

LOCAL PLAN INTERVENTION

Action Plan from Wirral Council in response to the direction of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government dated 28 January 2019

Date of submission to Secretary of State and MHCLG – 5 April 2019

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All references to the National Planning Framework (NPPF) are to the February 2019 version.

1 **Introduction**

- 1.1 The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to the Leader of Wirral Council on 28 January 2019 (Appendix 1) directing that within ten weeks of the date of his letter the Council should (a) designate a lead Councillor and lead official to be responsible for progressing preparation of the Local Plan and (b) to publish an action plan setting out the actions that will be taken to get a Local Plan in place.
- 1.2 The action plan should include how Wirral Council will ensure:
- i) the allocation of sufficient land for housing for the whole of the Wirral for the Local Plan period;
 - ii) adequate and sustainable resourcing and skills to prepare a Local Plan are in place;
 - iii) appropriate governance arrangements are in place to ensure timely Local Plan preparation and decision making;
 - iv) compliance with relevant Local Plan legislation and national policy, in particular the Duty to Cooperate; and
 - v) the Local Plan is underpinned by an appropriate and up to date evidence base.
- 1.3 The Secretary of State also directed that the action plan must be verified by independent planning experts and that a copy of the verification report must be sent to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 1.4 The Leader of the Council wrote back to the Secretary of State on 31 January 2019 confirming that the Council would comply with the direction and he outlined the progress that had been made in relation to the Local Plan. This letter is attached at Appendix 2 of this report.
- 1.5 This action plan report meets the directions set out by the Secretary of State. It was published by the Council on 8 April 2019, (insert link) the date the report was submitted to the Secretary of State.

2 **Lead Councillor and lead official responsible for progressing preparation of the Local Plan**

- 2.1 The lead Councillor is George Davies, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, who reports directly to the Leader of the Council.
- 2.2 The lead official is Paul Satoor, Director of Business Transformation, who reports directly to the Council's Chief Executive.

3 Action Plan

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Council's highest corporate priority is to produce a quality Local Plan for Wirral which complies fully with all relevant Local Plan legislation and national policy.

3.1.2 The Council realises the seriousness of the present situation and that this is "a final opportunity to demonstrate a clear path towards the delivery of the Local Plan" (Secretary of State's letter 28 January 2019).

3.1.3 The Council has always and continues to work positively and constructively with MHCLG officials regarding the Local Plan.

3.1.4 The Council is also working with the Local Government Association and the Planning Advisory Service on these matters.

3.2 Ensuring the allocation of sufficient land for housing for the whole of Wirral for the Local Plan period.

3.2.1 The Council will allocate sufficient land in the Local Plan to meet the need for housing for the whole of Wirral for the Plan period. The Council has determined the minimum number of homes needed by a local housing need assessment conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. It does not believe that there are exceptional circumstances which justify an alternative approach.

3.2.2 In accordance with Government guidance, the Council has used the household projections for 2014 and on this basis, the minimum number of houses needed in Wirral, annually, for the plan period is 803. A buffer must be added to this (for years 1 to 5 of the Plan period). As explained below, the Council accepts that the appropriate buffer is 20% which means that the annual figure is 964.

3.2.3 In February 2019, the results of the first Housing Delivery Test were published and Wirral had a performance of 73%. The table below shows the calculation:

Number of Homes Required (GSM)			Total number of homes required	Number of homes delivered in Wirral			Total number of homes delivered	HDT 2019	HDT 2019: Consequence for Wirral
15-16	16-17	17-18		15-16	16-17	17-18			
695	680	718	2,093	498	328	704	1,530	73%	Buffer & Action Plan

(MHCLG: HDT Measurement 2018, published February 2019)

3.2.4 In relation to the Local Plan, this means that the Council has to include a 20% buffer into its calculations.

- 3.2.5 The Council is currently updating its Strategic Housing Market Assessment (see the section on evidence base later in this report) which will enable it to reflect, in its planning policies, the needs of, but not limited to, the groups set out in paragraph 61 of the NPPF.
- 3.2.6 The Council has updated its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to inform identifying the land for homes. The Council will comply with Section 5 of the NPPF.
- 3.2.7 The Council consulted on potential development options in September 2018.
- 3.2.8 The Council is seeking to meet its housing needs in the urban area and on brownfield sites, if possible, thereby seeking to protect Green Belt land. The Council will apply paragraph 137 of the NPPF in order to determine whether exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries. If it concludes that there are such exceptional circumstances paragraphs 138 & 139 will then be followed in relation to reviewing the Green Belt boundary.

3.3 Adequate and sustainable resourcing and skills to prepare a Local Plan are in place

- 3.3.1 The Council has put in place adequate and sustainable resourcing and skills to prepare the Local Plan. The Council has a permanent dedicated team of qualified and experienced planning officers to take forward the Local Plan. This team has recently been added to with five new officer posts and three admin posts at an annual cost to the Council of £161,000.
- 3.3.2 This team reports to the Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery, the Chief Planning Officer within the Council, who directly reports to the Director for Business and Transformation, the Council's lead official for the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 3.3.3 The Council is also being supported by an experienced consultant who is responsible for the programme management of the Local Plan preparation work and the Transformation Team, within the Council, has provided a programme manager with planning experience to work with the Local Plan team on detailed technical matters in relation to plan preparation and procurement.
- 3.3.4 In December 2018, the Council appointed AECOM, to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal/SEA of the Local Plan including health impact assessment and equality impact assessment. They are very experienced in this field having successfully completed a number of appraisals for other adopted Local Plans. Other specialist consultants have been commissioned (see the evidence base section later in this report) and are now working on updating or preparing the reports needed to ensure an appropriate and up to date technical evidence base.

- 3.3.5 Leading Counsel, Christopher Katkowski QC, was appointed by the Council in November 2018, to advise on the preparation of the Local Plan and is supported by Junior Counsel, Kate Olley.
- 3.3.6 The Council has also appointed an experienced Programme Officer, Helen Wilson, who will support the Inspector at the Examination stage of the Local Plan.
- 3.3.7 The diagram at Appendix 3 shows the Local Plan team structure is in place to deliver the action plan and the Local Plan.
- 3.4 Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to ensure timely Local Plan preparation and decision making
- 3.4.1 Governance arrangements are in place to ensure timely Local Plan preparation and decision making.
- 3.4.2 At officer level, the lead official, the Programme Management Consultant and the Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery meet weekly to oversee the progress of the Local Plan. The lead official has the delegation to take whatever decisions are required to progress the Local Plan.
- 3.4.3 There is a weekly Local Plan Programme Board which directs the work on the Local Plan and resolves any issues at that meeting ensuring decisions are made efficiently and effectively. This is chaired by the consultant supporting the Local Plan programme and attended by all relevant officers from across the Council.
- 3.4.4 The decisions taken are then implemented by the Local Plan Technical Group which meets the day after the Programme Board and is chaired by the Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery.
- 3.4.5 At Member level, a lead Councillor has been appointed in relation to the Local Plan. He is the Deputy Leader of the Council as well as being the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning. As a member of the political leadership he is able to secure decisions on Local Plan matters by reporting matters to Cabinet or Full Council as appropriate.
- 3.4.6 Given the importance of the Local Plan, special meetings of Cabinet and Council can be called as and when they are required in relation to the Local Plan meaning that decisions do not therefore need to wait for the next scheduled meeting to be held.
- 3.4.7 Members have also agreed delegation of certain matters to Officers accelerating the process of commissioning and procurement of technical information.

- 3.4.8 The lead Councillor is briefed weekly on the progress of the Local Plan by officers.
- 3.4.9 The lead Councillor has established, and chairs, a cross-party Member advisory group in relation to the Local Plan. The membership of this group includes the Leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups, a representative from the independent group of Councillors and the Green Party Councillor. This Group meets regularly to discuss all matters relating to the Local Plan.
- 3.4.10 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at each meeting, receives an update report by the Assistant Director for Major Growth Projects and Housing Delivery on the progress of the Local Plan.
- 3.4.11 The diagram at Appendix 4 shows the Governance Structure.
- 3.5 Compliance with Local Plan legislation and national policy, in particular the Duty to Cooperate
- 3.5.1 The Council will produce a Local Plan which is compliant with Local Plan legislation and national policy in particular the DTC. To help to ensure this is achieved, the Council has appointed Leading and Junior Counsel.
- 3.5.2 Upon engagement in November 2018, Leading Counsel was asked to review the then current position of Wirral's Local Plan and he gave advice that in order to be legally valid the Council would have to undertake a fresh Regulation 18¹ consultation before subsequently moving on to the Regulation 19 Publication stage. This position has also been advised independently by AECOM, the Council's appointed consultant for the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA, when they reviewed the position upon their appointment. The Council has accepted this position and advised MHCLG officials accordingly at a meeting on 5 February 2019.
- 3.5.3 As a result of and in accordance with this advice the Council has prepared a detailed timetable for delivery of the Local Plan, which means that the dates given in the March 2018 Local Development Scheme will have to change. The submission date for the Local Plan will now be November 2020 and the revised Local Development Scheme will be considered by the first Full Council meeting after the Local Elections, which will be in early July.

¹ Of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012

3.5.4 Attached at Appendix 5 of this report is the detailed timetable showing the various stages to bring the Local Plan to Publication under Regulation 19. The detailed timetable incorporates the shortest realistic timescales necessary to achieve a legally compliant and sound Local Plan.

3.5.5 The Council has published activities undertaken to comply with the duty to co-operate in its Annual Monitoring Reports since December 2012. These include:

- support for joint services and cross-boundary strategies and evidence;
- the establishment of a Combined Authority;
- the adoption of a Joint Waste Local Plan;
- an Overview Study to look at the wider pattern of supply and demand for housing and employment across local authority boundaries;
- a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA), to review housing and economic market areas and assess the needs for new housing and employment arising from the 2014-household projections and the latest economic strategy for the City Region to 2037;
- a Liverpool City Region Brownfield Land Register;
- a Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning;
- a Statement of Common Ground pilot, with PAS, which is currently being rolled-forward to meet the latest requirements; and
- preliminary work for the preparation of the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy.

The City Region Housing Strategy is also currently under review.

3.5.6 The Council will comply with all legal requirements and relevant Government policies and guidance in respect of the DTC.

3.6 The Local Plan is underpinned by an appropriate and up to date technical evidence base

3.6.1 The Council has received an independent review of the current status of its evidence base from Intelligent Plans and the Planning Advisory Service. The Council has accepted this advice and in the light of it commissioned a number of updated, or new, technical studies. At Appendix 6 of this report is a table showing the findings of the IP/PAS review alongside the actions taken by the Council in terms of commissioning an up to date technical evidence base.

4 **Monthly Reporting**

- 4.1 The Council is, and will continue to, report monthly to MHCLG on the progress of the Local Plan. This will be done by the lead official each month. (Key contacts are listed in appendix 7.)

5 **Conclusions**

- 5.1 The Council is committed to producing a quality, legally compliant and sound Local Plan. It considers that this Action Plan will ensure that this happens.

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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28 January 2019

Dear Councillor Davies,

LOCAL PLAN INTERVENTION

Following Wirral Council's failure over many years to get a Local Plan in place, the former Secretary of State wrote to your Council, on 16 November 2017, to express his concerns. He offered an opportunity to explain any exceptional circumstances justifying the failure of your Council to produce a Local Plan and any measures you had taken or intended to take to accelerate plan publication. Following your letter of January 2018 outlining your exceptional circumstances, the former Secretary of State wrote again on 23 March 2018. He set out that he had considered your representations and the Government's Local Plan intervention policy criteria and had decided to continue with the intervention process by commissioning a team of experts led by Government's Chief Planner to provide advice on next steps.

I have carefully considered that advice on next steps and all the other matters above. I have also considered correspondence sent to my Department since January 2018, including correspondence from you and from your Corporate Director for Economic & Housing Growth, which reported some positive action but little tangible progress.

Section 27(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") provides:

"This section applies if the Secretary of State thinks that a local planning authority are failing or omitting to do anything it is necessary for them to do in connection with the preparation, revision or adoption of a development plan document."

In view of your continuing failure to get a Local Plan in place I am satisfied that the requirements in section 27(1) of the 2004 Act are met. Wirral Council (in its capacity as local planning authority):

- does not have an up-to-date Local Plan in place - the Council's last Local Plan was adopted in 2000 and covered a period up to 2001.
- has failed to meet Local Plan milestones in at least six Local Development Schemes since 2004.
- has failed to plan for and deliver the homes people need in Wirral.

Section 27(2) of the 2004 Act provides:

"The Secretary of State may—

- (a) prepare or revise (as the case may be) the document, or
- (b) give directions to the authority in relation to the preparation or revision of the document."

Pursuant to the powers in section 27(2)(b) of the 2004 Act I have decided to make certain directions in relation to the preparation the Wirral Local Plan.

Within ten weeks of the date of this letter, I direct Wirral Council to:

- a. Designate a lead Councillor and lead official to be responsible for progressing preparation of the Local Plan.
- b. Publish an action plan setting out the actions that will be taken to get a Local Plan in place. The action plan should include how Wirral Council will ensure:
 - i. The allocation of sufficient land for housing for the whole of Wirral for the Local Plan period;
 - ii. Adequate and sustainable resourcing and skills to prepare a Local Plan are in place;
 - iii. Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to ensure timely Local Plan preparation and decision making;
 - iv. Compliance with relevant Local Plan legislation and national policy, in particular the Duty to Cooperate;
 - v. The Local Plan is underpinned by an appropriate and up to date technical evidence base.

The action plan must be verified by independent planning experts. A copy of the verification report must be sent to MHCLG.

I also direct Wirral Council to report monthly (from the date of this letter) to my officials on Local Plan preparation progress.

In making this decision I have considered the following Local Plan intervention policy criteria¹:

- **The least progress in plan-making has been made:** Out of 338 local planning authorities in England, Wirral are one of only 11 authorities who have not yet published a 2004 Act Local Plan² under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- **Policies in plans have not been kept up to date:** Wirral's last Local Plan was adopted in February 2000 and covered a period up to March 2001. Wirral has consistently failed to bring forward a Local Plan in accordance with its Local Development Scheme as legally required, having failed to meet Local Plan milestones in at least six Local Development Schemes since 2004.

¹ Local Plan intervention policy criteria were consulted on in 2016 and confirmed in the 2017 housing White Paper and the 16 November 2017 Written Statement in the House of Commons

² Wirral Local Plan publication timetabled for September/October 2019 (Wirral Local Development Scheme, March 2018)

- **There is higher housing pressure:** The former Secretary of State's letter of 23 March 2018 recognised that Wirral is not an area where there was higher housing pressure, based on average affordability ratios in England,³ when he decided to continue with the intervention process. However, Wirral Council's failure to plan for and deliver the homes people need is clear. The area has an annual housing need of 803 dwellings⁴, with a locally assessed annual need of 875–1235 dwellings⁵. Wirral have a five year housing land supply of 1.7–2.6 years⁶. Despite this criterion not being met, I consider that intervention is nevertheless appropriate for the reasons set out below.
- **Intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating local plan production:** In light of Wirral's consistent failure to meet the milestones in its Local Development Scheme, the fact that the March 2018 Local Development Scheme timetable does not include carrying out a regulation 18 consultation⁷ and does not propose submission of the document to the Secretary of State for independent examination⁸, until at least January 2020, in my judgement taking over the preparation of the Local Plan offers the best prospect of the plan-making process being accelerated and of ensuring that an up-to-date Local Plan is put in place as soon as possible.
- **The wider planning context in each area in terms of the extent to which authorities are working co-operatively to put strategic plans in place:** Wirral Council are part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, which is required to produce a Strategic Development Strategy. Although councils in the Combined Authority appear to be working collaboratively there is no certainty that this will provide Wirral full plan coverage for their area. There currently is no public timetable for the Strategic Development Strategy.
- **The wider planning context in each area in terms of the potential impact that not having a plan has on neighbourhood planning activity:** at least two communities in Wirral are currently preparing neighbourhood plans: Leastowe and Birkenhead North. Two further communities have neighbourhood plans in force: Devonshire Park and Hoylake. Communities can bring forward neighbourhood plans in the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan, but doing so can be more challenging for communities.

I have noted above that Wirral is not an area of higher housing pressure, and therefore this criterion for prioritising intervention is not met. However, notwithstanding this, I consider that it would be appropriate to intervene because Wirral Council's performance in respect of the other criteria is lamentable. For example Wirral's last Local Plan was adopted in February 2000, covering a period up to March 2001, with the authority reliant on saved policies from the 2000 Local Plan to determine local planning applications. In comparison with other authorities written to by the former Secretary of State in November 2017, Wirral have made the least progress. Of those authorities still to submit their Local Plan for examination, Wirral are timetabled to submit significantly later than the other authorities.

Having considered Wirral's performance against the intervention policy criteria, I am satisfied that intervention action is justified.

³ Ranked 266 least affordable of 324 English Districts (Housing Affordability Statistics, Office of National Statistics, 2017)

⁴ Wirral local housing need assessment: 803 dwellings per annum (Local Housing Need, Ministry for Communities & Local Government, 2017).

⁵ paragraph 1.8, p.9, Wirral SHMA and Housing Needs Study (Wirral Council, May 2016)

⁶ As set out in Annex 3, Wirral Annual Monitoring Report 2016-2017 (Wirral Council, 2017)

⁷ Under regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

⁸ Under regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Having considered all of the above, in my judgement, there is a compelling case for the Local Plan intervention action I have decided upon in Wirral, pursuant to powers in section 27(2)(b) of the 2004 Act. In my judgement, there is also compelling case to intervene to prepare the Wirral Local Plan pursuant to the powers in section 27(2)(a) of the 2004 Act. However, in recognition that the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework and related planning reforms will inform the preparation of your Local Plan, I have decided not to prepare the Wirral Local Plan at this time. I am offering you a final opportunity to demonstrate a clear path towards the delivery of your Local Plan. I will continue to closely monitor your Local Plan progress.


~~Should a significant delay occur against the milestones set out in your March 2018 Local Development Scheme, should you fail to comply with the directions in this letter without a good reason or should your draft Local Plan fail at examination I am minded to take over the preparation of the Wirral Local Plan.~~

Finally, in your letters of 7 September and 9 October 2018, you sought clarification on Government's standard method for assessing local housing need. I can confirm that a consultation on proposed amendments to the standard method was published on 26 October 2018.

You refer to figures calculated as being housing targets. I must be clear that the standard method for assessing local housing need does not produce a housing target. Authorities should make a realistic assessment of the number of homes their communities need as the starting point in the process. Once this has been established, planning to meet that need will require consideration of land availability, relevant constraints and whether the need is more appropriately met in neighbouring areas.

I appreciate the constructive way Wirral Council have engaged with my Department so far and I trust that you and your officers will continue to engage positively. My officials will be in touch over the next few days to discuss next steps.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP



**Councillor Phil Davies
Leader of the Council**

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Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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2 Marsham Street
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31 January 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter. We will of course comply with the directions you have issued and within the timeframe you have set out. I do however feel it is important to challenge your view on the progress we have made to date. Therefore, I feel it would also be appropriate and helpful for me to send you an initial summary of our progress against the key elements of the Local Plan which you mention in your letter.

- Our lead Councillor and lead official are in place and leading the delivery of our action plan and timeline for implementation.
- We have appointed a leading QC in autumn last year to advise us on our work and to ensure we are fully compliant with all Local Plan legislation
- We have completed initial public consultation on our Development Options Review consultation, which would allow for the land requirement to meet the needs of the entire borough
- Updated governance arrangements to aid speedy decision making are now agreed by my Cabinet
- We are in the final stages of recruiting the additional staff resources we need to ensure we can deliver the Local Plan in as quick a timeframe as possible
- All technical studies which are required are either in process or being commissioned at present

It is clear to me that progress is being made, and being made at pace. We are working constructively with your department, as you helpfully confirm in your letter, and we are also working closely with colleagues from the Local Government Association and the Planning Advisory Service.

I am confident we have the resources, expertise and capacity in place to deliver a Local Plan which is appropriate and robust to meet the housing needs of our residents.

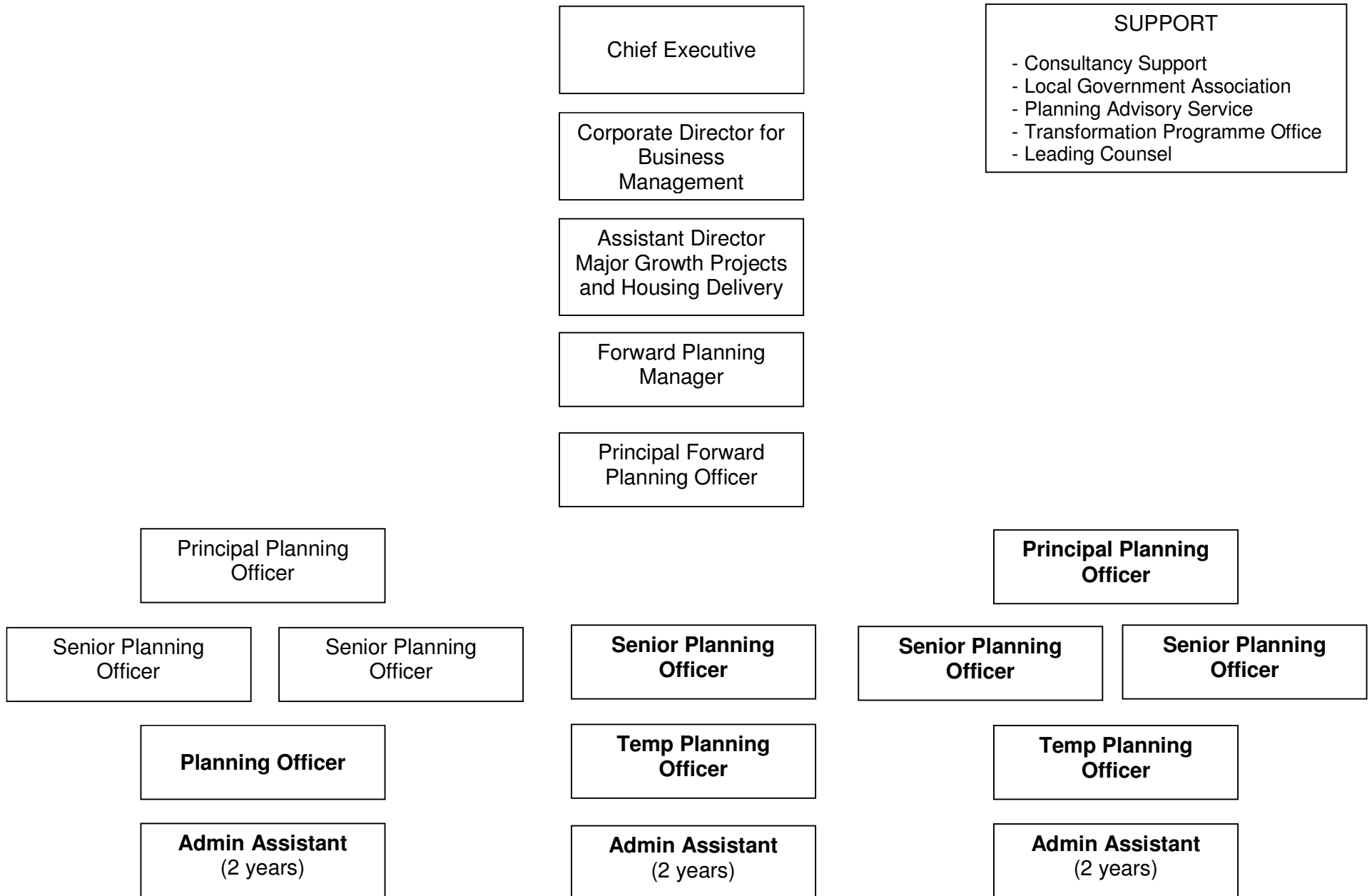
I look forward to continuing to work with your department as we develop Wirral's Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Davies." The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Councillor Phil Davies

LOCAL PLAN TEAM STRUCTURE



LOCAL PLAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

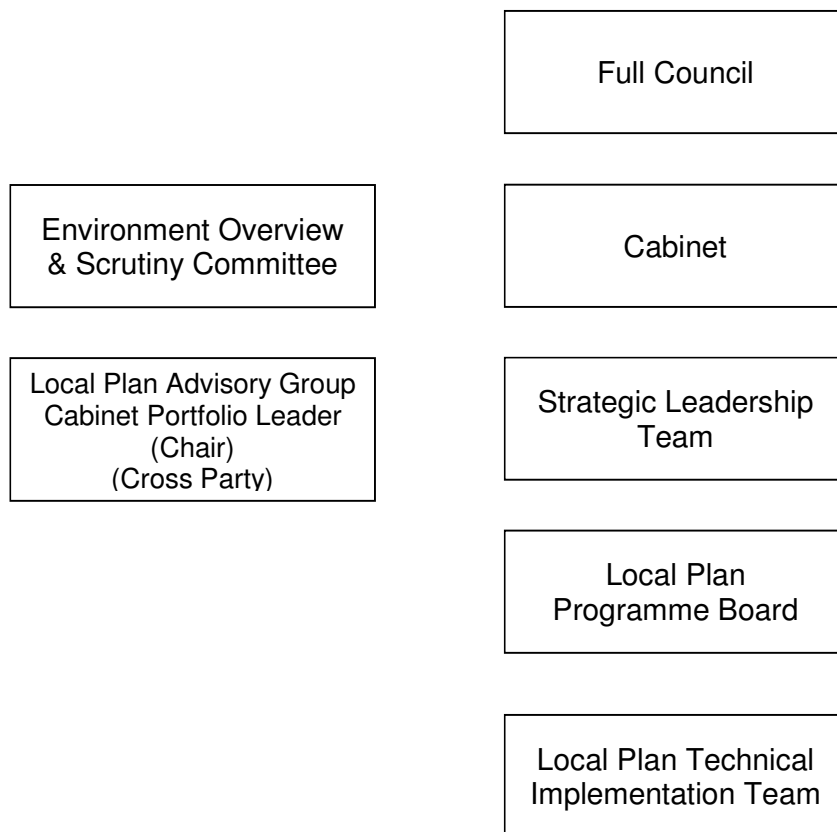


TABLE 1

Assessment of Wirral Local Plan Evidence Base Documents

Sub-Regional Documents

Document	Date	Current Relevance	Comments	Conclusion	Current status	Other Action
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority/LEP/Merseytravel						
Devolution Agreement	2015	Current	Not critical to the Local Plan process	NO ACTION REQUIRED	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence
Further Devolution	2016	Current	Not critical to the Local Plan process	NO ACTION REQUIRED	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence
State of the Liverpool City Region Report	2015	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region LEP Economic Strategy	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE, BUT ANY CHANGES TO THE LEP ECONOMIC STRATEGY NEED TO BE MONITORED	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region LEP Core Sectors Report	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy	2007	Not Current	No longer provides up-to-date evidence	REPORT NOW OUT-OF-DATE, AND SUPERSEDED BY MORE RECENT WIRRAL MBC EVIDENCE. SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM WIRRAL MBC WEBSITE		To be archived
Liverpool City Region Overview Study-Main Report	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced

Liverpool City Region Overview Study-Technical Appendix	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study-Stage One Report	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study-Stage Two Report	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project	Unstated	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan, but not critical	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth	2015	Current	Important supporting study for the Wirral Local Plan	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	As per conclusion column	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Merseyside Minerals Study	2008	Current	Not critical to update this study, unless there are known Minerals Resource issues in Wirral – see Table 2	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Wirral-specific study being commissioned	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Peel Ports Masterplan	Unstated	Current	There will be a need to ensure that this document remains as the up-to-date Masterplan for land controlled by Peel Holdings in Wirral	POSITION REGARDING PEEL HOLDINGS' MASTERPLAN FOR WIRRAL WATERS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED IF NECESSARY	Ongoing dialogue with Peel relating to Wirral Waters	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Wirral, Liverpool and Mersey Heartlands Growth Point Water Cycle Study Scoping Report	2013	Current	See comments regarding the Wirral Water Cycle Study contained in Table 2	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Current position in table 2	Keep on website as current evidence

Mersey Heartlands Water Cycle Study Outline Study	2014	Current	See comments regarding the Wirral Water Cycle Study contained in Table 2	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Current position in table 2	Keep on website as current evidence
Merseyside and West Lancashire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	2014	Current	Now likely to be out-of-date, and there will be a need to at least update the Wirral Gypsy and Traveller data to a current baseline	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Wirral specific study now commissioned (table 2)	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced
Draft Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment for Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire (SHELMA)	2018	Current	This important study remains at Draft stage and has been at that stage for many months.	THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS REDUCED WHILST IT REMAINS AT DRAFT STAGE. IF THAT REMAINS THE POSITION, IT IS LIKELY TO BE AT LEAST PARTLY SUPERSEDED BY WORK NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY WIRRAL'S LOCAL HOUSING NEED AND EMPLOYMENT LAND REQUIREMENTS – SEE TABLE 2	Final SHELMA issued to districts by Combined Authority in Feb 2019. Housing Elements to be replaced by updated SHMA currently being commissioned (table 2). Employment land requirements embedded in 2018 Employment land and premises study (table 2)	Keep on website as current evidence

APPENDIX 6 (continued)

TABLE 2

Assessment of Wirral Local Plan Evidence Base Documents

Wirral MBC Documents

Document	Date	Current Relevance	Comments	Conclusion	CURRENT STATUS	OTHER ACTION
Wirral MBC/Consultants						
Wirral Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)	2016	Very limited, as it is a SHMA-based approach to calculating housing need (i.e. a pre-NPPF 2018 approach)	Needs to be replaced by a paper calculating Wirral's Local Housing Need using the national Standard Method approach for calculating Local Housing Need – see comments below re. Liverpool University study	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR IMMEDIATE WORK	Council commissioning SHMA update using standard method with assessment of affordable and specialist housing needs. Policy implications to be delivered by end of June to feed into SA and final report by September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication	2016 SHMA to be retained on website as current evidence until replaced by new study
Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	2016	Limited, as about to be replaced by 2018 SHLAA	Being replaced	WILL BE SUPERSEDED BY 2018 SHLAA	2018 SHLAA (base dated to April 2018) to be published for consultation in April 2019. SHLAA Update (to April 2019) to be completed for September 2019 for Reg. 18 stage	2016 SHLAA to be retained on website as current evidence until replaced by 2018 SHLAA
Wirral Retail and Leisure Study Update	2016	Still current, but needs to be re-assessed against emerging Spatial Strategy	Report is lengthy (268 pages), and would benefit from being summarised in a shorter document for future consultation/ Local plan Examination use	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY	Scoping work for boundary review and health checks (for Reg. 18) and capacity update (Reg.19) being finalised as a single package for external contract.	2016 Retail study to be retained on website as current evidence until replaced

Wirral Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	On-line Resource	Some data remains current, but needs to be updated to 2018/19 as indicated on the website	A useful resource, but will require updating in advance of Local Plan consultation/Examination	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	JSNA update is co-ordinated by the Wirral Intelligence Service. An update schedule is on their web site	Update link on website when JSNA updated
Wirral Investment Strategy	2015	Limited, as it only covers the period 2015-2020	Will need replacing/updating for the period post-2020	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Work is under way to develop Vision 2030, the Council's high level vision for the Borough to follow on from the Wirral Plan 2020.	Retain existing Strategy on website, while current.
Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study	2014	Limited, as key data is now out of date	Will need replacing by equivalent report based on recent data (2018 data where possible). Viability Assessment has been commissioned from Keppie Massie (see below)	TO BE SUPERSEDED UPON COMPLETION OF KEPPIE MASSIE REPORT	Stage 1 replacement baseline assessment (with April 2018 base date) complete for publication with SHLAA 2018. Stage 2 assessment of draft policy options for Reg. 18 to begin July 2019 for completion in September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication.	2014 report to be retained on website as current evidence until replaced by 2018 report.
Wirral Water Cycle Study-Outline Study-Main Report	2013	Limited, as it is only addressing a Plan period up to 2027	Needs reviewing/updating to cover the Plan period post-2027	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Study unlikely to be directly replaced – to be updated through Infrastructure Delivery Plan and ongoing discussions with utilities providers.	Keep on website as current evidence

Wirral Water Cycle Study-Outline Study-Technical Appendices	2013	Limited, as it is only addressing a Plan period up to 2027	Needs reviewing/updating to cover the Plan period post-2027	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	As above	As above
Wirral Open Space Assessment	2012	None	Does not conform to current methodology for Open Space Assessments	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	KKP appointed to provide replacement assessment for completion by Sept 2019 for Reg. 18 publication.	Keep 2012 study on website in current location and archive when replaced
Sustainability Appraisal Baseline Review	2012	None	Now being superseded by current AECOM work	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Consultation on draft SA scoping report (with updated baseline) to commence 25 March 2019	Keep 2012 report on website in current location and archive when replaced by new SA.
Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update	2012	Limited, as key data is now out of date and is only addressing a Plan period up to 2030	Report is largely superseded by more recent study – see below.	RECOMMEND REMOVAL FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Replaced by 2018 study but provides basis for some re-allocation decisions which are still current.	Keep on website but in archive
Wirral Assessment of Core Strategy Transport Impacts	2012	None	Only covers Plan period up to 2024, and most data is now out of date	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Being replaced by 2019 study (see below)	Keep on website in current location until replaced by new study
Wirral Retail Study Update	2012	Very limited, as most retail expenditure projections are now out of date	Only covers Plan period up to 2030, and report requires a full review	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	See above in relation to 2016 update.	To be archived
Local Geological Sites	2011	Still current, subject to confirmation of up to date accuracy	Check for accuracy	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY		Keep on website as current evidence

Wirral Town, District and Local Centre Study and Delivery Framework	2011	Limited, as key data is now out of date. Strategic principles may still be current, but report as a whole is not sound evidence	As a minimum, report requires a full review and update	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	See above in relation to 2016 update - will be replaced by new retail study, including revised centre health checks and boundaries.	Keep 2011 study on website as current evidence until replaced by new retail study
Wirral Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	2011	None	Does not take account of latest Climate Change factors. Report requires replacement.	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR <u>IMMEDIATE</u> WORK	Addendum published in December 2017. Has been fully taken into account in new Level 1 SFRA 2019	Delete from website and replace with direct link to separate page on Council web site for all Flood Risk Regulations documents
Sites of Biological Importance	2011	Still current, subject to confirmation of up to date accuracy. Was updated in 2017	Check for accuracy	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY		Keep on website as current evidence
Wirral Affordable Housing Viability Assessment	2010	None	All key data is out of date	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Background to affordable housing policies in existing Core Strategy. Replaced by baseline viability updates in 2014 and 2018	To be archived
Wirral Housing Needs and Market Assessment Update	2010	None	Was prepared as an update to the 2007 SHMA, which has been superseded. All key data is out of date.	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Background to affordable housing policies in existing Core Strategy. Replaced by 2016 SHMA	To be archived

Integrated Regeneration Study for Birkenhead and Wirral Waters	2010	Still current, if it conforms with emerging Spatial Strategy for Birkenhead and Wirral Waters	No further work necessary, if strategies conform to emerging Local Plan	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY		Keep on website as current evidence until replaced.
Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Leisure Study	2009	Very limited, as it is based upon pre-NPPF national planning policies	Report is now largely inconsistent with national policy	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE		To be archived
Wirral Town Centre Action Plans	Various	23 Town Centre Action Plans have been prepared. Most remain current, if general strategy is carried forward into emerging Local Plan	Check for accuracy	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY		Replace with link to separate Action Plans web page on Council web site.
Wirral Biodiversity Audit	2009	Although dating from 2009, this is an extremely comprehensive study and most data probably remains broadly accurate	Check for accuracy	NO URGENT WORK NECESSARY	Now covered by MEAS published LCR Ecological Framework	Keep on website as current evidence.

Wirral Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2009	None	Does not take account of latest Climate Change factors. Report requires replacement.	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT FOR <u>IMMEDIATE</u> WORK	Will be replaced by new Level 1 SFRA currently at final draft stage (JBA Consulting) by April 2019 to feed into SA process. Level 2 work to wait until final allocations identified prior to Reg. 19.	Keep 2009 SFRA on website as current evidence until replaced by new study the archive.
Wirral Landscape Character Assessment	2009	Limited, as it is only addressing a Plan period up to 2030	Only covers Plan period up to 2030, and report requires a full review in light of emerging Spatial Strategy for period post-2030	REVIEW/UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Replacement character assessment being commissioned with additional Green Belt site appraisals to be delivered by end April 2019 to feed into SA and final report by September 2019 for Reg 18 publication	Keep 2009 study on website as current evidence until replaced by new study then archive
Wirral 2025 – More Equal More Prosperous	2009	Very limited	Refers to Sustainable Community Strategy, which no longer forms part of an authority's corporate planning requirements	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE		Delete
Playing Pitch Strategy	2004	None	Does not conform to current methodology for Playing Pitch Assessments	SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE	Replaced by 2017 pitch strategy below	Delete
Wirral Biodiversity Action Plan	2003	Dates from February 2003 and current relevance will be extremely limited.	As a minimum, report requires a full review and update	UPDATING WORK REQUIRED DURING 2019	Now covered by MEAS published LCR Ecological Framework.	Archive

Initial Green Belt Review Proposed Methodology (with 8 Appendices)	2017	Current	The difficulty with the Green Belt Review work is that it is all described as an "Initial" Review, which infers that a further, more detailed, Review is intended. In fact, the existing Review is very detailed. There may be difficulties arising from the description of "Initial Green Belt Review" in justifying that the approach to this Review conforms with best practice Green Belt Review work, which usually takes the form of Part 1 strategic work, followed by more detailed site-specific Part 2 work.	STATUS OF EXISTING GREEN BELT REVIEW WORK REQUIRES CLARIFICATION	Stage 1 complete and published for consultation. Stage 2 site selection to be determined by SA for which relevant work streams will be completed by April 2019. Final report required by September 2019 for publication at Reg 18.	Keep methodology on website as current evidence until replaced.
Initial Green Belt Review Revised Methodology (with 7 Appendices)	2017	Current	As above	As above	See above	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced.
Initial Green Belt Review Background Report (with 20 Appendices)	2017	Current	As above	As above	See above	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced.
Initial Green Belt Review – Summary of Initial Assessment	2017	Current	As above	As above	See above	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced.
Broad Spatial Options – Revised Assessment Report	2018	Current	<i>Report to Cabinet 24/07/18 states: "Releasing land from the Green Belt would be a departure from the Broad Spatial Strategy set out in the previously emerging Core Strategy Local Plan (December 2012), which would require the Council to revise and re-consult on the Broad Spatial</i>	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE, AS COVERED BY RECENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS. HOWEVER, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE	Now to be addressed through SA process, with report by September 2019 for Reg.18 publication	Delete from website.

			<i>Options for the Core Strategy, which were previously set out in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Assessment Report (November 2010). 8.2 It will therefore also be necessary to revise and re-consult on the Council's previously published Assessment of broad spatial options, alongside any potential review of the Green Belt, to take account of the latest information and conclusions, to assess the sustainability of the emerging proposals".</i>	COUNCIL WILL NEED TO PUBLISH A FURTHER REPORT OUTLINING HOW THE BROAD SPATIAL OPTIONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED INTO A PREFERRED SPATIAL STRATEGY		
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Methodology Update	2017	Current	Preliminary work for 2018 SHLAA (see below)	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	Revised methodology and report of consultation to be reported alongside SHLAA 2018.	Keep on website as current evidence until replaced.
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	2018	Current	Preliminary work for 2018 SHLAA (see below)	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	2018 SHLAA (base dated to April 2018) to be published for consultation in April 2019. SHLAA Update (to April 2019) to be completed for September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication.	Replace SHLAA 2016 with current evidence when published
Development Viability Baseline Report	2018	Current, but no documentation yet available to review	Supersedes previous Development Viability baseline work	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	Replacement baseline assessment to be published alongside 2018 SHLAA.	Add to website as current evidence when published

Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study Update	2018	Current	Document effectively supersedes all previous Employment Land and Premises studies	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	Completed, reported and published	Keep on website as current evidence
Wirral Playing Pitch Strategy Update	2017	Current	Conforms with latest national policy and Sport England advice	NO FURTHER WORK NECESSARY	Completed, reported and published	Keep on website as current evidence
Habitats Regulations Assessment of Potential Site Allocations and Draft Plan Policies (<i>AECOM through shared contract with MEAS - not yet started</i>)	-----	No documentation yet available to review	Early consultation with Natural England is strongly advised	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF "PEOPLE OVER WIND & SWEETMAN" JUDGMENT (APRIL 2018)	AECOM being re-commissioned through MEAS for SHLAA and GB site review by April 2019 to feed into SA. Draft policies to be provided to AECOM by July 2019 to align with SA. Final report by end of September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication.	
Recreation and Open Space Assessment (<i>being commissioned</i>)	-----	No documentation yet available to review	Work is necessary to replace previous "Wirral Open Space Assessments", which no longer conform to current methodology for such assessments.	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	See above. KKP now commissioned to report by end of September 2019.	
Level 1 Flood Risk (<i>commissioned from JBA</i>) (<i>awaiting final report</i>). Level 2 for final sites is part of same contract	-----	No documentation yet available to review	Work is necessary to replace earlier Flood Risk Assessments. Early consultation with the Environment Agency is advised	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Replacement for 2009 study above. Level 1 SFRA at final draft stage – includes initial site screening to feed into SA site selection by end of April 2019.	

					Level 2 work to wait until final allocations identified prior to Reg. 19.	
Risk based screening for Archaeology, Ecology, Contamination, Minerals and Waste (<i>commissioned from MEAS – draft report on Green Belt sites received, potential urban allocations and other sites ongoing</i>)	-----	No documentation yet available to review	Evidence required to support emerging Spatial Strategy	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE, BUT WILL BE NECESSARY ALONGSIDE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL WORK AND FOR LOCAL PLAN SUBMISSION	MEAS RAG site rating underway to feed into SA site assessment by end of April 2019 Final report to be published at Reg. 18	
Transport Assessment (<i>commissioned from Mott MacDonald draft transport and accessibility review of Green Belt sites completed, including potential costs and phasing - modelling awaited, subject to completion of SHLAA – assessment of final sites is part of same contract</i>)	-----	No documentation yet available to review	Evidence will be required to support emerging Spatial Strategy	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	In progress. Accessibility analysis of Green Belt sites completed to feed into SA site assessment by end of April 2019. Modelling outputs to feed into SA site assessment by end April 2019. Final report by end September 2019 for publication at Reg. 18	
Sustainability Appraisal including SA of draft plan policies (<i>commissioned from AECOM, including Evidence Base Review, Health Impact Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment</i>)	2019	Sustainability Appraisal Health Check published in January 2019. Recommends full SA process through to September	Will supersede all previous SA work	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	In progress. Consultation on draft SA scoping report (with updated baseline) to commence 25 March 2019.	

		2019			SA site assessment inputs required by end April 2019 and draft policies by end June 2019. Final report required by September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication	
Viability Assessment <i>(commissioned from Keppie Massie - Baseline Report completed but not yet published – assessment of draft plan policies commissioned but not yet started – includes CIL charging assessment – viability assessment of final sites is part of same contract)</i>	-----	No documents yet available to review	Will supersede all previous Viability Assessment work	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	See above. Stage 1 replacement baseline assessment (with April 2018 base date) to be published with 2018 SHLAA. Stage 2 assessment of draft policy options for Reg. 18 to begin July 2019 for completion in September 2019 for Reg. 18 publication	
Visual and Landscape Assessment of Green Belt sites <i>(not yet commissioned – brief needs to be prepared)</i>	-----	No documents yet available to review	Evidence will be required to support any proposed release of Green Belt sites	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	See Landscape Character Assessment above - procurement underway.	
Agricultural Economy and Land Assessment <i>(arising from National policy – not yet commissioned – brief needs to be prepared)</i>	-----	No documents yet available to review	Evidence required to support emerging Spatial Strategy	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE, BUT WILL BE NECESSARY ALONGSIDE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL WORK AND FOR LOCAL	Commissioning underway (ADAS) Desk based review and consultation with farming stakeholders Final Phase 1 report to be	

				PLAN SUBMISSION	published at Reg. 18 Phase 2 site surveys and soils analysis to follow to support site allocations, where needed.	
SHLAA for April 2018 (<i>in house - needs completing and publication for public comment before finalising for April 2019 to accompany draft plan</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Will supersede 2016 SHLAA	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	See above. Publish final SHLAA 2018 for consultation in April 2019	
Gypsy and Traveller review of need and site identification (<i>about to be commissioned</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Local Plan will need to address evidence-based accommodation requirements for Gypsies and Travellers. Evidence normally comprises a full GTAA	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	ORS appointed. Phase 1 needs assessment to be delivered by end April 2019. Phase 2 site assessments (if needed) by September 2019, for Reg 18 publication.	
Heritage impact assessment of final selected sites (<i>not yet commissioned - brief needs to be prepared</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Report should be subject to early consultation with Historic England	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	MEAS RAG site rating underway to feed into SA site assessment by end of April 2019 Final report to be published at Reg. 18 Decision on Level 2 work to wait until final allocations identified prior to Reg. 19	

Ecology impact of final selected sites (<i>not yet commissioned - brief needs to be prepared</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Report should be subject to early consultation with Natural England	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	MEAS RAG site rating underway to feed into SA site assessment by end of April 2019. Final report to be published at Reg. 18 Decision on Level 2 work to wait until final allocations identified prior to Reg 19	
City Region Visitor Mitigation Strategy for European Sites (<i>jointly commissioned from Footprint Ecology through MEAS – ongoing, with draft report – further evidence required - Wirral-specific mitigation statement and action plan will be required</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Report should be subject to early consultation with Natural England	LIKELY TO BE CRITICAL, IN VIEW OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES NOW BEING SOUGHT BY NATURAL ENGLAND	Underway – at draft report stage for LCR Local Plans and Mayoral Spatial Development Strategy. Interim Mitigation Statement for Wirral needs to be procured to feed into HRA, Viability Assessment and SA policy assessment by July 2019.	
City Region Large Scale B8 Logistics Sites (<i>jointly commissioned from GL Hearn through Combined Authority - ongoing</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Unlikely to be a critical report for the Local Plan	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Underway for LCR local plans and Mayoral Spatial Development Strategy. Draft report received February 2019. No Wirral sites now included in final recommended list. Final study will be published by Combined Authority by September 2019	

					for Reg 18 publication	
Independent Population and Housing Forecast Appraisal (<i>Liverpool University - contract issues including retained specialist consultancy need resolution before draft documents can be provided</i>)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Report will need to recognise national Standard Method for calculation of Local Housing Need as a starting point, if it is to be used as evidence for Housing Need in Wirral. (If that is not the intention of the report, a separate report will be required on Local Housing Need, and see also comments below regarding Specialist Housing Needs)	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Superseded by decision to commission an updated SHMA and Govt response to consultation on standard method.	
Liverpool City Region Statement of Common Ground (for cross-boundary issues with City Region - unpublished PAS pilot needs to be updated for NPPF and finalised with City Region partners)	-----	Pilot SoCG has been prepared, involving all City Region authorities.	Pilot document should now be updated under the auspices of the Combined Authority	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	LCR working group progressing update to pilot SoCG. Draft SoCG required for publication at Reg. 18 Final Statement required for Reg.19	
Cheshire West and Chester Statement of Common Ground (for cross-boundary issues with CWaC – not yet started)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Work on a Draft SoCG needs to be commenced at an early date	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Further engagement with CWaC in progress to demonstrate continuing ongoing involvement. Draft SoCG required for publication at Reg. 18 Final Statement required for Reg 19	

Liverpool City Region Clean Air Preliminary Options Study (ongoing joint study being undertaken with Combined Authority)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Unlikely to be a critical report for the Local Plan	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Being prepared by Combined Authority. Final report expected to be published in time for Reg. 18	
Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Update Report (joint study not yet commissioned with City Region partners through MEAS – to meet revised NPPF requirements)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Unlikely to be a critical report for the Local Plan	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Wirral may need own study if not taken forward by LCR Partners. Undertake with industry stakeholders with final report at Reg.18 stage.	
Review of Retail Evidence (not yet started) - City Region centre hierarchy review being undertaken by White Young Green for Combined Authority	-----	No documents yet available to review	May serve to supersede some of the presently out-of-date retail evidence (see above)	POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT BEING IDENTIFIED AS CRITICAL AT THIS STATE	Underway by Combined Authority, using existing district level information for Mayoral Spatial Strategy. Not currently expected to have any major implications for sub-regional centre status for Birkenhead.	
Birkenhead Spatial Framework – being prepared by Alan Evans to support regeneration priorities and Property Company delivery	-----	No documents yet available to review	Will need to demonstrate key linkages to the Local Plan and for those parts of the Spatial Strategy relevant to Birkenhead, e.g. Wirral Waters, Birkenhead Town Centre	POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT BEING IDENTIFIED AS CRITICAL AT THIS STATE	First stage Birkenhead Urban Blueprint being prepared in-house.	

Wirral Visitor Accommodation Study – being prepared by Lucy Barrow to guide future tourism priorities	-----	No documents yet available to review	Unlikely to be a critical report for the Local Plan	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Study now complete with draft acceleration plan currently being reviewed internally - not yet published. Review of relevance needed. Final report may be published at Reg 18	
Assessment of Specialist Housing Needs (follow on to SHMA (May 2016), for groups identified in NPPF, including affordable and accessible housing)	-----	No documents yet available to review	A critical report for the Local Housing Need matter and ideally should be closely linked to the Liverpool University study referred to above.	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Being procured as part of SHMA Update above.	
Minerals Resource Assessment Update (to replace Merseyside Mineral Resource Study 2008, to meet revised NPPF requirements)	-----	No documents yet available to review	Unlikely to be a critical report for the Local Plan, unless there are known Mineral Resource issues in Wirral	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Procurement underway for desk based assessment and consultation with industry stakeholders Final report by end September 2019 for publication at Reg. 18.	
Spatial Portrait Update (revised updated data and analysis to support Settlement Area policies and priorities)	-----	No documents yet available to review	A lower priority report, but nevertheless will be required alongside the Submission of the Local Plan	NOT CRITICAL AT THIS STAGE	Last updated in 2012. To be updated In-house. Needed to support Settlement Area policies and priorities at Reg. 19	
Infrastructure Delivery Plan Update (to support delivery following final site selection and potentially justify CIL charging)	-----	No documents yet available to review	A key evidence base study, and an urgent requirement (particularly to support the Delivery Strategy of the Local Plan and CIL)	CRITICAL REQUIREMENT DURING 2019	Preliminary draft from 2015 and responses from key stakeholders to be updated in-house with possible	

					consultancy support for costings. Draft IDP required for publication at Reg. 18	
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LIST OF KEY CONTACTS AT WIRRAL COUNCIL

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