

4.39 The latest economic forecasts prepared by Oxford Economics for the Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA), suggest that up to 6,600 additional full-time-equivalent jobs could be created in Wirral by 2037 under the 'Baseline Scenario', rising to a possible 11,500 additional full-time-equivalent jobs under a 'Growth Scenario'²⁸.

4.40 The Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update (December 2017²⁹) estimated that the recommended employment land supply would be likely to be able to accommodate both the 'Baseline' and 'Growth' scenarios but would be insufficient, by over 18 hectares, if previous rates of development were applied.

4.41 A revised assessment of the employment land supply was published for public comment in January 2020 and can be found on the Council's

²⁸ The SHELMA can be viewed on the Combined Authority website <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/governance/policy-documents/> (Spatial Planning, Environment and Air Quality refers)

²⁹ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-32>

website at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-50>

Town Centres

4.42 A very small amount of new retail (Use Class A1) floorspace was completed in Wirral in 2018/19 when compared to previous monitoring years.

Use Class	Town Centre		Borough Total		% in Town Centres	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Use Class A1	0	0	25	25	0%	0%
Use Class A2	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Use Class B1a	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Use Class D2	0	0	3,236	3,236	0%	0%

Table 4.16 Total Amount of Floorspace Developed for Town Centre Uses 2018/19

4.43 The table below shows the changing trend over time.

Completed Floorspace (square metres)	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Use Class A1 (gross)	4,635	828	7,954	2,500	1,742	4,122	25
(percentage in town centres)	55%	59%	5%	3%	23%	1%	0
Use Class A1 (sales)	2,418	471	7,489	2,472	1,290	2,720	25
(percentage in town centres)	56%	42%	5%	3%	21%	2%	0
Use Class A2	265	-	413	492	631	-	-
(percentage in town centres)	43%	-	100%	100%	100%	-	-
Use Class D2	4,195	-	30	374	568	1,342	3,237
(percentage in town centres)	2%	100%	0%	75%	34%	0%	0%

Table 4.17 Completed Floorspace for Town Centre Uses 2012/13 to 2018/19

4.44 The Council's latest assessment of retail spending and capacity was reported in January 2020³⁰.

Town Centre Action Plans

4.45 There are Town Centre Action Plans for Borough Road (Prenton Park); Bromborough; Claughton Village; Dacre Hill; Eastham (New Chester Road/Mill Park Drive); Greasby; Heswall; Hoylake; Irby Village; Liscard; Moreton; New Ferry; Oxton Village; Prenton; Seabank Road (New Brighton);

³⁰ The Council's latest retail study can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-31>

Seacombe (Poulton Road); Tranmere; Upton; Victoria Road (New Brighton); Wallasey Village; and West Kirby.

4.46 Copies of the completed Action Plans for each centre can be viewed on the Council's website.

4.47 Following an explosion in March 2017, in New Ferry, which caused considerable damage to homes and business premises, the Council has developed a masterplan proposal to help stimulate regeneration and investment within the area, which can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/business/regeneration/new-ferry-regeneration>.

4.48 The preferred development option (December 2019) can be viewed at <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50037219>

Tourism

4.49 Wirral had the fastest growing visitor economy in the City Region outside Liverpool during 2018 and the Borough's visitor sector was valued at over £456 million, up by almost 7 percent since 2017 (£426m).

Table 4.18 Visitor Spending by Sector in 2017 and 2018

Expenditure by Sector (£ million)	2017	2018	Percentage Change
Accommodation	£33.21	£33.66	+4.4%
Food & Drink	£81.75	£87.76	+7.4%
Recreation	£21.66	£23.28	+7.5%
Shopping	£150.66	£161.34	+7.1%
Transport	£33.09	£35.46	+7.2%
Total Direct Revenue	£320.36	£342.51	+6.9%
Indirect Expenditure	£105.98	£113.31	+6.9%
Total	£426.35	£455.83	+6.9%

4.50 The total number of visitors to Wirral rose by 2.9 percent, from 8.8 million during 2017 to 9.05 million during 2018.

4.51 Wirral's tourism sector also supported over 5,552 full-time equivalent jobs in 2018, up by 3.7 percent since 2017.

Table 4.19 Visitor Related Employment by Sector in 2017 and 2018

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2017	2018	Percentage Change
Accommodation	623	623	0.6%
Food & Drink	1,167	1,117	+4.5%
Recreation	362	379	+4.6%
Shopping	1,894	1,973	+4.2%
Transport	204	213	+4.3%
Total Direct Employment	4,215	4,374	+3.8%
Indirect Employment	1,133	1,178	+4.0%

Employment by Sector (jobs)	2017	2018	Percentage Change
Total	5,347	5,552	+3.8%

4.52 Over the last five years, Wirral's visitor economy has increased by 38.6 percent, from £327.85 million in 2013. Employment in tourism has increased by 23.1 percent, from 4,606 jobs in 2013; and visitor numbers have increased by 26.7 percent, from 7.08 million in 2013.

4.53 The economic impact from serviced accommodation, such as bed and breakfast, hotels, guesthouses and inns, has also increased by over 28 percent since 2012.

Housing

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

4.55 The Council's latest housing stock modelling estimates that approximately 15,500 private sector dwellings (equivalent to 12 percent) were subject to Category 1 Hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System³¹.

Dwelling Stock by Sector (number of dwellings)	Total Stock	Vacant	Percentage Vacant
Registered Provider	22,700	556 ³²	2.4%
Private Sector	126,279	4,166	3.3%
Totals	148,979	4,722³³	3.2%

Table 4.20 Wirral Dwelling Stock April 2019³⁴

4.56 Just under 85 percent of Wirral's residential properties were privately owned in April 2019. The remaining stock was owned by a Registered Provider. The vast majority of vacancies (just over 88 percent) were within the private sector housing stock.

4.57 226 vacant properties were brought back into residential use during 2018/19, of which 94 had been vacant for more than two years. 235 vacant properties had been brought back into use in 2017/18, of which 150 had been vacant for more than two years.

³¹ Integrated Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling and Database for Wirral Council, Client Report, BRE, March 2018.

³² Provided from local data for the monitoring year

³³ Table 615: vacant dwellings by local authority district: England, from 2004 (October 2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

³⁴ Table 100: number of dwellings by tenure and district, England. (April 2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

Housing Stock	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Private	123,607	123,816	124,060	124,439	124,828	125,479	126,279
Social Landlord	22,212	22,367	22,671	22,820	22,768	22,823	22,667
Other Public	2	2	4	6	5	4	4
Local Authority (incl. other LAs)	146	84	71	39	31	30	29
Total Stock	145,967	146,269	146,806	147,304	147,632	148,336	148,979
Vacant ³⁵	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%	3.3%	3.2%

Table 4.21 Changes in Wirral Dwelling Stock 2013 to 2019³⁶

4.58 Average house prices increased by 3.7 percent in Wirral from April 2018 to March 2019, higher than both the overall increase for Merseyside (3.0 percent) and the North West region (3.4 percent).

Average House Prices	Wirral	Merseyside	North West
Overall	£160,102	£142,298	£161,631
Detached	£269,221	£244,938	£278,259
Semi-detached	£177,348	£155,074	£171,053
Terraced	£121,064	£110,880	£123,231
Flat/Maisonette	£103,129	£92,566	£120,801

Table 4.22 Average House Prices April 2018 to March 2019

4.59 The median house price, for the Borough as a whole, was over six times the median earnings for the Borough in 2018³⁷. The affordability ratio used in the standard method calculation in Appendix 3, was 6.28 (2018)³⁸.

³⁵ Table 615: vacant dwellings by local authority district: England, from 2004 (October 2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

³⁶ Table 100: number of dwellings by tenure and district, England. (April 2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants>

³⁷ Calculated using the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Residence (NOMIS, 2019) and <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/hpi>

³⁸ Table 5c: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepriceto-workplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian>

Housing Land Supply

4.60 The Borough's housing land supply with planning permission at 31 March 2019 was 3,087 units, with additional outline consent for 13,521 units at Wirral Waters.

4.61 The proportion of units with planning permission on previously developed land has decreased from 83 percent in 2017/18 to 75 percent in 2018/19.

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

Source of Supply	April 2016 ³⁹	April 2017 ⁴⁰	April 2018 ⁴¹	April 2019 ⁴²
Category 1 Sites - developable within five years	1,249	825	549	833
Category 2 Sites - deliverable within ten years	1,443	1,243	847	2,442
Category 3 Sites - not currently deliverable	2,959	2,463	2,701	1,569
Total	5,651	4,531	4,097	4,844

Table 4.23 Capacity of Additional Housing Land Supply (dwellings)

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

4.64 The new method is based on a pre-set standard formula that uses the latest national household projections and the latest published data for average incomes and house prices to determine the minimum number of homes that will need to be provided over the next ten years⁴³.

4.65 The new method is intended to provide a figure that will change as each successive dataset is published. The Council's Local Plan must take account of these changes while it is being prepared but the figure can be 'frozen' for up to two years once the final Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. The Plan then has to be regularly

³⁹ Based on SHLAA 2016 <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-4>

⁴⁰ Figures for April 2017 are based on the SHLAA (April 2016) updated to take account of sites which are now under construction, sites which now have planning permission and sites which are no longer available for development.

⁴¹ Figures for April 2018 are based on preliminary outputs using the revised methodology for the SHLAA 2018, which was published for consultation in July 2017.

⁴² Based on SHLAA 2019, published alongside the Local Plan in January 2020 <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-42>. Data now includes land at Wirral Waters.

⁴³ The standard method can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

reviewed, in line with any further new data, so that it can remain relevant throughout the Plan period.

4.66 Using the previous MHCLG 2014-based national household projections, the new method leads to an annual average local housing need for Wirral of 800 new dwellings per year (equivalent to 12,000 over fifteen years).

4.67 Calculations of the Borough's five-year housing land supply, at April 2019, based on the Government's standard method, are set out in Appendix 3 to this AMR.

Housing Delivery

4.68 Gross completions totalled 798 during 2018/19, compared to 806 during 2017/18. The number of new dwellings under construction had however fallen to 1,020 in April 2019 from 1,138 in April 2018.

4.69 The percentage of residential completions on previously developed land was 80 percent in 2018/19, compared to 83 percent in 2017/18.

Table 4.24 Completed Dwellings 2012/13 to 2018/19

Completed Dwellings	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Gross New Build	463	419	395	468	261	669	633
Demolitions	355	181	16	52	19	56	93
Net New Build	108	238	379	416	242	613	540
Gross Conversions	177	80	168	94	123	137	165
Net Conversions	144	63	158	82	86	91	114
Total Gross Additional	640	500	563	562	384	806	798
Total Net Additional	252	301	537	498	328	704	654

4.70 The table below shows how the geographical pattern of development has changed across the Borough since April 2012:

Table 4.25 Completed Dwellings (Gross) 2012/13 to 2018/19⁴⁴

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2016 /17	2017 /18	2018 /19
Settlement Area 1 – Wallasey	130	87	131	132	62	88	83
	20%	17%	23%	23%	16%	11%	10%
Settlement Area 2 – Commercial Core	8	4	26	10	16	2	6
	1%	1%	5%	2%	4%	0%	1%
Settlement Area 3 – Suburban Birkenhead	219	198	122	211	116	282	193
	34%	40%	22%	38%	30%	35%	24%
	135	83	35	103	72	170	172

⁴⁴ The Settlement Areas used for this analysis were defined in the proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012)

Completed Dwellings (gross)	2012 /13	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16	2016 /17	2017 /18	2018 /19
Settlement Area 4 – Bromborough & Eastham	21%	17%	6%	18%	19%	21%	22%
Settlement Area 5 – Mid Wirral	89	64	196 ⁴⁵	31	25	161	174
	14%	13%	35%	6%	7%	20%	22%
Settlement Area 6 – Hoylake and West Kirby	36	42	13	14	64	29	41
	6%	8%	2%	2%	17%	4%	5%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	10	9	13	32	22	67	69
	2%	2%	2%	6%	6%	8%	9%
Settlement Area 8 – Rural Areas	13	12	27	29	7	7	60
	2%	2%	5%	5%	2%	1%	7%
Total	640	500	563	562	384	806	798

Gypsies and Travellers

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

4.72 An updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Wirral was published in January 2020 and can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-44>.

Affordable Housing

4.73 The number of affordable housing completions increased to 177 units in 2018/19 from 153 in 2017/18. The new dwellings were located in Bromborough (46), Beechwood (26), Upton (28), Heswall (19), Rock Ferry (18), Moreton (15), Pensby (14), Leasowe (6), Liscard (4) and Bebington (1)⁴⁶.

4.74 The current targets for the provision of affordable housing, are 10 percent within areas of greatest need⁴⁷ and 20 percent across the rest of Wirral, normally applied to sites with a capacity of 11 dwellings or more, in line with national policy⁴⁸.

Table 4.26 Affordable Housing Completions (Gross) 2018/19

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 1 - Wallasey	4	83	5%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	0	6	0%
Settlement Area 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	45	193	23%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromborough & Eastham	47	172	27%

⁴⁶ The figures in Table 4.27 are taken from submitted planning applications where the tenure of future properties has been declared

⁴⁷ Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20 percent of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation

⁴⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-obligations> (Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 23b-031-20161116 refers)

Settlement Area	Affordable Completions	Total Gross Completions	% of Total Completions
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	48	174	28%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake and West Kirby	0	41	0%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	33	69	48%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	0	60	70%
Total Borough	177	798	22%

4.75 A revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment⁴⁹ was published for public comment alongside the latest Development Viability Baseline Report⁵⁰, in January 2020.

Self-Build and Custom House Building

4.76 In November 2019, there were 207 individuals on the Council's Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register, who had requested between 219 and 253 plots of land.

4.77 There is a strong preference for medium-sized plots of land, with two thirds (65 percent) of responses indicating a preference for a plot of between 150 to 499 square metres. Only 20 percent of responses stated a preference for a plot of 500 square metres or above.

4.78 There is also a preference for larger dwellings, with 57 percent of responses stating an intention to develop a detached property, 16 percent declaring an interest to develop a semi-detached property and 17 percent wishing to build a bungalow.

Settlement Area	Preferred Location (Number of responses)	Percentage
1 - Wallasey	51	8%
2 - Commercial Core	8	1%
3 - Suburban Birkenhead	40	6%
4 - Bromborough & Eastham	72	11%
5 - Mid-Wirral	90	14%
6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	102	16%
7 - Heswall	113	18%
8 - Rural Areas	136	22%
No Stated Preference	19	3%

Table 4.27 Preferred Locations for Self-build and Custom House Building

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

⁴⁹ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-41>

⁵⁰ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-28>

4.80 Data compiled by the Council at April 2019, indicated that there were 113 plots with planning permission for single dwellings with potential to accommodate self-build or custom-build housing.

4.81 Just over 9 percent of all new build housing completed in Wirral since 2012 (321 units) has taken place on plots which were likely to have supported self-build and custom-build housing.

Heritage Conservation

4.82 The Wirral Heritage Strategy sets out a comprehensive and integrated heritage framework for the Borough, which forms the basis for local heritage activities in Wirral in the short and medium term. The Strategy is currently being updated.

4.83 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with 739 nationally designated entries on the Historic England National Heritage List for England, including eight Ancient Monuments, four Historic Parks and Gardens and twenty-six Council-designated Conservation Areas.

4.84 The following heritage assets are currently included on the national Historic England Heritage at Risk Register⁵¹:

- Flaybrick Cemetery Conservation Area, Birkenhead - 5 Listed Buildings, part in Registered Park and Garden Grade II*
- Hamilton Square Conservation Area, Birkenhead – 62 Grade 1 Listed Buildings, 5 Grade II* Listed Buildings and several Grade II Listed Buildings.
- Church of St James, New Brighton - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Church of St Peter and St Paul, New Brighton - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Church of St Paul, Wallasey - Listed Place of Worship Grade II
- Flaybrick Memorial Gardens - Registered Park and Garden Grade II*, 6 Listed Buildings, part in Conservation Area
- Moated Site 400m North East of New Hall, - Scheduled Monument
- Storeton Hall, Bebington - Scheduled Monument and Listed Building Grade II*
- Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton – Listed Building Grade II*
- Thornton Manor Bebington – Registered Park and Garden Grade II* and 5 Listed Buildings
- Roman Catholic Church of St Michael and All Angels, Woodchurch – Listed Place of Worship Grade II (added since 2016/17)
- Church of St Nicholas, Newport Avenue, Wallasey – Listed Place of Worship Grade II (added since 2016/17)
- Church of St Mary, Liscard – Listed Place of Worship Grade II (added since 2018/19)

4.85 The Church of Saint Peter Saint Paul and Saint Philomena (Dome of Home) in New Brighton has received a third Heritage Lottery Fund grant for

⁵¹ [Historic England Heritage at Risk Register for Wirral \(October 2019\)](#)

repairs to the historic fabric. Work is ongoing including a successful programme of heritage tours and education initiatives.

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

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

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

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

4.90 Birkenhead Park is recognised as a significant heritage asset with its inclusion as a Grade 1 listing on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The Park is also recognised for its global significance, as the first public park in the world created by a municipal authority. The Council, Friends Group and partners continue to work towards achieving inscribed World Heritage Status for Birkenhead Park and are currently preparing for the first stage of the formal application process, expected to be announced in Spring 2020.

4.91 Wirral has two major annual heritage events, organised by volunteers from the Wirral History and Heritage Association - the Local History and Heritage Fair in March, and Heritage Open Days in September. The events attracted more than 7,000 people in 2019 and over seventy local groups took part.

Biodiversity

4.92 The latest published information shows five of the Borough's twelve nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are not currently considered to be meeting the Government's Public Service Agreement Target to have at least 95 percent of the SSSI in favourable or recovering condition⁵².

⁵²<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteList.aspx?siteName=&countyCode=28&responsiblePerson>

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Favourable Condition	Unfavourable Condition - Recovering	Unfavourable Condition - No Change	Unfavourable Condition - Declining
Dee Cliffs	86.8%	-	13.1%	-
Dee Estuary	100%	-	-	-
Dibbinsdale	41.5%	36.6%	22%	-
Heswall Dales	-	100%	-	-
Meols Meadows	-	41%	59%	-
Mersey Estuary	46%	53.2%	0.5%	0.4%
Mersey Narrows	22.3%	77.7%	-	-
New Ferry	100%	-	-	-
North Wirral Foreshore	-	-	-	100%
Red Rocks	-	71.6%	-	28.4%
The Dungeon	100%	-	-	-
Thurstaston Common	0.7%	99.3%	-	-

Table 4.28 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Favourable Condition⁵³

4.93 Up-to-date information is not currently available on Local Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management.

Public Open Space

4.94 Twenty-seven of the Borough's open spaces gained Green Flag Awards in 2019, resulting in a small increase in the proportion of public open space that is managed to Green Flag Award standard.

4.95 Birkenhead Park and Port Sunlight Village retained their Green Heritage Site Accreditation, in recognition of maintaining the required standard in the management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance⁵⁴.

4.96 New Ferry Butterfly Park also regained its Green Flag Community Award, for sites managed by voluntary and community groups.

Total Public Open Space	1,192 hectares ⁵⁵
Area of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	571.82 hectares
Percentage of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Award Standard	48%

⁵³ From reports generated on 29 October 2019

⁵⁴ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/media/1191/global-green-flag-award-winners-2019.pdf>

⁵⁵ includes sites within the designated Green Belt

Table 4.29 Amount of Public Open Space Managed to Green Flag Standards 2018/2019⁵⁶

4.97 The Council's target to increase the number of new Green Flag Award parks by at least one every year, was met, as an additional space was granted a Green Flag Award⁵⁷. A draft up-dated Open Space Assessment, which was published for public comment in January 2020, can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-39>.

Water Quality

4.98 Wirral's beaches have consistently been among the cleanest in the North West and three of Wirral's beaches are identified in the Good Beach Guide, as meeting the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the Environment Agency⁵⁸.

4.99 The beaches at West Kirby; Meols; and Moreton, all received an 'Excellent' rating in 2018⁵⁹.

4.100 The Council's target was to achieve a Blue Flag Award for one beach by December 2016 and for a second beach by December 2019⁶⁰. Wallasey Beach won a Blue Flag award in 2017 and 2019.

4.101 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 The Fender, classified as 'Moderate'⁶¹.

4.102 The Environment Agency did not object to any planning applications on the grounds of water quality during 2018/19.

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

Flood Risk

4.104 The Environment Agency objected to only one application during 2018/19 on the grounds of flood risk, to request the provision of a Flood Risk Assessment for a proposed office development within the Birkenhead docks⁶².

⁵⁶ These calculations are currently interim, subject to an updated Open Space Assessment

⁵⁷ Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024 <http://tinyurl.com/nj4nc8x>

⁵⁸ [Marine Conservation Society, Good Beach Guide](#)

⁵⁹ the beaches at Thurstaston, Red Rocks, Leasowe Bay and New Brighton were not tested

⁶⁰ Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024 <http://tinyurl.com/nj4nc8x>

⁶¹ [Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer - Wirral Operational Catchment 2016](#)

⁶² For Vittoria Studios, Wirral Waters, Birkenhead (DLS/18/00717): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-objections-to-planning-on-the-basis-of-flood-risk>

Energy

4.105 The latest published information indicates that Wirral was estimated to have consumed a total of 5,553 GWh of energy in 2017, compared to 7,292 GWh in 2005⁶³.

4.106 The majority of energy consumed in Wirral was taken up for domestic needs. The proportion of energy taken up by industry and commerce had dropped from 35 percent in 2003 to just under 30 percent in 2017⁶⁴.

Total Final Energy Consumption (percentages)	Industry & Commerce	Domestic	Transport	Bioenergy and Wastes
Wirral	28.8%	43.3%	25.7%	2.2%
North West	37.0%	31.5%	27.9%	3.9%
Great Britain	35.8%	31.5%	30.0%	2.7%

Table 4.30 Energy Consumption by Sector 2017⁶⁵

Offshore Wind

4.107 Wirral forms an important part of the Liverpool City Region Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering, one of only six such centres across the UK and the only one on the west coast.

4.108 Cammell Lairds was used as a base port for the construction of the now operational 160 turbine, 576MW Gwynt y Môr wind farm in the Irish Sea, around 18 kilometres off the Welsh coast and continues to host the remaining crew transfer and storage facility.

4.109 Twenty-seven wind turbines, capable of supplying electricity to up to 310,000 households, also operate off the Wirral shoreline at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay, and was the first commercial wind farm to feature 8MW turbines. A new operations facility was completed at Kings Wharf, Seacombe, in during 2017.

Local Generation

4.110 The latest national figures show that there were 2,358 domestic photovoltaic installations in Wirral, in December 2018, compared to only nine in June 2010⁶⁶.

⁶³ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2017 \(October 2019\)](#)

⁶⁴ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2017 \(October 2019\)](#)

⁶⁵ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2017 \(October 2019\)](#)

⁶⁶ [BEIS Renewable Energy by Local Authority 2018](#)

4.111 The total energy consumed in Wirral which comes from bioenergy is now estimated at 123.3 GWh, compared to only 0.9 GWh in 2014⁶⁷.

4.112 The residual output from the energy-from-waste facility at the former Bromborough Landfill, which has recently been restored to form the Port Sunlight River Park, reduced to 2765 MWh during 2018/19 from 3,601 MWh during 2017/18.

4.113 The City Region Devolution Agreement, approved in November 2015, committed the Government to re-consider the merits of delivering a potential tidal energy project in the River Mersey. A special advisor has been appointed to take the project forward and the City Region Combined Authority are currently developing a business case for the project, with a team with extensive experience of delivering major infrastructure projects.

Household Energy Efficiency

4.114 The latest published information shows that the total number of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) measures delivered in Wirral in the period to June 2019 was 20,102, an increase of 1,103 over the previous year.

4.115 This included 4,973 Carbon Savings Target measures; 5,045 Carbon Savings Community (CSCO) measures; and 10,084 Affordable Warmth (HHCRO) measures.

Area	ECO measures per 1,000 households	Total number of ECO measures delivered
Wirral	141.4	20,102
Great Britain	95.1	2,535,907

Table 4.31 Energy Company Obligation Measures to June 2019⁶⁸

Fuel Poverty

4.116 The latest published figures continued to show increasing levels of fuel poverty in Wirral. The variance against the national average is now at 2.6 percentage points.

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wirral	10.9%	10.9%	11.2%	13.1%	13.5%
England	10.4%	10.6%	11.0%	11.1%	10.9%

Table 4.32 Households in Fuel Poverty⁶⁹

4.117 Wirral's new Climate Strategy, 'Cool 2', was approved in December 2019, alongside the Council's latest annual climate report, Cool Steps⁷⁰.

⁶⁷ [BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics in the United Kingdom 2005-2017 \(October 2019\)](#)

⁶⁹ [BEIS Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2019](#)

⁷⁰ <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/climatestrategy>

4.118 The Friends of the Earth Climate Action website indicates that Wirral should improve public transport, ensure it connects with the proposed low-emission Mersey Ferry and should seek to retro-fit energy inefficient old housing stock⁷¹.

Minerals

4.119 Wirral does not have any significant mineral reserves, apart from small amounts of winnable brick clay.

4.120 The latest Local Aggregates Assessment for Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Halton and Warrington was published in July 2019.

4.121 The import of material from other areas is expected to continue to play a vital role in supporting new development and infrastructure, subject to the production of secondary and recycled material, which was currently at 3.49Mt.

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

4.123 An updated minerals report for Wirral was published in January 2020⁷².

Waste

4.124 The amount of total household waste arising decreased in 2018/19.

4.125 Nationally, over two thirds (65 percent) of waste collection authorities across England also saw a reduction in total household waste and almost two-thirds (64 percent) a reduction in recycling tonnages.

4.126 Overall, the amount of collected household waste per person in Wirral reduced to 366.2kg per person in 2018/19, compared to 374.1kg in 2017/18. The average for England was 335kg per person in 2018/19.

Table 4.33 Amount of Household Waste Arising and Managed by Management Type 2018/19

Waste Managed (tonnes)	Landfill	Recycled	Composted	Total
Amount of household waste arising and managed by management type	79,819	25,136	13,258	118,213
Percentage of household waste arising by management type	67.5%	21.3%	11.2%	100%

4.127 In 2018/19, the measured contamination rate at the Materials Recovery Facility at Bidston reduced to 9.8 percent. This is likely due to the 'Recycle Right' campaign, which aimed to advise residents about the types of item that can be collected for recycling from the kerbside.

⁷¹ More information can be found: <https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/how-climate-friendly-your-area-enter-your-postcode-see-results-your-community>

⁷² <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-33>

Table 4.34 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2014/15 to 2018/19⁷³

Waste Arisings (tonnes)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Landfill	76,438	77,486	78,409	80,672	79,819
(percentage of total arisings)	64%	64%	64%	67%	68%
Recycled	30,263	30,899	29,825	26,242	25,136
(percentage of total arisings)	25%	25%	24%	22%	21%
Composted	12,674	13,355	14,091	13,848	13,258
(percentage of total arisings)	11%	11%	12%	11%	11%
Total Arisings	119,375	121,740	122,236	120,763	118,213

Table 4.34 Trends in Waste Management by Management Type 2014/15 to 2018/19⁷⁴

4.128 The number of garden waste subscribers increased to 39,963 households during 2018/19, which is thought to be the result of additional marketing campaigns and additional value for money through seasonal offers at local garden centres.

4.129 A Garden Waste Composting Service for the Liverpool City Region was approved in September 2019⁷⁵.

Transport

4.130 The latest information on commuting patterns from the 2011 Census was published in July 2014 and was reported in previous Monitoring Reports.

4.131 The accessibility of new residential development completed during 2018/19 has, again, 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	83	83	0	100%
Settlement Area 2 - Commercial Core	6	6	0	100%

⁷³ Waste Data Flow: <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

⁷⁴ Waste Data Flow: <http://www.wastedataflow.org/>

⁷⁵ <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=4553>

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 3 - Suburban Birkenhead	193	193	0	100%
Settlement Area 4 - Bromb & Eastham	172	172	0	100%
Settlement Area 5 - Mid-Wirral	174	172	2	99%
Settlement Area 6 - Hoylake & West Kirby	41	26	15	63%
Settlement Area 7 - Heswall	69	62	7	90%
Settlement Area 8 - Rural Areas	60	57	3	95%
Total Borough	798	771	27	97%

Table 4.35 Accessibility of New Residential Development 2018/19

4.132 All but 27 new completed dwellings were located within 400 metres walking distance of a railway station or a high frequency public transport service during 2018/19.

4.133 A range of transport studies were published for public comment alongside the emerging Local Plan in January 2020⁷⁶.

5 Monitoring Plan Preparation

5.1 This section of the AMR records progress on the preparation of the Council's Local Plans.

Local Development Scheme

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

5.3 The latest LDS came into effect on 15 October 2019 (Council 14 October 2019, Minute 72 refers) and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>

Core Strategy Local Plan

5.4 The Council originally proposed to prepare a Core Strategy Local Plan, to set the overall spatial framework for future development and investment in

⁷⁶ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-3#wgSM-6> (Documents T1 to T10)

the Borough for the next 15 years and to replace the strategic and criteria-based policies currently contained within the Unitary Development Plan.

5.5 A Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy was published for public comment in December 2012. The representations received were reported in June 2013 and series of initial proposed modifications were published for public comment in July 2013. A series of further proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, were published for public comment in December 2014.

5.6 Further consultation on housing needs and land supply was undertaken in August and September 2016 and the results were reported in February 2017⁷⁷. A review of development options was then published for public consultation in September 2018⁷⁸.

Wirral Local Plan

5.7 The Council submitted a Local Plan Action Plan to the Secretary of State in April 2019, in response to his letter of 28 January 2019⁷⁹.

5.8 The timetable required additional consultation under Regulation 18 to take place during January 2020, with consultation under Regulation 19 in July 2020 and submission to the Secretary of State in November 2020.

5.9 The Wirral Local Plan will now include strategic and non-strategic policies, as well as site-specific land allocations in a single document.

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

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

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

Site Allocations Local Plan

⁷⁷ The Cabinet Report for 27 February 2017 and Report of Consultation can be viewed at <http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=5511&Ver=4> (Item 96)

⁷⁸ The documents that were published can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-6>

⁷⁹ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/wirral-new-local-plan/local-plan>
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/planning%20and%20building/Local%20plans%20and%20planning%20policy/Local%20plans/Core%20strategy%20local%20plan/Action%20Plan/Wirral%20Local%20Plan%20Action%20Plan%20-%20April%202019.pdf>

5.13 As site-specific land allocations will now be included in the Wirral Local Plan, no additional Site Allocations Local Plan will need to be prepared.

Evidence Base

5.14 The latest evidence base for the preparation of the Wirral Local Plan can be viewed at the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-reports-3>.

6 Cross-Boundary Co-Operation

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

Liverpool City Region Structures and Initiatives

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

6.3 The Devolution Agreement with Government also gave strategic planning powers to an elected Liverpool City Region Mayor, to help accelerate economic growth and new housing development and to prepare a Spatial Development Strategy for the City Region⁸⁰.

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

6.5 The first City Region Mayor, Steve Rotherham, was elected in May 2017 and regulations to govern the preparation of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy were published in July 2018⁸¹. The amended regulations came into force in August 2018⁸².

⁸⁰ The original Agreement, from November 2015, can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477385/Liverpool_devolution_deal_unsigned.pdf

⁸¹ The Combined Authorities (Spatial Development Strategy) Regulations 2018 can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/827/contents>

⁸² The Combined Authorities (Spatial Development Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/924/contents/made>

6.6 Initial consultation on the scope of the Spatial Development Strategy took place in October 2019⁸³. Further information can now be viewed at <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-spatial-planning/>.

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

- The Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Advisory Board;
- bi-monthly meetings of the Liverpool City Region Chief Planning Officers and Policy Managers including the council for West Lancashire;
- shared specialist environmental services provided through Sefton Council by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service;
- participation in the North West Coastal Forum Management Board;
- a shared archaeological records management and planning advisory service with the councils for Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens;
- the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership;
- joint consultancy for the consistent provision of City Region Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessments;
- preliminary arrangements for the preparation of the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy, including public consultation undertaken in October 2019;
- completion of a pilot draft Statement on Common Ground for the Liverpool City Region, to inform emerging national policy for the Planning Advisory Service (April 2018);
- membership of Combined Authority Air Quality Task Group;
- the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Mayoral Transport Plan 2019 to 2023 (March 2019);
- preparation of a Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (from February 2019, approved in principle by Wirral Council in September 2019);
- the five-year review of the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton (from June 2019); and
- further work with the Mersey Dee Alliance, spanning the North Wales and North West England border⁸⁴, and

6.8 Work on joint evidence has also included:

- a Liverpool City Region Recreation Mitigation Strategy, with Natural England (from February 2018 onwards);
- a Liverpool City Region assessment of the supply of large scale B8 sites (June 2018) and a further areas of search assessment (August 2019);
- a Liverpool City Region Brownfield Housing Site Viability Study (December 2018);
- the Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy 2019 to 2024 (from February 2019);
- a Liverpool City Region Local Industrial Strategy (from July 2019);

⁸³ <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/steve-rotheram-wants-your-views-on-the-future-of-jobs-housing-and-transport-across-the-region/>

⁸⁴ Further information about the activities of the Alliance can be viewed at <http://www.merseydealliance.org.uk/>

- a Liverpool City Region Preliminary Air Quality Options Study and Addendum (ongoing); and
- a Liverpool City Region Town Centre Hierarchy Review (ongoing).

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

- the West Lancashire Local Plan Review Preferred Options (December 2018);
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part Two Land Allocations and Detailed Policies Main Modifications (January 2019)
- Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy Pre-Commencement Engagement - LCR Listens: Our Places (Jan 2020)
- Marine Management Organisation Marine Plan for the North West Preferred Draft Policies, Draft Supporting Text and Coastal Concordat (April 2020)

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

- the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part Two Site Allocations Consultation (October 2018); and
- the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Publication Version (January 2019)
- the Initial Draft Wakefield District Local Plan 2036 (February 2019)
- the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan Draft Statement of Common Ground (May 2019)
- the South London Waste Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options Consultation (December 2019); and
- on waste movements, to inform the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (November 2018), Warrington Local Plan Review (November 2018) and the Surrey Waste Local Plan (February 2019).
- Marine Management Organisation Marine Planning Workshop North West (February 2019)

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

- North West Marine Plan Seascape Assessment Workshops (April 2018);
- Flintshire County Council Draft Enforcement Policy (April 2018);
- Knowsley Council Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Adding Value to Development: Education and Skills; and Proposed Amendment to New Residential Development SPD (May 2018);
- Cheshire West and Chester Council Traveller Development Plan Document – Issues Consultation (July 2018);
- Knowsley Council Draft Earlsfield Park Open Space Masterplan (December 2018);
- Halton Draft Statement of Community Involvement (December 2018);
- St Helens Borough Local Plan 2020 to 2035 Submission Draft (January 2019);
- Flintshire County Council New Developer Advice Note on Flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation (February 2019);
- Knowsley Council Draft East of Halewood Supplementary Planning Document and Draft East of Halewood Master Plan (February 2019);
- Marine Management Organisation Marine Planning and Coastal Concordat (February 2019);
- Formby and Little Altcar Draft Neighbourhood Plan (March 2019);

- Halton Local Plan Draft Whole Plan Viability Study (April 2019);
- Flintshire County Council Deposit Local Development Plan - Rapid Participatory Health Impact Assessment (August 2019);
- Liverpool City Council Draft Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2018 (September 2019); and the
- Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Modifications (October 2019).

6.12 Wirral Council has also sought cross boundary information and the co-operation of partners on the preparation of the following Local Plan evidence base studies:

- Wirral Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – consultation with neighbouring councils with existing provision (May 2019);
- Wirral Landscape Character Assessment – to take account of the Cheshire West and Chester Landscape Character Assessment 2016, City Region Nature Improvement Areas, the Mersey Forest and the Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (June 2019);
- Wirral Green Belt Review – consultation with City Region authorities, the councils for West Lancashire and Cheshire West and Chester and the Combined Authority (June 2019);
- Wirral Indoor Sports Needs Assessment (June 2019) and Strategy (October 2019) – to take account of neighbouring facilities within 2 miles within Liverpool, Sefton and Cheshire West and Chester
- Wirral Minerals Report - consultation with the Coal Authority, the councils for St Helens and Cheshire West and Chester and the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (September 2019);
- Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update - consultation with City Region authorities and the councils for West Lancashire and Cheshire West and Chester (October 2019);
- Wirral Local Plan Baseline and Spatial Options Modelling Reports – to take account of the Liverpool City Region Transport Model and the impact of toll charges on the Mersey Tunnels, Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridge (July and December 2019); and
- Wirral Retail and Centres Study – to take account of the sub-regional hierarchy of centres and commercial leisure facilities, in Liverpool, Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston (December 2019).

6.13 The latest position is set out in a [summary note](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/wirrals-new-local-plan/new-local-plan) published alongside the Wirral Local Plan 2020 to 2035 Issues and Options consultation, which can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/wirrals-new-local-plan/new-local-plan>

6.14 Information from the most recent co-operation is also set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan Baseline Report⁸⁵ and Draft Spatial Portrait⁸⁶.

⁸⁵ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-52>

⁸⁶ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-51>

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Appendix 1

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

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

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

Part One Policies:

Policy HSG1 – New Dwelling Requirement
Policy WMT1 – Landfill Provision

Part Two Policies and Proposals:

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

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

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

Policy WMT2 - Recycling And Re-Use of Waste Materials (Strategic policy)
Proposal WM1 - Landfill Waste Disposal Sites
Policy WM2 - Criteria for Landfill Waste Disposal Sites
Policy WM3 - Restoration and Aftercare of Landfill Waste Disposal Sites
Policy WM4 - Provision of Recycling Collection Areas
Policy WM5 - Criteria for Waste Reception Centres
Policy WM6 - Criteria for Waste Transfer Stations
Policy WM7 - Criteria for Clinical and Chemical Waste Incinerators
Policy WM8 - Criteria for Sewage Treatment Facilities

Policy WM9 - Criteria for Sewage Sludge Disposal Facilities

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

UDP Proposal EM1 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM2)

UDP Proposal EM3/14 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM3)

UDP Policy EM8 (Waste Local Plan Policy WM5)

Appendix 2

Table 1 – Housing Land Supply with Planning Permission April 2019

Land with Planning Permission at 31 March 2019 (gross)	Previously Developed	Greenfield	Total
<i>(i) New build sites</i>			
Sites under construction > 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	399	107	506
Sites not started > 0.4 ha (units not started)	313	451	764
Sites under construction < 0.4 ha (units not started + under construction)	285	67	352
Sites not started < 0.4 ha (units not started)	564	156	720
Total units on new build sites	1,561	781	2,342
<i>(ii) Conversions and changes of use</i>			
Changes of use under construction (units not started + under construction)	355	1	356
Changes of use not started (units not started)	232	5	237
Conversions under construction (units not started + under construction)	79	0	79
Conversions not started (units not started)	73	0	73
Total units conversions and changes of use	739	6	745
Total units with planning permission	2,300	787	3,087
Percentage on previously developed land			75%

Notes

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

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

Table 1 does not include additional sites without planning permission assessed as part of the Council's latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) or the future generation of windfalls or land with only outline consent at Wirral Waters.

Appendix 2

Table 2 - Recorded Demolitions

Numbers of single dwellings	Core Strategy Settlement Area								Total
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	
2001/2002	0	64	198	1	28	2	4	6	303
2002/2003	27	7	364	0	49	2	1	0	450
2003/2004	7	34	158	0	3	5	4	1	212
2004/2005	22	57	313	2	17	4	4	0	419
2005/2006	1	91	169	5	3	2	6	0	277
2006/2007	20	40	126	4	11	2	7	5	215
2007/2008	74	5	131	7	3	4	3	3	230
2008/2009	32	1	205	0	2	0	1	1	242
2009/2010	31	0	64	2	3	0	29	2	131
2010/2011	15	0	145	3	4	1	5	2	175
2011/2012	9	95	33	1	89	9	4	2	242
2012/2013	16	0	130	0	197	2	4	6	355
2013/2014	0	0	88	0	87	0	5	1	181
2014/2015	3	0	4	1	1	2	2	3	16
2015/2016	11	0	33	1	1	0	5	1	52
2016/2017	0	0	7	1	1	5	3	2	19
2017/2018	5	0	12	8	2	22	6	1	56
2018/2019	0	0	56	28	1	1	5	2	93

Notes

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

Council data for April 2019 showed approximately 65 demolitions were currently programmed or expected to take place under existing planning permissions, compared with 153 the previous year.

As the median for the last five years was 52, the previous allowance for expected public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions, of 50 demolitions each year, has been retained in future estimates for 2019/20 to 2023/24.

Appendix 2

Table 3 - Actual Net Change in Dwelling Stock

A	B	C	D	E
Year	Total Demolitions	Total Net Conversions	Total New Build	Net Change (C+D)-B
2001/2002	303	104	378	179
2002/2003	450	43	591	184
2003/2004	212	74	581	443
2004/2005	419	81	440	102
2005/2006	277	55	442	220
2006/2007	215	115	606	506
2007/2008	230	155	639	564
2008/2009	242	154	422	334
2009/2010	131	47	284	200
2010/2011	175	14	258	97
2011/2012	242	10	254	22
2012/2013	355	144	463	252
2013/2014	181	63	419	301
2014/2015	16	158	395	537
2015/2016	52	82	468	498
2016/2017	19	86	261	328
2017/2018	56	91	669	704
2018/2019	93	114	633	654

Notes

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

An allowance of 80 units per annum has been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3, based on the average recorded net conversions and changes of use over the last ten years.

The total number of conversions and changes of use with planning permission at April 2019 was 745, of which 434 were registered as under construction (Appendix 2, Table 1). This has increased since April 2018, when there were 619 units with planning permission, of which 155 were registered as under construction.

Although not included in Table 3 above or the analyses in Section 4 of this AMR, an additional 1,017 net dwellings (1,047 gross) which had previously been registered as still under construction, were found, following a visual inspection undertaken as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy, to be complete and occupied at 31 March 2013, without a completion date having been registered under the Building Regulations⁸⁷.

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.

⁸⁷ These additional completions were reported in the 2013 AMR.

Appendix 2

Table 4 - Windfall Site Generation

A	B	C	D	E	F
Year	Base New Build Supply (gross)	Gross Completions (including conversions)	Draft Year End Residual Supply (B-C)	Actual Year End New Build Supply	Derived New Build Windfalls (E-D)
2001/2002	2,426	525	1,901	2,289	388
2002/2003	2,289	645	1,644	1,580	-64
2003/2004	1,580	686	894	1,764	870
2004/2005	1,764	531	1,233	2,590	1,357
2005/2006	2,590	511	2,079	3,249	1,170
2006/2007	3,249	736	2,513	3,143	630
2007/2008	3,143	820	2,323	3,244	921
2008/2009	3,244	599	2,645	3,596	951
2009/2010	3,596	340	3,256	2,806	-450
2010/2011	2,806	272	2,534	2,474	-60
2011/2012	2,474	268	2,206	2,581	375
2012/2013	2,581	640	1,941	2,532	591
2013/2014	2,532	499	2,033	1,640	-393
2014/2015	1,640	563	1,077	1,637	560
2015/2016	1,637	562	1,075	1,786	711
2016/2017	1,786	384	1,402	2,004	602
2017/2018	2,004	806	1,198	2,018	820
2018/2019	2,018	798	1,220	2,342	1,122

Notes

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

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

An allowance of 70 units per annum has been used in calculating the five-year housing land supply in Appendix 3, based on the average recorded delivery of previously unidentified sites obtaining planning permission since the first SHLAA was completed in April 2008. The data for individual years is set out in the SHLAA 2019⁸⁸.

⁸⁸ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-42>

Appendix 3

A. Based on 800 dwellings per annum (MHCLG 2014-based Standard Method Calculation⁸⁹)

Table A1 - Five-Year Housing Land Supply (April 2019) - Plus 20%

A	Five Year Projected Demolitions 2019-2024	250
B	Local housing need based on MHCLG Standard Method 2019-2024	4,000
C	Five Year Housing Target 2019- 2024 (1.20 x B) + A	5,050
D	Current Five Year Supply	3,188
E	Annual Requirement over Five Years (gross) (C/5)	1,010
F	Years' Supply (D/E)	3.1

Notes

The calculation in Table A1 is based on the following assumptions:

- Five Year Projected Demolitions (Row A) is based on the previous allowance for expected public sector, Registered Provider and private sector demolitions, of 50 demolitions each year and actual recorded demolitions between 2014/15 and 2018/19.
- Local housing need (Row B) is based on the National Planning Policy Framework standard method (NPPF, paragraph 73 refers), using the 2014-based CLG household projections, from 2019, which includes the following:

Average household growth over ten years (2019 to 2029):

146,132 to 153,128 = 6,996 divided by 10 = 700 dwellings

Market Signals adjustment:

Workplace based median house price to median earnings for most recent year available (2018) = 6.28

Adjustment factor = (6.28 minus 4)/4 = 0.57 x 0.25 = 0.1425

Local Housing Need = (1 + 0.1425) = 1.1425 x 700 = 800

- Five Year Housing Target (Row C) shows the position with the twenty per cent buffer required for performance at less than 85 percent over the previous three years under the national Housing Delivery Test (NPPF, paragraph 73 refers)⁹⁰.

⁸⁹ Housing Need (MHCLG, July 2019) can be viewed at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>

⁹⁰ The Government's Housing Delivery Test Measurement for 2018 (February 2019) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-delivery-test-2018-measurement>

- Current Five Year Supply (Row D) includes the following:
 - SHLAA sites considered deliverable within the first five years, based on the findings of the SHLAA 2019⁹¹ and the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018⁹² (**833 units**);
 - Extant planning permissions for new build units assumed to be deliverable at April 2019, based on responses from a survey of developers and landowners and the findings of the latest Development Viability Assessment for 2018 (**1,605 units**);
 - An allowance of 80 net additional conversions and changes of use per year between 2019 and 2024, based on actual previous delivery over the last ten years (**400 units**);
 - an allowance for new build windfalls between 2019 and 2024, based on the average number of additional new build windfalls granted permission on sites which had not been previously identified in a SHLAA since April 2008, at 70 units per year (**350 units**).

⁹¹ <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-42>

⁹² <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-planning-evidence-and-research-report-28>

Glossary

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Adoption		The stage at which the Council formally decides to adopt the final version of a Local Development Document to make it legally operative
Allocated		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in the Unitary Development Plan
Allocation		The identification of a specific piece of land for a specific type of development in a Local Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan or the Unitary Development Plan
Ancient Monument	SAM	An identified area designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its national importance for archaeology
Areas of Greatest Need		Defined in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy Local Plan as areas falling within the lowest 20% of scores within the national index of Multiple Deprivation
Assisted Areas		Recognised in European state aid rules as being less economically advantaged places that would benefit from additional support for development.
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	BEIS	Government department with responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy, and climate change.
Biodiversity		A collective term for the full variety of biological life on earth including plants, animals and ecosystems
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 (SHLAA) - sites capable of being developed for housing within five years
Category 2 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) - sites capable of being developed for housing within five to ten years
Category 3 Sites		Related to the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) - sites not currently developable for housing within ten years
Combined Authority		A formally constituted strategic authority with powers over transport, economic development and regeneration

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	A financial charge that can be levied on new development to pay for local infrastructure to be provided
Conservation Area		An identified area designated by the Council to allow the character and appearance of that area to be protected
Core Strategy		A Local Plan setting out the spatial vision and general strategy for the Borough
Corporate Plan		A public document prepared by the Council setting out the Council's main priorities for the future
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA	The Government Department responsible for sustainable development, environmental protection and rural policy
Development Plan		A statutory document that individual planning decisions must legally be made in accordance with unless material considerations indicate otherwise, including a Unitary Development Plan, Local Plan or Neighbourhood Development Plan
Dock Estate		An area of land owned and operated by a port operator, which was set aside for port-related land uses in the Unitary Development Plan
Energy Company Obligation	ECO	A government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
Environment Agency	EA	A government body with responsibility for preventing harmful impacts on the environment
Green Deal Assessments		Assessment to determine if a householder could benefit from home improvements previously funded by the Government's Green Deal scheme.
Green Flag Award		An annual award based on a national standard for the maintenance of parks and open spaces
Gross Value Added	GVA	A measure of the performance of the local economy
Habitats Regulations Assessment	HRA	An assessment of the impact of emerging policies and proposals on European designated sites
Heritage at Risk	HAR	A national record of designated heritage assets considered to be at serious risk of harm or damage, prepared by Historic England
Historic England		A government body with responsibility for protecting and promoting the historic environment

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Housing Health and Safety Rating System	HHSRS	A 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
Initial Consultation		The stage at which the scope and content of an emerging Local Plan or Supplementary Planning Document is decided in consultation with stakeholders
Liverpool City Region	LCR	The functional economic area based around the City of Liverpool
Local Aggregate Assessment		A jointly prepared assessment of the ongoing supply of mineral aggregates
Local Development Document	LDD	A document prepared as part of the Local Development Framework for the Borough
Local Development Framework	LDF	The overall name for the collection of adopted Local Development Documents for the Borough
Local Development Scheme	LDS	A document setting out the timetable for the preparation of individual Local Plans
Local Enterprise Partnership	LEP	A coalition of local partners working together to lead and drive economic growth and job creation across the Liverpool City Region
Local Plan		A Local Development Document with status as part of the Development Plan for the Borough
Local Wildlife Site		A site identified for its local importance for nature conservation
Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone		An area designated by the Government around the Birkenhead Dock Estate, where incentives are offered to new and expanding businesses to support economic revitalisation
Merseyside		The land area covered by the local Councils of Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	MEAS	A jointly funded environmental advisory service provided on behalf of the LCR district councils by Sefton Council
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	A statement of national planning policy, published by the Government, which all planning decisions should normally follow
Neighbourhood Development Plan		A new type of Development Plan, prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council after a local referendum

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Neighbourhood Forum		A community group authorised by the Council to prepare local planning proposals.
Neighbourhood Planning		The general name for a series of new measures, introduced through the Localism Act 2011, to enable the community to have a greater say over development within their neighbourhood
NOMIS	NOMIS	A database of official labour market statistics, run on behalf of the Office for National Statistics
Objectively Assessed Need	OAN	A 'policy-off' calculation of the local need for housing, without taking account of any other constraints on future development
Planning Inspector		A person appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the Independent Examination of a Local Plan
Previously Developed Land	PDL	Land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure and associated fixed surface infrastructure, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework
Primarily Industrial Area	PIA	An area of land set aside for primarily industrial land uses in the Unitary Development Plan
Proposed Submission Draft		A preliminary version of a Local Plan that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination
Registered Provider	RP	An organisation registered as a provider of housing to meet the needs of people unable to afford to own their own home
Secretary of State		The person appointed by the Prime Minister to have overall responsibility for the operation of the national planning system, currently the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Settlement Area		A geographical area identified in the Core Strategy Local Plan, to represent one of the eight main groups of settlements within the Borough
Site Allocations Local Plan		A Local Plan which will identify and allocate specific areas of land for specific types of development
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A site designated by the Secretary of State on the basis of its scientific importance for nature conservation and/or earth science
Spatial Development Strategy		A statutory land use planning framework prepared by the elected Mayor for the Liverpool City Region
Stakeholder		A person or organisation with an interest in the future planning and development of the Borough
Statement of Community Involvement	SCI	A statutory document setting local standards for community involvement in the preparation of policy documents and planning decisions
Statutory		A document or process which has a special legal status, as set out in national law

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment	SHELMA	A document that re-assesses the objectively assessed needs for housing and employment land across the whole of the Liverpool City Region based on the latest Growth Strategy for the Liverpool City Region
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	SHMA	A document that examines the key features of Wirral's existing and future housing market, including housing need, supply and demand
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	SHLAA	A document that examines potential sites for housing across the Borough and assesses them in terms of their suitability, availability and achievability
Strategic Regeneration Framework	SRF	A strategy that sets out the Council's corporate regeneration priorities.
Submission		The stage at which a proposed Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration at an Independent Examination
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A Local Development Document which provides additional information to help landowners and developers prepare acceptable planning applications
Unitary Development Plan	UDP	An old-style Development Plan, which will be progressively replaced by the new-style Local Plans contained within the emerging Local Development Framework
Use Class		A category of land use defined in national law
Use Class A1	A1	Land uses falling within the category of shops
Use Class A2	A2	Land uses falling within the category of financial and professional services
Use Class B1(a)	B1(a)	Land uses falling within the category of business, as an office which will not be used to provide services to the visiting public
Use Class B1(b)	B1(b)	Land uses falling within the category of business, which will be used for research and development
Use Class B1(c)	B1(c)	Land uses falling within the category of business, for an industrial process that can be carried out with in a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B2	B2	Land uses falling within the category of general industry, which could not be carried out in a residential area without harming the amenity of that area
Use Class B8	B8	Land uses falling within the category of storage and distribution
Use Class D2	D2	Land uses falling within the category of assembly and leisure
Wirral Waters		A project to create an internationally recognised city waterfront, focused on the East Float of the Birkenhead and Wallasey dock system and part of the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone

Terminology	Abbreviation	Explanation
World Heritage Status	WHS	World Heritage Sites are places of Outstanding Universal Value to Humanity. It is a not a list of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint