

**REVISED FINAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
REPORT (INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT)**

of the

North Huyton Action Area Supplementary Planning Document

**Produced by Building Design Partnership
For Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
October 2006**

CONTENTS

| Chapter | | Page No. |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Background to Sustainability Appraisal | 5 |
| 3 | The Information Base and Policy Context | 8 |
| 4 | Options and Assessing the Affects | 56 |
| 5 | Quality Assurance | 89 |

Appendix 1: Comments on SA/SEA Scoping Report

Appendix 2: List of Species found in Knowsley

Appendix 3: Outline Plan

Appendix 4: First Detailed Masterplan

Appendix 5: Final Outline Plan

Appendix 6: Summary of Comments on Draft Final Sustainability Report

Appendix 7: Glossary of Abbreviations

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. BDP have been commissioned by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council to assess the sustainability of the North Huyton Action Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The purpose of the SPD is to guide future development proposals for the North Huyton Action Area, which is allocated in the Adopted Knowsley Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006 under policy H3 North Huyton and Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Areas. The SPD will form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), which will eventually replace the UDP. As an adopted planning document, the SPD supports UDP policy and provides further guidance on how development should be carried out within the Action Area.
- 1.1.2. The SA has been undertaken because it is a requirement under European law and British planning legislation. The SA has been carried out in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, using the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) guidance, "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" (November 2005).
- 1.1.3. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment can be carried out in a single process and this combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been used to assess the sustainability of the Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council North Huyton Action Area SPD.
- 1.1.4. This document is the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report of the North Huyton Action SPD and should be read alongside this document.

1.2. What is Sustainable Development and What is Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.2.1. Sustainable Development is most commonly defined as:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

(World Commission on the Environment and Development 1987)

- 1.2.2. National Planning Policy Statement 1 supports this definition by stating:

"Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone."

- 1.2.3. Under current British planning legislation (the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council must carry out a sustainability appraisal of all documents which form the Local Development Framework. A Sustainability Appraisal is a key process in ensuring sustainability

and sustainable development is achieved within strategies, plans and programmes. It is a method of assessing a strategy, in this case the North Huyton Action Area SPD, to determine whether it is likely to promote a sustainable pattern of development, and where possible, avoid or lessen any significant negative social, environmental or economic effects of that strategy by integrating sustainability considerations throughout the preparation and adoption process.

- 1.2.4. The key aim of a Sustainability Appraisal is to make the plan process more transparent, better documented and more clearly focused on sustainability. The appraisal process itself requires that draft and final planning policies are assessed against a range of criteria that represent the objectives of sustainable development in national, regional and local planning policy.

1.3. What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

- 1.3.1. European Community legislation (European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and the subsequent Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) require many strategic plans to be subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Whereas a Sustainability Appraisal considers the effects of the plan on a range of social, environmental and economic interests, a SEA considers significant environmental effects only.

- 1.3.2. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council made a decision that an SEA was required after consultation with four statutory bodies (English Nature, English Heritage, the Countryside Agency and the Environment Agency). This would make it possible to assess the significant environmental effects that the SPD is likely to have, and how these effects can be lessened or eliminated.

1.4. A Combined Process

- 1.4.1. The requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment is distinct but there is a considerable amount of overlap in the processes. Central government guidance has consequently identified that it is possible to satisfy both SA and SEA through a single appraisal process, which considers social and economic factors alongside environmental ones.

- 1.4.2. For consistency, and in line with Government advice, the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the SPD were undertaken as part of the combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. As such, this Final Sustainability Appraisal Report includes all of the information that a SEA Environmental Report must include.

- 1.4.3. This is summarised as:

- Collecting and presenting baseline information
- Predicting the significant effects of the plan and addressing them during its preparation
- Identifying reasonable plan options and their effects

- Involving the public and authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities as part of the assessment process
- Monitoring the actual effects of the plan during its implementation
- Forming an integral part of all stages of plan preparation
- Providing a mechanism for ensuring that sustainability objectives are translated into sustainable planning policies and proposals
- Taking a long term view of how the area covered by the SPD is expected to develop, taking into account environmental, social and economic effects
- Reflecting global, national, regional and local concerns and issues
- Providing an audit trail of how the plan has been revised to take into account the findings of the SA.

1.5. Sustainability Appraisal and Knowsley Borough Council

- 1.5.1. The current planning document for the Borough is the Adopted Knowsley Unitary Development Plan (2006), which sets out the Council's vision for the physical development and regeneration of the Borough, including specific proposals and policies for the development and use of land and buildings. A sustainability appraisal of the Draft Knowsley Unitary Development Plan was undertaken during 2003 as part of the UDP review process, according to the guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 "Development Plans". A sustainability appraisal report was subsequently written detailing the findings of the sustainability appraisal process and the changes made to the policies contained within the revised draft replacement Unitary Development Plan.
- 1.5.2. Following consultation with Government Office, Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Counsel, it was agreed that the Sustainability Appraisal process would continue without significant modification to comply with either the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act or the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The decision was taken by Knowsley Council on the basis of a risk-based approach and because of the relatively advanced stage that the replacement UDP had reached prior to implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (21 July 2004) and enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (28 September 2004). The implication of the decision was that the replacement UDP would need to be adopted by 22 July 2006 in order to comply with the aforementioned directive. The UDP was thus adopted on 14th June 2006.
- 1.5.3. The method for appraising the UDP was based upon the North West Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (July 2003). Of most consequence to this SPD was the appraisal of plan policy H6 Residential Regeneration and Action Areas, which were adopted as policy H3 North Huyton and Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Areas in the revised UDP. The appraisal commented that this was a strongly positive policy which will seek to provide a much better mix of housing, jobs, shopping and community facilities in two of the more deprived areas of Knowsley. It was recommended that more detail should be provided in master planning exercises for the areas, for example on sustainable transport provision, designing out crime and open space provision, but it was accepted that; these matters will be addressed in drawing up, consulting upon and in the adoption process for such

master planning. It was also suggested that a check should be made against flood risk maps to ensure development parcels are not affected.

- 1.5.4. Consistent with the recommendations of the sustainability appraisal of the Draft Knowsley Unitary Development Plan, Knowsley Council produced a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in line with the regulations contained within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.5.5. In line with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (21 July 2004) and enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (28 September 2004) the SPD was determined to require a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment ensuring such matters as sustainable transport provision, designing out crime and open space provision were addressed. Therefore, although the adopted UDP that governs the planning policy for the North Huyton Action Area was appraised using the North West Integrated Appraisal Toolkit and not the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the SPD that provides detailed guidance on the application of policy H3 has been the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment and is therefore consistent with current legislation.

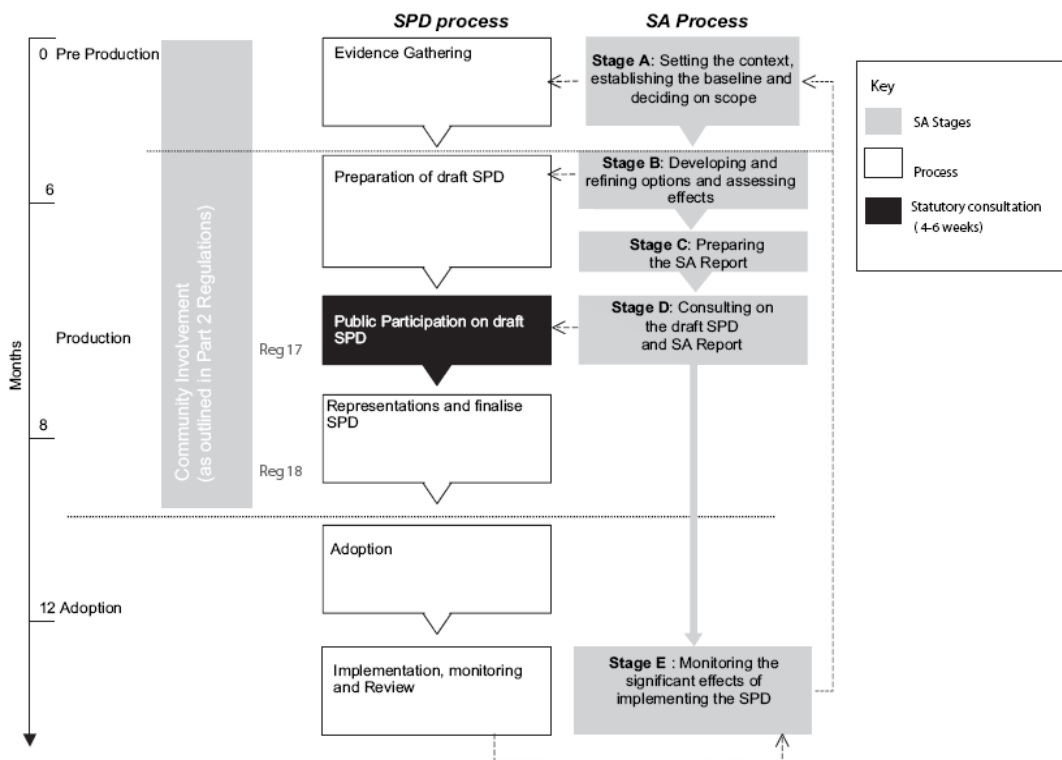
2. BACKGROUND TO SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

2.1. Sustainability Appraisal and the New Planning System

2.1.1. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, future planning policies for Knowsley will be set in a range of Local Development Documents (LDDs). The North Huyton Action Area SPD is one of the first of a number of LDDs that when combined will make up the Local Development Framework (LDF), which will eventually replace the Knowsley UDP. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory requirement in the preparation of LDFs and will be used to test the soundness of planning policy documents during the Examination stage. Any future Sustainability Appraisal process and strategic environmental assessment will, however, need to be more strongly focused on an evidence base than the qualitative assessment used for the SA of the Draft UDP, which largely relied on knowledge, experience and professional judgement.

2.1.2. Good practice emphasises the value of an integrated assessment and plan making process so that ongoing work is not lost as a completely different work-stream or by a separate body. The SA process has therefore been integrated with the SPD. The relationship between the SA process and the formation of planning policy documents (known as Development Plan Documents) can be seen in figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal and the SPD



2.2. Methodology

- 2.2.1. "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" (November 2005) defines a 5 stage process towards the preparation of an SA. Each of these stages includes a number of tasks, highlighted in table 2.1.
- 2.2.2. The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report is structured into particular chapters that are designed to relate to the ODPM guidance. The Guidance states that SEA/SA need not be done in any more detail, or using any more resources, than is useful for its purpose and the level of detail/resource has been dictated by that appropriate to the scale of the SPD. Sufficient commentary is also provided throughout these chapters so that it is made clear how each of these tasks has been undertaken and completed.

Table 2.1: Sustainability Appraisal Stages and Tasks (adopted from ODPM)

| |
|---|
| Stage A: Setting the Context, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on the Scope |
| Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives |
| Task A2: Collecting baseline information |
| Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems |
| Task A4: Developing the SA framework |
| Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA |
| Stage B: Developing and Refining Alternatives and Assessing Effects |
| Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework |
| Task B2: Developing the SPD options |
| Task B3: Predicting the effects of the SPD |
| Task B4: Evaluating the effects of the SPD |
| Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects |
| Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPDs |
| Stage C: Preparing the SA Report |
| Task C1: Preparing the SA Report |

| |
|--|
| Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the SPD and SA Report |
| Task D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the SPD and the SA Report. |
| Task D2: Assessing significant changes |
| Task D3: Making decisions and providing information |
| Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD |
| Task E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring |
| Task E2: Responding to adverse effects |

2.3. Consultation and the Sustainability Appraisal Group

2.3.1. Sustainability Appraisal can be a subjective and judgemental exercise. Its success is dependent on the expertise and knowledge of the team undertaking the appraisal. Guidance suggests that for the SA appraisal to be most effective it be undertaken by people who:

- Consider and respond to local circumstances;
- Take a balanced and objective view;
- Understand the issues;
- Draw on good practice elsewhere; and,
- Evaluate the full range of sustainability issues.

2.3.2. This document follows the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report, which have benefited from consultation with Council Directorates and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service as well as other statutory consultees.

2.3.3. The following Council Directorates as well as Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT) were consulted on the contents of this Revised Final SA Report:

- Department of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (planning, transport, asset management)
- Department of Neighbourhood Delivery (Leisure, and Environmental Service)
- Department of Corporate Services (Legal)
- Department of Children's Services (Schools)

2.3.4. Regular updates on the document's progress were provided at the North Huyton Outline Plan Planning Group Meetings that included members of North Huyton NDC, Knowsley Housing Trust and KMBC.

3. THE INFORMATION BASE AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. Chapter 3 presents the results of Stage A of the SA process. It considers the baseline information and how it relates to the sustainability issues for the Borough as well as national sustainability objectives and the Adopted Knowsley UDP objectives.

Table 3.1: Stage A of the process

| |
|---|
| Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope |
| Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives |
| Task A2: Collecting baseline information |
| Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems |
| Task A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework |
| Task A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA |

- 3.1.2. The underlying objective of this chapter of the report is to establish that sufficient information is available about the current and likely future state of the Borough that will ultimately allow the effects of the North Huyton Action Area SPD to be adequately assessed and predicted.

3.2. Task A1: Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

- 3.2.1. There are other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives that are of significance to the development plan process at international, national, regional and local levels. The relationships between the SPD and these objectives must be reflected in the content of the document. The main ones relevant to the North Huyton Action Area SPD are set out in the following table.

Table 3.2: Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|--|---|--|
| EU | | | |
| European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (European Union, 1992) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve flora and fauna of EU importance • Establish a network of protected areas to maintain distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats. | To identify and conserve relevant habitats and species. | www.europa.eu.int |
| Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice: The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community (European Union, 2002) | <p>Gives strategic direction to the commission's environmental policy and identifies four environmental priority areas for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Nature and Biodiversity • Environment and Health and quality of life • Natural Resources and Waste | It sets the priorities for sustainable development and the priority areas for action. | www.europa.eu.int |
| Sustainable Development Strategy (European Union, May 2001) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy. • Improve public health while combating poverty social exclusion. • Deal with economic and social implications of an ageing society. • Manage our natural resources responsibly. Improve the transport system and land use management. | Emphasises that action to promote sustainable development must be taken by all at all levels. | www.europa.eu.int |
| European Council Directive 2000/60/EC- Integrated river basin management for Europe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single system of water management by river basin • Protection of aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water | To take a holistic approach to water management, preventing deterioration of aquatic ecology | www.europa.eu.int |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|--|---|--|---|
| | <p>resources, and protection of bathing water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general requirement for ecological protection, and a general minimum chemical standard, introduced to cover all surface waters | and restoration of surface and ground waters to good status. | |
| European Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all necessary measures will be taken so that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes / methods which could harm the environment. | To ensure that waste material is recovered or disposed of in an appropriate manner. | www.europa.eu.int |
| National | | | |
| UK Sustainable Development Strategy- securing the future (H.M. Government Stationery Office, 2005) | <p>Has five guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong healthy just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance; and • Using sound science responsibly. <p>Four shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and • Sustainable communities. | For the guiding principles to shape policy at a local level and the priorities to be reflected in the appraisal. | http://www.sustainable.gov.uk |
| Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure tenants have decent homes to live in; • To ensure communities have a clean safe attractive | Creating a sustainable community involves considering | www.odpm.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|---|---|---|
| (ODPM, 2003) | <p>environment to live in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on bringing back to life areas of low demand and abandoned houses; • Housing to be addressed by local partnerships; • Encourage environmental enhancement to be central to regeneration; and • Encourage restoration and enhancement of brown field land and green space networks. | <p>more than just housing: It is also about creating; safe, clean, green areas that local people can feel proud of.</p> | |
| Biodiversity strategy for England (Defra, 2002) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure biodiversity considered in all main sectors of public policy; • Sets out a programme for the next five years to enhance nature and ecosystems; and, • Sets targets at a local level through BAPs habitats and species plans. | <p>BAP habitat and species plans to inform indicators for biodiversity.</p> | <p>www.ukbap.org.uk</p> |
| PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve community facilities; • High quality and safe development; • Well integrated mixed use developments; • Should be in accessible locations; and • Increase vitality and viability through promoting existing centres of commerce. • Ensure high quality design • Protect and enhance the historic environment and landscape and townscape character. • Promote design which is appropriate to its context. | <p>Forms the basis for creating communities that are sustainable</p> | <p>www.odpm.gov.uk</p> |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|---|---|--|
| PPG3: Housing (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the use of previously developed land; • Meet the housing needs of the whole community; • Provide choice through mix of type and tenure; • Encourage a good density of housing; and • Encourage development near transport links. | To make sure the right mix and density of housing is provided meeting the 60% requirement of housing to on previously developed land. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate bio and geo diversity with other considerations; • Conserve restore and enhance diversity; and • Recognises the wider benefits of biodiversity both social and economic. | Take into account the benefits of biodiversity for building a sense of well being in a community. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires LDFs to be prepared with a view to contribute toward sustainable development and to meet the requirements of SEA. | Ensure plan fully integrates SEA in line with the directive. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPG13: Transport (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more sustainable transport choice; and • Promote accessibility to amenities through public transport walking and cycling. | Develop policies that support sustainable transport through the reduction in the need to travel by car. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning processes should reconcile the need for economic growth with the need to protect the natural and historic environment. | Consider the effect of development on the historic environment. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. | Care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly | www.odpm.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management is essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. | destroyed. | |
| PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve quality of life; • Support urban renewal; and • Promote social inclusion and cohesion. | Recognise the contribution open space and sport has to urban renewal. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPS22: Renewable Energy (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDDs should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources. • Local planning authorities should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and the potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards. | Acknowledges the opportunity to promote renewable energy. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution issues should be taken into account as appropriate in planning decisions. • The generation of additional pollution from road traffic, the demand on natural resources and the discharges to the environment associated with any proposed development should be considered. • Encourages development in areas of brownfield land. | Advocates a precautionary approach when dealing with contaminated sites. | www.odpm.gov.uk |
| PPG25: Development and Flood Risk (ODPM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the vulnerability of the country to the risk of flooding; • Development plans should give appropriate weight to information available on flood risk, guiding development | The plan should make provision for SuDs. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should inform development allocation. | www.odpm.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|---|--|--|
| | <p>away from areas of flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land should be used in accordance with guidance; and • The use of SuDs is promoted. | | |
| Draft PPS25: Development and Flood Risk (2005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of flooding to and from new development through location, layout and design, promoting the use of a sustainable approach to drainage (SuDs). • Ensure effective engagement with the Environment Agency and other key stakeholders. • Ensure spatial planning supports flood risk management and emergency planning. • LPA's should apply the sequential approach at a site level to match vulnerability of land use to flood risk. | The plan should incorporate measures to reduce flood risk, notably the use of SuDs. | www.communities.gov.uk |
| <u>Regional</u> | | | |
| Regional Spatial Strategy 13: North West (ODPM, 2003) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports regeneration of existing housing stock and housing renewal throughout the North West. • Sets a target of 230 dwellings per year (net of demolition replacements) to be constructed in Knowsley from 2002. • Policy EM5- Plans and strategies should have regard to River Basin Management Plans and assist in achieving integrated water management. | Consult indicators reported in RSS AMR and Focus on housing renewal and what contribution the plan will make to RSS target. Development should protect the quantity and quality of surface, and ground waters and manage flood risk. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (ODPM, 2006) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the reduction of economic, environmental, educational, health and other social inequalities throughout the North West | The plan should seek to improve the quality and choice of the housing stock and ensure | www.gonw.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the development of safe and sustainable communities, which are attractive and distinctive places to live, work and visit. Supports the management of existing housing stock, its renewal and regeneration and, increasingly the provision for local needs and affordable housing. To improve access to a full range of health and educational services within communities. | appropriate levels of affordable housing are delivered. | |
| Regional Sustainable Development Framework – ‘Action for Sustainability’ (AfS) | <p>This contains a set of priorities and long term goals to deliver sustainability across the region. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable transport, production and consumption An emphasis on social equity and biodiversity. | Indicators should reflect the long term goals of this document. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| Regional Housing Strategy (North West Regional Housing Board, 2005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn around declining demand by 2010 Reduce vacancy levels to 3% by 2021 Ensure 30% homes are affordable Ensure all social housing meets decency standards by 2010 | Contribute to meeting the target of reducing the amount of unfit homes and increasing decency standards. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| Investment for Health – Action plan for the North West (North West Regional Development Agency) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce health inequalities between groups and areas in the North West. Priority groups include children and young people, older people, ethnic minorities and disabled people. | Specific health indicators should be included | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| The North West Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, 2004-2008 Sport England in the North West. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the part sport can play in social mental physical well being. Key target of the plan is to increase participation in sport and physical activity. | Should consider how the plan will contribute to increasing opportunity for sport by | www.nwra.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | improving facilities. | |
| Sub-Regional | | | |
| Merseyside Local Transport Plan (Merseyside Local Authorities, 2001) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that transport supports sustainable economic development; and Moderate upward trend in car use and secure a shift to more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. | Enable the transport needs of the local community to be met in the most sustainable way. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| Merseyside "New Heartlands" Housing Market Renewal Initiative 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A major programme, set up under the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan, which aims to renew and regenerate housing in the "pathfinder" areas of inner Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral | The aims and objectives of this initiative should contribute to the SA. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies priority habitats and species and sets actions for their preservation and enhancement. | Include relevant objectives and indicators from species and habitat action plans. | www.nwra.gov.uk |
| Local | | | |
| Knowsley Community Plan, 2002- 2012 (The Knowsley Partnership, 2002) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community plan vision "...to encourage community well being by developing an economy that is vibrant with a wide range of job opportunities, where being a citizen is valued and lifelong learning and education is promoted. We wish to develop a Borough where the environment is safe, clean and attractive, where opportunity, health and social prosperity is available to all." | Reflect the five key areas of economy and employment, housing and environment, community safety, health and healthy living, education and training. | www.theknowsleypartnership.org.uk |
| Adopted Knowsley Replacement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory development plan with a general objective of | This plan forms the basis for all | www.planning.know |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|---|--|---|--|
| Unitary Development Plan 2006 (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2006) | <p>stabilising the population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out 19 strategic objectives and policies for new development. Identifies North Huyton as an Action Area suitable for comprehensive development, redevelopment or improvement. Proposals for North Huyton include up to 1,450 new dwellings, clearance of existing unpopular or unsuitable housing, and better shopping, open space, leisure, schools, jobs, and training facilities. | planning decisions in the authority. It contains several policies which should be considered; including policy H3 which specifically refers to North Huyton | sley.gov.uk |
| "Knowsley's Tomorrow", 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Agenda 21 strategy which identifies key sustainable development targets for the Borough. | Community goal priorities to inform SA and the setting of objectives and targets | www.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Sustainability appraisal report for Knowsley replacement UDP Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, December 2004 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UDP was assessed using the North West integrated appraisal tool kit which will be used to help generate objectives and targets for future SA work providing clarity and continuity. | North West integrated appraisal tool kit will inform objectives and targets. | www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley Annual Monitoring Report, 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual monitoring report 2005 begins to establish a baseline of data for the borough. | Will feed into baseline information. | www.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley MBC Corporate Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains how the delivery of Council services will be prioritised to help deliver the Community Plan vision. | The corporate plan will inform objectives and indicators | www.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley MBC Housing Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies housing needs and priorities and will influence planning decisions relating to housing development. | The plan will inform objectives and indicators | www.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley MBC Economic Development Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to promote opportunity and social prosperity; Foster enterprise, sustainable economic and | The plan will inform objectives and indicators | www.knowsley.gov.uk |

| Document | Key Objectives | Implications for SA | Web link |
|--|---|--|---|
| | <p>environmental development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage life-long learning. | | |
| Knowsley MBC Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies a range of actions to be taken by the Council and its partners to encourage citizenship and reduce incidences of crime and disorder in the community. | The plan will inform objectives and indicators | www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley MBC Building Schools for the Future programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government funded programme under which eight new learning centers will replace Knowsley's existing 11 secondary schools. The Government aims for the first of the new centers to be built by 2007 and Knowsley aims to complete the whole programme by 2012. | The programme will inform objectives and indicators | www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk |
| Knowsley Guide to Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to ensure new development meets certain design standards. That new development takes into account surrounding landscapes, considers transport issues and creates a range of housing to meet people's needs. | To cover the main aspects of this guide in its objectives. | http://planning.knowsley.gov.uk/design/knowsley_development_guide.pdf |

3.3. Task A2: Baseline Information

- 3.3.1. The baseline information considered is that which is readily available for predicting and monitoring the effects of the SPD. The key issues for the SPD were identified in consultation with key officers and professionals at KMBC and the North Huyton Outline Plan Planning Group.
- 3.3.2. At the same time, as part of the information-gathering process, the sources of background information relating to the issues were also identified. The information identified should be able to be collected and monitored by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council now and in the future.
- 3.3.3. At this stage of the process it was not possible to collect and collate information on Sustainability indicators that chart trends over successive years. This column has been left in the table on the following page because it is important for future monitoring.
- 3.3.4. The baseline is presented in the form of a series of indicators presented in the following tables.
- 3.3.5. The following sources were drawn upon to develop the existing baseline:
- Audit commission (www.audit-commission.gov.uk)
 - Defra (www.defra.gov.uk)
 - Environment Agency (www.environment-agency.gov.uk)
 - Environmental Monitoring Report
(www.lmu.livjm.ac.uk/gonw/upload/1779.pdf)
 - Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004
 - KMBC Annual Monitoring Report 2005
 - KMBC Corporate Plan Deos CO1 and DEOS
 - Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use Database)
 - Landscape Planning Ltd Survey July 2006
 - Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
 - National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005
 - National Statistics Datasets
 - OA Survey September 2006
 - OCA UK Ltd Survey July 2006
 - ODPM Best Value Performance Indicators 2002/03
 - Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP)
 - Valuation Office Agency Data
(www.biodiversitynw.org.uk/audit/)
- 3.3.6. Knowsley Borough Council is currently assessing the scope of the Annual Monitoring Report within the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so that the Local Development Framework aligns with sustainability criteria. Future Annual Monitoring Reports should form the basis with which to collect baseline information and as such provide the appropriate monitoring vehicle of the North Huyton Action Area SPD.

(Overleaf) Table 3.3: Baseline Information

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|--|-------|-------------------------------|
| HOUSING | Population change 2003-04 | | - 30% | 50% | To reverse population loss. | | Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |
| | Dwelling stock by council tax band | All dwellings 4,076 Band No A 3952 97% B 72 1.8% C 45 1.1% D 6 0.2% E 0 0% F 0 0% G 0 0% H 1 0.02% | All dwellings 62,783 Band No. A 37911 60.4% B 11793 18.8% C 8122 12.94% D 3221 5.13% E 1368 2.2% F 236 0.4% G 17 0.03% H 17 0.03% | All dwellings 301,1128 Band No. A 1318643 43.79% B 567827 18.9% C 517736 17.19% D 290057 9.63% E 170426 5.6% F 83488 2.8% G 57190 1.9% H 5729 0.19% | To create a wider mix of housing, that is in line with regional figures. | | Valuation Office Agency Data |
| | Average house prices, 2005 Detached Semi-detached Terraced Flat/Maisonette Overall | | £212,008 £119,161 £82,701 £87,729 £119,500 | £253,376 £141,306 £88,941 £128,131 £132,015 | To raise house prices in line with regional figures, whilst ensuring a proportion of housing is provided as affordable | | Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|-------|---|
| | Tenure type | Total dwellings 3,836 | Total dwellings 60,553 | Total dwellings 2,812,789 | To increase the % of houses privately owned to the same as Knowsley. | | National Statistics: Tenure Households (UV63) |
| | Owned houses | 1045 (27%) | 37,372 (62%) | 1948010 (69%) | | | |
| | Social rented | 2512 (65.5%) | 19,089 (32%) | 564573 (20%) | | | |
| | Amenities | Total dwellings 3,839 | Total dwellings 60,553 | Total dwellings 2,812,789 | To improve the % of houses with central heating to same as Knowsley. | | National Statistics Dataset: Amenities (UV60) |
| | Central heated | 1,872 (48.8%) | 46,209 (76.3%) | 2,480,143 (88%) | | | |
| | Without Central Heating | 1,967 (51.2%) | 14,344 (23.7%) | 332,646 (12%) | | | |
| | Percentage of homes meeting decent homes standard | | Unfit Dwellings: Total 2,270 LA 0 (0%) RSL 0 (0%) Other public sector 0 (0%) Owner-Occupied and private rented 2270 (100%) Total (5.2%) | Unfit Dwellings: Total 183,283 LA 9,307 (0.3%) RSL 6,032 (0.2%) Other public sector 1,021 (0%) Owner-Occupied and private rented 167,297 (5.5%) Total (6.1%) | 100% of social housing must be 'decent' by 2010 | | National Statistics Dataset: Dwelling Stock by Tenure and Condition |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|---|---|--|--|-------|--|
| | Vacant household spaces | All households 3,834 Vacant 101 (2.6%) | All households 60,553 Vacant 1,601 (2.6%) | All households 2,812,789 Vacant 124,600 (4.4%) | To reduce the % of vacant household spaces | | National Statistics Dataset: Household Spaces and Accommodation Type (KS16) |
| | Percentage of new homes achieving 'Good' or better score in 'EcoHomes' rating scheme | The existing housing stock was originally not built to comply with eco homes standards. However, new housing will be required to meet the minimum of EcoHomes good standard | | | 100% | | |
| | Thermal efficiency of housing stock (average SAP rating of authority dwellings) | | 44 (2002/03) 53 (2004/05) | 56.3 (2002/03) | To improve the thermal efficiency of the housing stock | | BVPI (ODPM, 2002/03) www.lmu.livjm.ac.uk/gonw/upload/1779.pdf |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION | Median full time weekly earnings | | | | To increase average weekly earnings | | Annual Survey of hours and Earnings 2005 |
| | Male | | £376.10 | £450.00 | | | |
| | Female | | £355.20 | £351.60 | | | |
| | Average annual household income, 2004 | | £22,591 | Greater Merseyside £25,030 | To increase household income in line with the sub regional average | | Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |
| | Lower SOA multiple deprivation rankings | N/A | Ranking in Knowsley E01006441 45 E01006442 7 E01006444 11 E01006467 4 E01006468 1 E01006469 2 E01006470 9 | Ranking in England E01006441 2187 E01006442 54 E01006444 136 E01006467 42 E01006468 7 E01006469 14 E01006470 7 | To improve the ranking in the index of multiple deprivation of the SOA's. | | Index of multiple deprivation 2004 |
| % of population living in 10% most deprived SOA's | | 52.2% | Merseyside 37.2% | To notably reduce the % of people living | | Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|---|---|---|---|--|-------|---|
| | nationally | | | | within the 10% most deprived SOA's nationally. | | |
| | Annual % change in total claimant count for Job Seekers Allowance 2004-05 | | -2.8% | 5.7% | To continue to observe a decline in the number of claimants seeking JSA. | | Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |
| | No and % of Active Inactive | All persons 6,149 2647 (43%) 3502 (57%) | All persons 107,330 61157 (57%) 46173 (43%) | All persons 4,839,669 3093186 (64%) 1746483 (36%) | Increase the % of economically active people to North West rate. | | National Statistics Dataset: Economic Activity UV28 |
| | No and % of residents with no qualifications | All persons 6,149 3579 (58%) | All persons 107,330 46157 (43%) | All persons 4,839,669 1543524 (32%) | Increase the % of people with qualifications to that of Knowsley. | | National Statistics Dataset: Qualifications UV24 |
| | No and % of residents with limiting long term | All people 9,318 2681 (29%) | All people 150,459 37103 (25%) | All people 6,729,764 1394609 (29%) | To decrease the % of those who are long term ill. | | National Statistics Dataset: Limiting long term illness |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | illness | | | | | | UV22 |
| | Life expectancy at birth | | | | To raise the life expectancy of residents in Knowsley. | | National Statistics Dataset: Life expectancy at birth |
| | Male | | 73.60 | 75.10 | | | |
| | Female | | 78.20 | 79.70 | | | |
| TRANSPORT AND SAFETY | Method of travel to work: | All people 6,163 | All people 10,7330 | All people 4,839,669 | To maintain or increase the % of those using alternative methods of transport other than car | | |
| | Work at home | 79 1.3% | 2966 2.8% | 242474 5% | | | |
| | Metro or tram | 0 0% | 108 0.1% | 15955 0.3% | | | |
| | Train | 37 0.6% | 2204 2.1% | 54356 1.1% | | | |
| | Bus | 485 7.9% | 7200 6.7% | 248267 5.1% | | | |
| | Taxi | 49 0.8% | 1055 1% | 23400 0.5% | | | |
| | Driving | 843 13.7% | 29320 27% | 1694380 35% | | | |
| | Passenger | 205 3.2% | 4886 4.6% | 217559 4.5% | | | |
| | Motorbike | 13 0.2% | 417 0.4% | 26731 0.6% | | | |
| | Bike | 39 0.6% | 904 0.8% | 65961 1.4% | | | |
| On foot | 215 3.5% | 5037 4.7% | 13217 0.3% | | | | |
| Car ownership | All households 3,833 | All households 60,548 | All households 2,812,789 | To encourage alternative forms of transport | | National Statistics Dataset: Cars or vans UV62 | |
| No car or van | 2481 65% | 25287 41% | 849769 30% | | | | |
| 1 | 1134 29% | 24745 41% | 1224554 43% | | | | |
| 2 | 185 4.8% | 8946 15% | 605586 22% | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|--------------------------------|
| | 3 | 24 0.6% | 1274 2% | 104120 3% | | | |
| | 4 | 9 0.2% | 296 0.5% | 28760 1% | | | |
| | Amount of previously developed land that is derelict | | 40.7% | - | To assist in reducing the amount of PDL that is derelict | | Knowsley MBC Land Use Database |
| | New build on previously developed land | | 65% | - | 65% | | Knowsley MBC Land Use Database |
| | Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households | | 17.7 | | To reduce crime and the fear of crime | | Audit commission |
| | Violent Offences committed per 1,000 population | | 19.76 | | To reduce crime and the fear of crime | | Audit commission |
| | Theft of a vehicle per 1,000 population | | 7.72 | | To reduce crime and the fear of crime | | Audit commission |
| | % of residents surveyed who feel | | 95.8 | | To reduce crime and the fear of | | Audit commission |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|---|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|--|
| | fairly or very safe outside during the day | | | | crime | | |
| | % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark | | 62.7 | | To reduce crime and the fear of crime | | Audit commission |
| | Public transport users in households: With car or van Without car or van | 225 299 | 5,905 3,599 | 205,525 110,772 | To increase the number of public transport users in households with and without a car/van | | National Statistics: Key Figures for Access to Services |
| OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | Amount of open space per 1,000 people | 3.6 ha | 1.03 ha | | To establish the amount of good <i>quality</i> open space there is per 1,000 people and for this to be at least 1.3ha | | Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP) |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| | Quality of open space | All open space is scored as average or poor in quality | | | All open space to be good quality | | Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP) Residents views |
| | % of space that is of a high or acceptable standard of horticultural maintenance | North Huyton 84% | Knowsley 73% | | 90% | | KMBC corporate plan Deos CO1 and DEOS. |
| | Chemical river water quality classification (EA Chemistry GQA) | | (2004) Good 5.74% Fair 46.64% Poor 5.57% Bad 42.05% Total Km 28.14 (2005) Good 0.4% Fair 61.1% Poor 5.6% | (2004) Good 60.8% Fair 30.71% Poor 6.9% Bad 1.59% Total Km 5428 | To improve the river's water quality | | www.environmentalagency.gov.uk Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| | | | Bad 32.9% Total Km 28.1 | | | | |
| | Biological river water quality classification (EA Biology GQA) | | (2004) Good 0% Fair 24.96% Poor 73.32% Bad 1.72% Total Km 26.10 (2005) Good 0% Fair 41.06% Poor 57.22% Bad 1.72% Total Km 26.10 | (2004) Good 55.34% Fair 33.92% Poor 9.24% Bad 1.51% Total Km 4695.88 | To improve the river's water quality | | www.environmentalagency.gov.uk Annual Monitoring Report 2005 |
| | Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 (as defined in table 1, paragraph 30 in PPG25) | There are no properties situated within the action area that fall within flood zones 2 or 3. However, in a number of locations | | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | bordering the action area, there are a number of properties situated within flood zone 2, these include the following locations: Altfinch Close – 22 properties The Spinney – 9 properties Snowberry Road – 7 properties Callington Close – 12 properties | | | | | |
| | Type of species contained within the River Alt | The River Alt is a water vole habitat and the Environment Agency have a positive water vole record | | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|---|
| | Applicable North Merseyside BAP targets for species and habitats in SBIs | 1. Seth Powell Way 2. Grassland west of Seth Powell way | - | - | To establish the species and habitats that are located in the SBI's and protect them in accordance with BAP targets. | | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service |
| | Number and type of regionally important habitats | 1 - unimproved neutral grassland | | | | | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service |
| | Number of habitats considered to be priority habitats as defined within the local biodiversity action plan | 1 - unimproved neutral grassland | | | | | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service |
| | Number of bats recorded | A single bat roost in the Hillside area and evidence of common Pipistrelle | | | To locate any bat roosts and ensure they are protected. | | Survey by OCA UK Ltd. July 2006 |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|---------------------------------|
| | | bats foraging in the Hillside area (Other areas of North Huyton have yet to be surveyed) | | | | | |
| | Number of nesting birds | No evidence of nesting house martins, swallows or swifts found in the Hillside area, although properties on Bruton Road and Hillside Avenue found to contain evidence of nesting birds, predominately sparrows and pigeons (Other areas of North Huyton have yet to be surveyed). | | | To protect any nesting birds during the breeding session. | | Survey by OCA UK Ltd. July 2006 |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|---|
| | Number of identified sitings of invasive weeds | Japanese Knotweed: 6 sites Giant Hogweed: 0 sites Himalayan Balsam: 1 site | | | To eradicate any infestations of invasive weeds from within the area | | Survey by Landscape Planning Ltd. July 2006 |
| | Number & name of regionally important plant species | 1 - burnet rose (rosa piminellifolia) | | | | | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service |
| | Number & name of locally rare plant species | 21 - Corncockle (Agrostemma githago) - Early Hair-grass (Aira praecox) - Horse-radish (Armoracia rusticana) - Carnation sedge (Carex panacea) | | | | | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chicory (Cichorium intybus) - Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea) - Spotted orchid hybrid (Dactylorhiza fuchsia x praetermissa) - An eyebright (Euphrasia nemorosa) - Meadow crane's-bill (Geranium pratense) - Field scabioius (Knautia arvensis) - Rough hawbit | | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Leontodon hispidus) - Italian rye-grass (Lolium multiflorum) - Garden lupin (Lupinus polyphyllus) - Ragged robin (Lychnis flos-cuculi) - Tall melilot (Melilotus altissimus) - Red bartsia (Odontites vernus) - Yellow-rattle (Rhinanthus minor) - Grey willow subspecies | | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--|--|--|-----------------------|--------|-------|--|
| | | (Salix cinerea Ssp. Oleifolia) - Osier (Salix viminalis) - Salad burnet (Sanguisorba minor) - Devil's-bit scabious (Succisa pratensis) - Squirreltail Fescue (Vulpia bromoides) | | | | | |
| | Identified species by importance 1. Species of UK Priority 2. Species of UK conservation concern | | Mammals 1) 4 2) 11 Birds 1) 10 2) 44 Amphibians 1) 0 2) 4 Butterflies 1) 0 2) 1 | | | | www.biodiversitynw.org.uk/audit/ |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------|-------|--|
| | | | Moths 1) 0 2) 1 Vascular plants 1) 0 2) 4 | | | | |
| | Total area of all land types | 187,189 | 14,680,742 | 131,926,495 | | | National Statistics: Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use Database) |
| | Area of domestic buildings | 8,169 | 200,616 | 1,472,855 | | | |
| | Area of non domestic buildings | 3,165 | 117,357 | 859,055 | | | |
| | Area of road | 12,377 | 412,376 | 3,064,805 | | | |
| | Area of path | 626 | 17,468 | 118,607 | | | |
| | Area of rail | 714 | 25,945 | 182,984 | | | |
| | Area of gardens | 25,878 | 610,068 | 5,471,816 | | | |
| | Area of greenspace | 96,019 | 12,329,161 | 116,044,182 | | | |
| | Area of water | 34,057 | 744,281 | 2,936,473 | | | |
| | Area of other land uses | 6,173 | 233,354 | 1,768,804 | | | |
| | Area of unclassified land | 7 | 112 | 6,909 | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|-------|--|
| | Number of recorded fly tipping incidents during 2004/05 | | 4,030 | 77,338 | To reduce and where possible prevent the number of recorded fly tipping incidents. | | www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ |
| | Proportion of household waste recycled/composted | | Recycled 6.49% Composted 3.90% Total 10.39% | Total 20% | To increase the proportion of waste recycled and reduce the proportion sent to landfill. | | www.defra.gov.uk |
| | Estimated carbon emissions, 2003 | | | | To reduce overall carbon emissions | | www.environmental-agency.gov.uk |
| | Industry and Commercial | | 695 | 29283 | | | |
| | Domestic | | 386 | 18630 | | | |
| | Road Transport | | 287 | 14446 | | | |
| | Land Use Change | | 4 | 467 | | | |
| | Total | | 1371 | 62826 | | | |
| | Population | | 150 | 6804 | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|---|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|--|
| | Thousands Per capita CO2 (tonnes) Domestic per capita CO2 (tonnes) | | 9.1 2.6 | 9.2 2.7 | | | |
| | Levels of: Benzene Carbon dioxide Carbon monoxide Lead Nitrogen Dioxide Sulphur Dioxide | 1) L36 3YE (2003) 2) L36 8NE (2003) 3) L36 3RZ (2003) 1 2 3 0.26 0.3 0.4 2213 2358 3640 57 63 90 0.17 0.2 0.16 20 19 33 0.96 1.5 3.4 | | | To reduce levels of major pollutants | | www.environmentalagency.gov.uk |
| | Number of sites considered to be of local/borough or negligible archaeological importance | - Stock Bridge Lane Bridge Local/Borough Importance - Woolfall Hall Local/Borough | | | To protect sites identified as being of local/borough archaeological importance | | Survey by OA September 2006 |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance - Brickworks Local/Borough Importance - The Horns Low Local Importance - Building, Ash Farm Low Local Importance - Fairclough Pits Negligible Importance - Woolfall Pits Negligible Importance - Two ponds or pits to west of Stock Bridge Lane Negligible Importance - Large pond or pit Negligible | | | | | |

| SA Topic | Indicator | Quantified Information: Huyton NDC | Quantified Information: Knowsley | North West Comparator | Target | Trend | Source |
|----------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | Importance - Two ponds or pits Negligible Importance - Pond or pit Negligible Importance | | | | | |

3.4. Task A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

- 3.4.1. The identification of sustainability issues is an opportunity to define key issues for the SPD and to develop sustainable plan objectives and options. The following table identifies the social, environmental and economic issues and problems specific to North Huyton. These problems have been identified through a review of local plans and programmes and other relevant local documents. This task was undertaken by the SA team at Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council including representatives with a diverse range of backgrounds in order to cover the requirements of SA and SEA.
- 3.4.2. The evidence to support the emerging issues and problems can be found in the documents listed in the source column. These issues and problems are related to the following criteria which should be considered under the SEA directive:
- Biodiversity
 - Population
 - Human health
 - Fauna and flora
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Air
 - Climatic factors
 - Material assets
 - Cultural heritage, and
 - Landscape
- 3.4.3. The Consideration of the sustainability issues and problems defined a series of aspirations for the SPD. This is documented in the table and will inform the SA framework objectives, sub-objectives, indicators and targets.

(Overleaf) Table 3.4: Sustainability Issues and Problems

| Key Issues and Problems | Source | Relevant SA/SEA Criteria | What the SPD should/can seek to achieve |
|---|---|--|---|
| Economic Issues | | | |
| Knowsley experienced significant population loss in 2003 | Annual Monitoring Report 2005 | Population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve conditions to stabilise the population |
| There are more economically inactive than active people in North Huyton. | National Statistics Dataset: Economic Activity UV28 | Population Material assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage increased economic activity |
| There is a relatively low level of educational achievement with over 50% of residents having no qualifications. | National Statistics Dataset: Qualifications UV24 | Population Material assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve schools |
| According to the index of multiple deprivation, North Huyton contains some of the most deprived areas in the country. | Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 | Population Material assets Cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce high levels of deprivation • Tackle long term illness |
| 52.2% of Knowsley's population live within the 10% most deprived SOA's nationally | Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 | Population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce high levels of deprivation |
| Social Issues | | | |
| The mixture of housing tenure and dwelling type forms a major obstacle to regeneration. Housing tenure is double the proportion of social housing than Knowsley as a whole. | Valuation Office Agency Data | Population Material assets Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve housing mix • Improve housing standards for all housing • Create an attractive built environment • Put procedures in place to address the issues of deprivation and inequality |

| Key Issues and Problems | Source | Relevant SA/SEA Criteria | What the SPD should/can seek to achieve |
|--|---|---|--|
| A very high proportion of dwelling stock is in council tax band A. | National Statistics: Tenure Households UV63 | Population Material assets Cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve housing mix |
| There is also a higher than average proportion of housing without amenities such as central heating. | National Statistics Dataset: Amenities UV60 | Material assets Cultural heritage Human health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve design quality of housing, open space and community facilities |
| Car ownership is currently lower than the Knowsley and North West averages, with 65% of households without car/van. The % of people that travel to work by bus is higher. As deprivation decreases car use may increase, and the challenge will be to maintain a high level of bus use despite this. | National Statistics Dataset: Cars or Vans UV62, Travel to Work KS15 | Population Material assets Air Human health Climatic factors Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport • Ensure the location of new facilities is easily accessible by foot, cycle and public transport • Maintain high levels of bus usage |
| Environmental Issues | | | |
| Residents regard the open space in the area as being of poor quality, unsafe and unattractive | Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP) Residents views KMBC corporate | Population Human health Landscape Flora and fauna Air Soil Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to and the environmental quality of parks and open spaces • Provide better quality and access to recreation and play facilities |

| Key Issues and Problems | Source | Relevant SA/SEA Criteria | What the SPD should/can seek to achieve |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | plan Deos CO1 and DEOS. | | |
| Part of the development site falls within the floodplain of the River Alt. | Flood risk assessment | Water Material assets Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quantity and quality of surface, and ground waters • Manage flood risk |
| The quality of the River Alt is rated as being poor | Environment Agency | Water Material assets Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the river's water quality |
| The River Alt is a water vole habitat and the Environment Agency has a positive water vole record. | Environment Agency | Water Flora and fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of water vole habitats |
| 40.7% of previously developed land in Knowsley is derelict | Knowsley MBC Land Use Database | Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage development on brownfield land |
| North Huyton does not contain any significant historical buildings, land marks or cultural heritage. | Site survey and English Heritage | Cultural heritage Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cultural landmarks for the future through good design |
| The North Huyton Action Area contains five sites of local archaeological importance, three of which are also of borough importance. | OA Survey September 2006 | Cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect sites identified to be of archaeological importance |
| The area contains two SBI's. The SPD should seek to protect and improve these. | Knowsley MBC | Flora and fauna Soil Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impact of day to day life on the environment • Use science and high technology to address the |

| Key Issues and Problems | Source | Relevant SA/SEA Criteria | What the SPD should/can seek to achieve |
|---|--|--|---|
| | | Landscape Cultural heritage Water Air Climatic factors | issues of climate change and environmental protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance SBI's |
| Evidence of nesting birds and common Pipistrelle bats found within the North Huyton Action Area. | Landscape Planning Ltd and OCA UK Ltd Surveys July 2006 | Biodiversity Flora and fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect any identified species and their habitats |
| The North Huyton Action Area contains several identified sitings of invasive weeds. | Landscape Planning Ltd Survey July 2006 | Flora and fauna Soil Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the issue of invasive weeds in SPD to ensure redevelopment does not spread such weeds |
| 1 regionally important and 21 locally rare plant species have been identified within the North Huyton Action Area. | Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service | Flora and fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect any important or rare plant species |
| Only 10.39% of household waste in Knowsley was recycled / composted during 2004/05, well below the regional average of 20%. | www.defra.gov.uk | Climatic factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new development is designed to incorporate recycling facilities |

3.5. Data Collection Limitations of Tasks A1 – A3

- 3.5.1. The main limitations when collecting data for the SA of the North Huyton Action Area SPD stem from the definition of its boundaries. North Huyton is defined as an action area by the Knowsley Unitary Development Plan and corresponds to the boundaries of the North Huyton New Deal for Communities programme. However, the boundaries of these areas do not correspond to political ones for which data is usually collected. This presents a problem when trying to find accurate information as the area spans three wards; Page Moss, Longview and Stockbridge, rendering the collection of data at this level unreliable.
- 3.5.2. The Office of National Statistics supplies data at a more detailed geographical level designed specifically for statistical purposes. These are called output areas, and because of their size they can be constructed to form a 'best fit' for areas that do not relate to other administrative boundaries. North Huyton NDC has a best fit model constructed by the Office of National Statistics that provides a selection of datasets that form a reliable source of data. However, these datasets are also limited, only certain topics are covered and they do not provide comparative sets of data over time. To gain enough information to establish a comprehensive comparative analysis, data from Knowsley and the North West was collected. This helps illustrate the extent of the issues in the action area and will assist in analysing the effects of the plan.
- 3.5.3. Another source of data used was the Index of Deprivation 2004. This is the most comprehensive mapping of deprivation in England. The information is released at lower super output area level, which is made from output areas, and there are 99 of these in Knowsley. Seven of these cover the North Huyton action area and although they do not fit it precisely they still provide an accurate measure of deprivation from a reliable source that enables comparison on a local and national basis.
- 3.5.4. A further source of data is the national audit office and its national quality of life indicators. This only provides information at Borough wide level and although it includes a comprehensive set of indicators it is limited in its usefulness because of the size of the North Huyton Action Area.
- 3.5.5. Data for deprivation is the most prevalent and reliable as it is collected at national level in the same way over an extended period of time. Issues such as biodiversity and open space have no regular monitoring systems in place making it more difficult to gain reliable baseline data. Isolated 'one off' studies and surveys can be useful here but the fact these studies are single snap shots of data should be taken into account when monitoring takes place in the future. Any future work should use similar data collection and analysis methods to enable a comparison to be formed.

3.6. Task A4: Developing the SA Framework

- 3.6.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is essentially a 'toolkit' with which to assess the sustainability of the emerging North Huyton Action Area SPD. This 'toolkit' includes the following elements:
- Sustainability objectives

- Sustainability sub-objectives
- Sustainability indicators
- Sustainability evidence base

3.6.2. The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service has produced a set of 22 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators for Merseyside (The Draft Merseyside Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Objective and Indicators October 2005). Some of the objectives are not wholly relevant to the specific focus of the SPD and a process of screening was carried out to refine this comprehensive set of objectives to create a more efficient appraisal framework. The screening process was based on the following information:

- The scope of the SA defined in section 2 of the Scoping Report;
- The objectives of the relevant plans and programmes defined in task A1;
- The baseline characteristics of North Huyton defined in Task A2; and,
- The environmental and sustainability issues and problems in Task A3.

3.6.3. The screening process is shown in table 3.5 and has been ratified by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.

Table 3.5 SA Framework

| | Relevant/ Used | Not relevant | Reason |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. To use energy, water and mineral resources prudently and efficiently and increase energy generated from renewable sources | √ see objective 12 | | The residential focus of the SPD will mean that the prudent use of resources is attributed to housing; this is covered in objective 12. |
| 2. To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates | √ see objective 12 | | The residential focus of the SPD will mean that waste production and recycling is attributed to housing; this is covered in objective 12. |
| 3. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion | √ | | Combined with objective 19. This is a key issue for the North Huyton SPD. |

| | | | |
|--|----------|-----------------|--|
| <p>4. To preserve, enhance and manage Merseyside’s rich diversity of cultural, historic and archaeological buildings, areas, sites and features</p> | | <p>x</p> | <p>As identified in scoping study this is not a major issue in North Huyton.</p> |
| <p>5. To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity, the viability of endangered species, habitats and sites of geological importance</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>Combined with objectives 6 and 9. The area contains 2 SBIs, which will need to be protected and enhanced. This will include local environmental quality improvements, along with consideration of the character and accessibility of the landscape.</p> |
| <p>6. To protect, enhance and manage the local character and accessibility of the landscape across the sub-region</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>Combined with objectives 5 and 9.</p> |
| <p>7. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>Combined with objectives 8, 15 and 16. These are all wider environmental concerns and must be addressed as major issues. However, they are combined as the SPD can only deal with them in broad terms.</p> |
| <p>8. To protect, and where necessary, improve local air quality</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>See 7</p> |
| <p>9. To protect, manage and, where necessary, improve local environmental quality</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>See 5</p> |
| <p>10. To improve health and reduce health inequalities</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>This is an integral part of a sustainable community.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|--|
| <p>11. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>This is an integral part of a sustainable community.</p> |
| <p>12. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>This is a key priority for the SPD.</p> |
| <p>13. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities, and reduce community severance</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>Combined with objective 14. The use of other modes of transport to the car is an integral part of a sustainable community, especially one with low car ownership. Any change to services and transport within North Huyton should not harm the cohesion of the community.</p> |
| <p>14. To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of more sustainable transport modes</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>See 13</p> |
| <p>15. To mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>See 7</p> |
| <p>16. To protect, manage and restore land and soil quality</p> | <p>√</p> | | <p>See 7</p> |
| <p>17. To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business, exploit the growth potential of business sectors and increase the number of new businesses</p> | | <p>x</p> | <p>As the area is mainly residential this is not a major concern for the SPD.</p> |
| <p>18. To enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres</p> | | <p>x</p> | <p>Although there are shops in the area, there is no defined local centre.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 19. Maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment | √ | | Combined with objective 3 since a reduction in long term unemployment will reduce poverty and social exclusion. |
| 20. Develop and market the image of Merseyside | √ see objective 3 and 12 | | This objective will be indirectly covered by objectives 3 and 12 |
| 21. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability | √ | | This is an integral part of a sustainable community. |
| 22. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making | √ | | As an NDC area, community involvement has been an integral part of the process and the SPS should continue this. |

3.6.4. Following this process, the objectives to be used for the purpose of Sustainability Appraisal are:

1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.
2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.
3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.
4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.
5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.
6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.
7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.
8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.
9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.

3.6.5. The resulting SA Framework to be used for the framework is shown in table 3.6. SA objectives have been given a set of sub-objectives to determine the indicators that will in turn be used to appraise any effects against the baseline.

Table 3.6: SA Framework

| Sustainability Appraisal Framework | | |
|--|--|---|
| Sources | | |
| (1) Valuation Office Agency Data (2) National Statistics (3) Audit commission (4) Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP) (5) KMBC corporate plan (6) Environment Agency | | |
| Headline Objective | SA Sub objectives | Detailed Indicator |
| 1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment | To improve the overall IMD rating of the lower super output areas that cover North Huyton. | Lower SOA multiple deprivation rankings |
| | | % of population living in 10% most deprived SOA's nationally |
| | | Annual population change |
| | | Median full time weekly earnings |
| | | Average annual household income |
| | | Annual % change in total claimant count for Job Seekers Allowance |
| 2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character | To provide the required amount of open space | Amount of open space per 1,000 people ⁴ |
| | To improve the quality of open space | % of space that is of a high or acceptable standard of horticultural maintenance ⁵ |
| | Improve the cleanliness of open areas | Number of identified sitings of invasive weeds |
| | | Applicable North Merseyside BAP targets for species and habitats in SBI's |
| | | River Alt, General Quality Assessment - chemistry and biology ⁶ |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | Where possible preserve and enhance natural habitats | Number of regionally important habitats |
| | | Number of habitats considered to be priority habitats as defined within the local biodiversity action plan |
| | | Number of bats recorded |
| | | Number of nesting birds |
| | | Number of regionally important plant species |
| | | Number of locally rare plant species |
| | To reduce derelict land and buildings | Amount of previously developed land and built structures that are derelict |
| | To build new homes on previously developed land | New build on previously developed land |
| 3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk | Manage flood risk | Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 ⁶ |
| | Improve water quality | Water quality (chemical and biological) classification of river |
| | | Type of species contained within the River Alt |
| Improve air quality | Estimated carbon emissions | |
| 4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities | To improve health, reducing long term illness | No and % of residents with limiting long term illness ² |
| | | Years of healthy life expectancy |
| 5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime | To reduce crime and the fear of crime. | Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households ³ |
| | | Violent offences committed per 1,000 population ³ |
| | | Theft of a vehicle per 1,000 population ³ |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day ³ |
| | | % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark ³ |
| | | Number of recorded fly tipping incidents |
| 6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing | Provide a wider choice of accommodation creating a greater mix of tenure. | Dwelling stock by council tax band ¹ |
| | | Tenure type (Owned houses & Social rented) ² |
| | | Average house prices |
| | To increase the quality of housing by improving housing amenities. | Number and % of homes with central heating ² |
| | | Percentage of homes meeting decent homes standard |
| | To minimise resource and energy use when developing housing and the energy efficiency of housing. | Percentage of homes achieving Eco Homes rating Good / Very Good |
| Thermal efficiency of housing stock (average SAP rating of authority dwellings) | | |
| 7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes | To encourage sustainable transport use | Method of travel to work |
| | | Level of car ownership |
| | | Public transport users in households with and without a car or van |
| 8. To improve educational | To increase economic activity | No and % of residents who are economically active/inactive ² |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability | To increase educational achievement | No and % of residents with no qualifications ² |
| 9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making. | To improve community facilities. | The amount of new or renovated facilities. |

3.7. Task A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA

- 3.7.1. Consultation on the scope of the SA is necessary to ensure that the approach to the SA is comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD, which will be subject to full public consultation and examination through the statutory planning process.
- 3.7.2. To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the LPA has sought the views of the four statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency). Comments received from these bodies have been incorporated into the Revised Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. These comments are appended.

4. OPTIONS AND ASSESSING AFFECTS

4.1. Background

4.1.1. Chapter 4 presents the results of Tasks 1 – 6 of Stage B of the SA process. It appraises in broad terms the effects of strategic options and then, in more detail, the effects of the preferred options when these have been selected.

Figure 4.1: Stage B of the process

| Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing affects |
|---|
| Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework |
| Task B2: Developing the SPD options |
| Task B3: Predicting the effects of the draft SPD |
| Task B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD |
| Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects |
| Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD |

4.2. Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework

4.2.1. The objectives of the North Huyton Action Area SPD must be in accordance with sustainability principles. To be able to achieve this, the SPD objectives must be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. Any observations, in turn, have helped to refine the SPD objectives and identify options.

4.2.2. In order to test the objectives an appraisal matrix has been produced. The SA objectives are set out across the vertical axis of the table and the SPD objectives down the horizontal axis. The appraisal itself was carried out using the following scoring mechanism to assess the impact of the objectives against one another. The rationale behind each score is given in the table where further elaboration is required.

| | |
|----|--|
| ++ | Likely to be a very positive impact/highly compatible |
| + | Likely to be a positive impact/compatible |
| O | Likely to be a neutral impact/neither compatible or incompatible |
| - | Likely to be a negative impact/conflict |
| -- | Likely to be a very negative impact/strong conflict |
| ? | Impact not known/unclear |

4.2.3. When scoring the compatibility between the objectives the following factors are taken into consideration:

- The principles behind the SPD and SA objectives
- The baseline situation in North Huyton related to the objectives
- The sustainability issues and problems in North Huyton

The following table illustrates the results of the appraisal which confirms that the objectives of the SA and SPD are largely very positive/highly compatible.

(Overleaf) Table 4.2: Appraisal of SPD Objectives

| | | SPD Objectives | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement | To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing | To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure | To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential | To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of | To create a neighbourhood for future generations | To create a location where people will choose to live and work | To regenerate suburban living | To retain, enhance and nurture distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment | Enhance access to education and life-long learning |
| SA Objectives | 1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment | <p>+ Comprehensive redevelopment may indirectly help to reduce poverty, ill health and social deprivation</p> <p>As a result of comprehensive redevelopment, new jobs may be generated in the community</p> | <p>+ A choice and quality of housing is likely to have an indirect positive outcome</p> | <p>+ Good quality community facilities will create a more inclusive community and improve cohesiveness</p> | <p>++ In order for people to achieve their potential, it will depend upon the ability to reduce overall poverty, ill health and social deprivation</p> | <p>++ Reduced poverty and social deprivation, combined with high and stable levels of employment are key to a sustainable community</p> | <p>++ Future generations will aspire to a place with low levels of poverty and social deprivation</p> | <p>++ People will prefer to live in places where poverty and social deprivation are low</p> <p>People will choose to move to areas with high and stable employment levels</p> | <p>++ A regenerated suburbia will have low levels of poverty and social deprivation</p> | <p>O</p> | <p>++ Education and life long learning will assist in widening the skill base of the community, helping to increase participation in the labour market, which thus reduces poverty and social deprivation</p> |
| | 2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character | <p>++ Comprehensive redevelopment will concentrate on an improved local environment and will allow open space to be preserved through the recycling of brownfield land</p> | <p>+ To achieve popular housing will require improved landscape and environmental quality</p> | <p>+ Good community facilities will include quality areas of open space</p> | <p>++ A viable neighbourhood will need to be attractive, with a good quality local environment</p> | <p>++ A sustainable neighbourhood must protect and enhance existing biodiversity</p> | <p>++ The protection of biodiversity will ensure it is available for future generations</p> | <p>++ People like living in attractive environments, with good access to open space and where nature can exist in harmony with other uses</p> | <p>+ A regenerated suburbia will require the enhancement of open space and areas of biological interest</p> | <p>+ Existing physical and natural elements will contribute to an attractive environment and high environmental quality</p> | <p>+ Areas of biological interest may contribute to education and learning</p> |

| SPD Objectives | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement | To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing | To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure | To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential | To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of | To create a neighbourhood for future generations | To create a location where people will choose to live and work | To regenerate suburban living | To retain, enhance and nurture distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment | Enhance access to education and life-long learning |
| 3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk | ++ Comprehensive redevelopment will need to meet strict Environment Agency standards, which will have a lesser impact on natural resources and the environment | O | O | O | ++ Low impact on the natural environment and resources are key to sustainability | ++ Future generations will depend on the protection of natural resources and the environment | O | | ++ An improvement in the local water, air and soil quality will ensure existing natural habitats are retained and enhanced | O |
| 4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities | ++ Comprehensive redevelopment will involve significant improvements to the quality of the housing stock, with the removal of poor quality housing stock and the addition of new housing. Consequently, this will have a positive impact upon health | ++ New housing will be built to better standards | ++ The provision of good community facilities are fundamental to health and well being | ++ People in good health will be able to achieve their potential | ++ A healthy living environment will contribute to creating a sustainable community | ++ Future generations will aspire to a place which boosts a good standard of health and well being | ++ People will be attracted to locations offering good health facilities | ++ A regenerated suburbia will promote a healthy living environment. | ++ Improved open spaces and areas for recreation will provide better opportunities for residents to enjoy outdoor recreation, which will engender a series of health benefits. An improvement in the physical environment will also have a positive impact upon mental health | + Raising awareness and enhancing access to education may have an indirect positive impact upon health |

| SPD Objectives | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement | To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing | To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure | To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential | To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of | To create a neighbourhood for future generations | To create a location where people will choose to live and work | To regenerate suburban living | To retain, enhance and nurture distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment | Enhance access to education and life-long learning |
| 5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime | <p>++ Comprehensive redevelopment will leave fewer areas derelict, so there will be less opportunity for petty crime and anti social behaviour</p> <p>New development will be built to higher security standards</p> | <p>++ Diversification of the socio-economic profile through a wider choice of housing is likely to have a positive impact upon levels of crime</p> | <p>+ Well designed and run community facilities are likely to have an indirect positive impact upon crime</p> | <p>++ For a neighbourhood to be viable, levels of crime must be low and individuals must feel safe</p> | <p>++ A safe, crime free environment is a key component of a sustainable community</p> | <p>++ Future generations will continue to live in areas that are considered to be safe neighbourhoods</p> | <p>++ More people will decide to live and work in areas with low levels of crime and fear of crime and where they do not feel intimidated</p> | <p>++ A regenerated suburbia will promote a safe environment</p> | <p>+ Well designed enhancements to open space should help to reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime</p> | <p>+ Enhancing access to education will provide opportunities to improve individuals life chances, which may result in individuals being less likely to engage in criminal activity</p> |
| 6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing | <p>++ Comprehensive redevelopment will deliver a diverse mix of high quality housing</p> | <p>++ A key component of transforming the housing market will be the provision of good quality affordable and resource efficient housing</p> | <p>O</p> | <p>++ A viable neighbourhood will include a choice and mix of housing tenure and type</p> | <p>++ The provision of resource efficient housing will create sustainable neighbourhoods</p> | <p>++ Future generations will benefit from a mix of well designed, high quality housing, that is more resource efficient</p> | <p>++ Neighbourhoods with a good choice of well designed housing of different types and tenure will appeal to a wider cross section of people</p> | <p>++ Suburban living will be regenerated with well designed high quality housing</p> | <p>++ Distinctive physical and natural elements will form the basis of well designed and attractive housing layouts</p> | <p>O</p> |

| SPD Objectives | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement | To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing | To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure | To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential | To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of | To create a neighbourhood for future generations | To create a location where people will choose to live and work | To regenerate suburban living | To retain, enhance and nurture distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment | Enhance access to education and life-long learning |
| 7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes | <p>+</p> <p>Comprehensive redevelopment will deliver a series of new routes through the area, enhancing connectivity and reducing community severance</p> | <p>O</p> | <p>+</p> <p>The provision of essential community facilities will depend upon good accessibility</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Good access to services and facilities is critical to creating a feasible neighbourhood</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Good access to services and facilities and the utilisation of more sustainable transport modes are key components of a sustainable community</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Future generations will benefit from improved connectivity throughout the area</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Good connections with local facilities will have a positive impact upon increasing the number of people who wish to live in the area, which will consequently help to sustain the housing market</p> | <p>++</p> <p>A regenerated suburbia will promote good local accessibility</p> | <p>-</p> <p>Improved accessibility to the natural environment, may lead to the better care and understanding of the resource by the local community, however, increased access may lead to some destruction of natural habitats</p> | <p>+</p> <p>Improved access to education and learning will depend upon good linkages and connections</p> |
| 8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability | <p>+</p> <p>Comprehensive redevelopment will involve the provision of new educational buildings. This in turn may have a positive impact upon educational attainment, as investment in new buildings may boost moral amongst staff and students</p> | <p>O</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Education is an essential community facility which will be improved</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Good educational attainment and training opportunities will help people to achieve their potential</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Improved educational attainment is an essential element of a sustainable community</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Future generations will be attracted to areas with good education and training opportunities</p> | <p>++</p> <p>People will be attracted to areas with good educational facilities, especially schools</p> | <p>++</p> <p>The provision of better education will help to regenerate the area</p> | <p>O</p> | <p>++</p> <p>Good access to education and life long learning will improve employability</p> |

| SPD Objectives | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement | To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing | To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure | To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential | To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of | To create a neighbourhood for future generations | To create a location where people will choose to live and work | To regenerate suburban living | To retain, enhance and nurture distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment | Enhance access to education and life-long learning |
| 9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making | + Comprehensive redevelopment will provide a series of opportunities for engaging the public in how they think their community should be | + Through the provision of a wide range of housing tenures, it is likely that it will help address the issue of social exclusion | + The provision of good quality community facilities, will provide increased opportunity for voluntary and community groups to operate | + If a viable neighbourhood is to be created, individuals must have an equal opportunity to engage in decision making | + Support of community involvement will create a sense of ownership, which will support long term sustainability | + Future generations will benefit from opportunities for involvement in decision making | + People will choose to live in areas where there is a sense of ownership and they feel they can make a difference | + Community involvement in decision making will regenerate the area | + Community involvement should allow people a chance to nurture the physical and natural environment | + Improving access to education may help to support community involvement |

4.3. Task B2- Developing the SPD Options

4.3.1. For the purposes of appraisal ODPM guidance states that it is necessary to identify alternative development scenarios which are reasonable, realistic and relevant. Prior to North Huyton being designated as an Action Area within the UDP, a number of scenarios were identified; however, since these were strategic as opposed to detailed they have been discounted from the appraisal.

4.3.2. The options to be appraised are:

- *Option 1 – The Outline Plan (Appendix 3)*

Following public consultation on the strategic options this outline masterplan was developed for the basis of selecting a development partner to deliver a masterplan for the area.

- *Option 2 – First Detailed Masterplan (Appendix 4)*

The masterplan that was submitted by the consortium as an integral element of their submission to become a development partner in direct response to the Post Consultation Outline Plan.

- *Option 3 – Final Outline Plan (Appendix 5)*

Option 3 is the Final Outline Plan as adopted in the SPD.

- *Option 4 – Do Nothing*

Option 4 is the scenario whereby no further action is taken within North Huyton.

4.3.3. The detail relating to these options includes:

Option 1

Clearing 905/955 units (229 void) and building 1,332/1390 new dwellings (973/1022 of them for owner occupation, the remainder for other ownerships including 90 houses for rent from KHT).

Change tenure balance to:

- 52% Knowsley Housing Trust for rent
- 42% Owner Occupied
- 8% Shared Ownership and Others

Provision of two neighbourhood centres and shops, a JET centre (jobs, education and training centre) with managed workspace, a youth powerhouse comprising sports and leisure facilities, an improved transport interchange, new playing fields, an ecology park and areas of new parkland.

Option 2

Clearing 1,286 units and building 1,450 new dwellings.

Loss of existing facilities: Health centre, surgery, youth club, day care centre, day nursery, community centre, secondary school, 2 primary schools, Hillside shops, Woolfall Heath Ave shops.

New facilities: Primary school (Horn Smithies), Secondary school (green corridor), Shops (Hillside and Woolfall Heath Ave), The Hub (Princess Ave), Youth Club (green corridor).

1.1 hectares of open space lost.

29.76 hectares of open space improved.

5 traffic restrictions removed.

Option 3

Clearing 1,200 units and building 1,450 new dwellings (1,163 for owner occupation, 25 for special needs housing, 206 for low cost home ownership and 50 for rent from KHT).

Loss of existing facilities: Health centre, surgery, social education centre, youth club, day care centre, day nursery, community centre, secondary school, 2 primary schools, Hillside shops, Woolfall Heath Ave shops.

New facilities: Education centre (primary and secondary schools), JET centre (jobs, education and training centre), day care centre (Hillside), shops (Hillside and Woolfall Heath Ave), Health Centre.

8 hectares of open space lost.

23.6 hectares of open space improved.

6 traffic restrictions removed.

Option 4: Do Nothing

Clearing of 600 dwellings. No new house building.

No new facilities.

No improvements to open space.

No traffic restrictions removed.

4.4. Task B3- Predicting the effects of the draft SPD

- 4.4.1. The purpose of this task is to predict the social, environmental and economic effects of the options being considered in the SPD process. This prediction was made by assessing each preferred option against the Sustainability Objectives and the evidence base and targets that supported them. The appraisal was undertaken by BDP and reviewed by Knowsley Borough Council.
- 4.4.2. In making the prediction, the changes that would occur to the existing baseline situation if the plan was implemented were considered. The evidence base within the SA 'Toolkit' provides a snap shot of what North Huyton is today as well as illustrating trends to how it has evolved over the last few years. This allowed a judgement to be made as to how existing plans are influencing the area and how new plans may alter this situation.
- 4.4.3. The scoring system, which identifies whether certain options are likely to have a positive, negative or neutral impact in terms of sustainability, is detailed below. The appraisal of the SPD options follows.

| | | |
|----|----|--|
| 2 | ++ | Likely to be a very positive impact/highly compatible |
| 1 | + | Likely to be a positive impact/compatible |
| 0 | O | Likely to be a neutral impact/neither compatible or incompatible |
| -1 | - | Likely to be a negative impact/conflict |
| -2 | -- | Likely to be a very negative impact/strong conflict |
| - | ? | Impact not known/unclear |

(Overleaf) Table 4.3: SA Appraisal

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment. | <p>+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of poverty in the estate as a whole.</p> <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>++ JET centre and managed workspace will offer better economic opportunities to the community.</p> | <p>+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of poverty in the estate as a whole.</p> <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>++ JET centre and managed workspace will offer better economic opportunities to the community.</p> | <p>+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of poverty in the estate as a whole.</p> <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>+ Provision of JET centre will improve opportunity to employment.</p> <p>- No provision for managed workspace may lessen economic opportunity.</p> | <p>-- Existing community facilities will degrade at a faster rate than new facilities, contributing to poor educational attainment, deprivation and poor health.</p> <p>-- No new private housing will mean that overall poverty remains high.</p> <p>-- No change to the housing market may result in housing market collapse and increased poverty for existing owner occupiers.</p> <p>-- No provision for JET centre or managed workspace will fail to create economic opportunity.</p> |
| Score | 2 | 2 | 0 | -2 |
| 2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered | <p>-- Demolition of old housing stock may entail destruction of habitats for bats and breeding birds.</p> <p>- There will be a loss in the overall amount of open space</p> | <p>-- Demolition of old housing stock may entail destruction of habitats for bats and breeding birds.</p> <p>++ Little overall loss in open space, only 1.1 ha and almost</p> | <p>-- Demolition of old housing stock may entail destruction of habitats for bats and breeding birds.</p> <p>+ 8 ha of open space will be lost but it will be</p> | <p>+ No loss of open space.</p> <p>-- No improvements to existing open space or streets.</p> <p>+ No development of cleared</p> |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.</p> | <p>in order to facilitate the development. The best landscapes will however be preserved and new better quality spaces are likely to be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New development does not include areas of open space. + New areas of parkland will be created within the development to benefit the community. ++ An ecology park will be formed, which will provide a valuable community resource. -- Development on the River Alt corridor and close to the Landlife site may impede on their biological interest. + Open space at Horn Smithies opened up and overlooked by adjacent dwellings. + Corners are highlighted, offering opportunity for | <p>30 ha of improved open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Creation of boulevard creates a potential for a green wildlife corridor. + New development includes areas of open space. + Open space at Horn Smithies opened up and overlooked by adjacent dwellings. + Corners are highlighted, offering opportunity for attractive design features to enhance local character. + Tree planting and landscape improvements to existing streets, contribute to wildlife corridor potential and to the wider attractiveness of the estate. ++ Boulevard and linked open spaces form a strong vista and sense of place. | <p>compensated by improvements to almost 24 ha of open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Creation of boulevard creates a potential for a green wildlife corridor. ○ Some development on the River Alt corridor but sufficiently far from the Landlife site and the River Alt. ++ New development includes a variety of well related open spaces. + Tree planting and landscape improvements to existing streets, contribute to wildlife corridor potential and to the wider attractiveness of the estate. ++ Boulevard and linked open spaces form a strong vista and sense of place. ++ Pepper potting of open spaces creates an attractive setting for new dwellings. | <p>areas may create the potential for natural areas of wildlife to form; however, without proper management they could become unattractive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- No development of cleared spaces will result in unattractive areas of waste land. ++ No development will cause minimal impact on species and habitats. |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---------------|---|--|---|----------|
| | <p>attractive design features to enhance local character.</p> <p>- Development next to the river may affect water habitats.</p> <p>-- The construction period will result in levels of waste, noise, dust and pollution, which could harm local species and habitats.</p> | <p>++ Pepper potting of open spaces creates an attractive setting for new dwellings.</p> <p>++ The scale and form of buildings responds well to corners, creating gateways and focal points.</p> <p>- Development next to the river may affect water habitats.</p> <p>++ Layouts respond well to existing block structure and incorporate attractive open spaces forming focal points within the estate.</p> <p>-- The construction period will result in levels of waste, noise, dust and pollution, which could harm local species and habitats.</p> | <p>++ The scale and form of buildings responds well to corners, creating gateways and focal points.</p> <p>++ Layouts respond well to existing block structure and incorporate attractive open spaces forming focal points within the estate.</p> <p>-- The construction period will result in levels of waste, noise, dust and pollution, which could harm local species and habitats.</p> | |
| Score | -1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| 3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk. | <p>++ Landscape improvements to the River Alt corridor will enhance its quality and use.</p> <p>-- Residential block to the north of Woolfall Heath Avenue will have a strong negative impact on floodplain.</p> | <p>++ Landscape improvements to the River Alt corridor will enhance its quality and use.</p> <p>-- Residential block to the north of Woolfall Heath Avenue will have a strong negative impact on floodplain, although it will be on a smaller scale.</p> | <p>++ Landscape improvements to the River Alt corridor will enhance its quality and use.</p> <p>++ No development on the flood plain.</p> | <p>-- No improvements will be undertaken to the River Alt corridor.</p> <p>++ No development on the flood plain.</p> |
| Score | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities. | <p>++ New housing stock with modern amenities such as central heating will reduce health problems associated with poor quality stock.</p> <p>+ Provision of social housing for the elderly will ensure better quality and care for residents.</p> <p>+ Improved open spaces and areas for recreation including</p> | <p>++ New housing stock with modern amenities such as central heating will reduce health problems associated with poor quality stock.</p> <p>-- Loss of health centre will worsen access to healthcare and will consequently have a negative impact on the health of the community.</p> <p>+ Improved open spaces and</p> | <p>++ New housing stock with modern amenities such as central heating will reduce health problems associated with poor quality stock.</p> <p>++ New health centre will improve access to healthcare.</p> <p>+ Improved open spaces and areas for recreation will provide better opportunities for residents to engage in</p> | <p>-- No replacement housing with modern facilities will have an impact upon health.</p> <p>-- Existing community facilities will degrade at a faster rate than new facilities, contributing to poor health.</p> |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>the playing fields will provide better opportunities for residents to engage in outdoor recreation, which will engender a series of health benefits.</p> <p>- The impact of construction activity in terms of traffic, noise and dust during the construction period, may have a medium term impact upon residents.</p> | <p>areas for recreation will provide better opportunities for residents to engage in outdoor recreation, which will engender a series of health benefits.</p> <p>- The impact of construction activity in terms of traffic, noise and dust during the construction period, may have a medium term impact upon residents.</p> | <p>outdoor recreation, which will engender a series of health benefits.</p> <p>- The impact of construction activity in terms of traffic, noise and dust during the construction period, may have a medium term impact upon residents.</p> | |
| Score | 2 | 0 | 2 | -2 |
| 5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime. | <p>++ Perimeter block layouts will have good security and overlooking.</p> <p>++ Greater opportunity for new high quality housing will contribute to the creation of a safer neighbourhood.</p> <p>? The provision of a youth power house offering sport and leisure facilities could alleviate anti social behaviour.</p> | <p>++ Perimeter block layouts will have good security and overlooking.</p> <p>++ Greater opportunity for new high quality housing will contribute to the creation of a safer neighbourhood.</p> <p>+ New youth club will offer a diversion to young people and could alleviate anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>+ Diversification of the socio-</p> | <p>++ Perimeter block layouts will have good security and overlooking.</p> <p>++ Greater opportunity for new high quality housing will contribute to the creation of a safer neighbourhood.</p> <p>+ New youth centre will offer a diversion to young people and could alleviate anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>+ Diversification of the socio-</p> | <p>-- Cleared land, lacking in function may create increased opportunities for anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>-- With no intervention, neighbourhoods will continue to deteriorate, consequently raising fear of crime within the community.</p> |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>+ Diversification of the socio-economic profile may lead to a reduction in crime related incidents.</p> <p>++ Improvements to open space will enhance the feeling of safety within the area.</p> <p>+ New shops will incorporate improved security measures.</p> <p>++ Development of cleared sites will reduce nuisance and anti-social behaviour.</p> | <p>economic profile may lead to a reduction in crime related incidents.</p> <p>+ Improvements to open space will enhance the feeling of safety within the area.</p> <p>+ New shops will incorporate improved security measures.</p> <p>++ Development of cleared sites will reduce nuisance and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>++ The primary infrastructure plan will include better quality open space and street lighting, which will have a positive impact upon fear of crime.</p> | <p>economic profile may lead to a reduction in crime related incidents.</p> <p>+ Improvements to open space will enhance the feeling of safety within the area.</p> <p>+ New shops will incorporate improved security measures.</p> <p>++ Development of cleared sites will reduce nuisance and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>++ The primary infrastructure plan will include better quality open space and street lighting, which will have a positive impact upon fear of crime.</p> | |
| Score | 2 | 2 | 2 | -2 |
| 6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing. | <p>++ There would be a significant increase in homes for owner occupation to widen the choice and quality.</p> <p>? The plan is not detailed</p> | <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> | <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> | <p>-- No new house building means that the estate will exist with the same mono-provision of homes.</p> <p>-- No new private housing will</p> |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| | <p>enough to depict the individual mix of housing.</p> <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>+ The plan indicates two areas of social housing for the elderly.</p> | <p>+ The scale and distribution of development will contribute to a greater diversity of housing in North Huyton as a whole.</p> <p>++ Plan indicates a broad range of terraces, semi-detached and detached houses, as well as apartments.</p> | <p>++ Plan indicates a broad range of terraces, semi-detached and detached houses, as well as apartments.</p> <p>+ Scale and distribution of development will contribute to a greater diversity of housing in North Huyton as a whole.</p> <p>+ Plan indicates areas of social housing for the elderly.</p> <p>+ New homes will be built to EcoHomes 'good' standard.</p> | <p>mean that the % of social rented stock will remain high.</p> <p>-- A lack of new architecture means that there is no potential for innovation and interest in housing stock and layout.</p> <p>-- No change to the housing market may result in housing market collapse and increased poverty for existing owner occupiers.</p> |
| Score | 1 | 2 | 2 | -2 |
| 7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more | <p>++ The provision of new community facilities should improve accessibility to these amenities.</p> <p>○ Provision of an improved transport hub will ensure the use of public transport is maximised, however, it is detached from much of North Huyton.</p> | <p>++ The provision of new community facilities should improve accessibility to these amenities.</p> <p>+ Five traffic restrictions will be removed, which will improve permeability within the area.</p> <p>+ Two new local centres will improve local accessibility to</p> | <p>++ The provision of new community facilities should improve accessibility to these amenities.</p> <p>+ Six traffic restrictions will be removed, which will improve connectivity between neighbourhoods.</p> <p>++ The boulevard creates a strong pedestrian linkage</p> | <p>-- Existing community facilities will degrade at a faster rate than new facilities, contributing to poor accessibility.</p> |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| sustainable transport modes. | + Two new local centres will improve local accessibility to retail. | retail. ++ The boulevard creates a strong pedestrian linkage between the new educational campus and Liverpool Road. | between the new educational campus and Liverpool Road. + New PCT located next to Liverpool Road bus route. -- No local retail centres within individual neighbourhoods. | |
| Score | 1 | 2 | 1 | -2 |
| 8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning & employability. | ++ Provision of a new educational campus will subsequently improve educational attainment. ++ JET centre will provide better economic opportunities for the community. | ++ New primary and secondary school will improve educational attainment. ++ JET centre will offer better economic opportunities for the community. | ++ New schools will improve educational attainment. ++ Provision of JET centre will improve economic opportunities for the community. | -- Existing community facilities will degrade at a faster rate than new facilities, contributing to poor educational attainment, deprivation and poor health. -- No provision for JET centre or managed workspace will fail to create economic opportunity. |
| Score | 2 | 2 | 2 | -2 |
| 9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion | ++ This option was the result of the community consultation process. | ? This was prepared as a speculative masterplan without community involvement. - On account of the loss of | ++ This option was the result of the community consultation process. - On account of the loss of the community centre there | -- The lack of any support for change will make people feel isolated. -- A failure to improve connectivity within the area |

| SA Objectives | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| and ensure community involvement in decision making. | | <p>the community centre there will be fewer opportunities for community groups to operate.</p> <p>+ Better linkages between neighbourhoods will assist in improving social inclusion.</p> <p>+ Improved access to education may assist in improving social inclusion.</p> | <p>will be fewer opportunities for community groups to operate.</p> <p>+ Improved linkages between neighbourhoods will assist in improving social inclusion.</p> <p>+ Improved access to education may assist in improving social inclusion.</p> | will continue to make neighbourhoods feel disjointed, increasing social exclusion. |
| Score | 2 | 1 | 2 | -2 |
| TOTAL SCORE | 11 | 12 | 14 | -14 |

4.5. Task B4- Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD

- 4.5.1. The results of the appraisal process reveal that the option 3 has achieved the best score, although option 2 also scored highly. Unsurprisingly, option 4 fared the worst, indicating that a 'Do Nothing' approach is unsustainable and would have a severely negative effect on North Huyton.
- 4.5.2. Options 2 and 3 both scored well in terms of increasing the choice and mix of housing through new developments of terraces, apartments, semi-detached and detached houses. Option 3 however, benefits from the inclusion of areas of social housing for the elderly as depicted in option 1.
- 4.5.3. In terms of meeting the sustainability objective of reducing poverty and social deprivation and securing economic inclusion, option 2 scored better than option 3 as although both options include provision for a JET centre, option 2 also provided for managed workspace, which could further broaden economic opportunity.
- 4.5.4. Both option 2 and 3 scored highly in respect to improving the environment of North Huyton. The detailed plans include a range of interesting open spaces integrated with the housing layout, as well as the linear open space of the boulevard, which in option 1 was little more than a tree lined road. The open space at Horn Smithies in option 3 is less substantial in scale to that proposed in option 2; however, this was constrained by the requirement to retain the existing electricity sub station and community buildings, which was not included in the brief for option 2.
- 4.5.5. In regard to the development of an area of open space north of Woolfall Heath Avenue, there is some contradiction as to which option is most positive. Whilst it is an aspiration that open space is retained for nature conservation and the enjoyment of residents, the fact that it is poorly integrated with existing development means that some development would be attractive to create a frontage and overlooking of the space. Out of all the options, option 3 was thought to be the best solution since it created a perimeter block, enclosing the rear boundaries of dwellings to the west, and facilitated overlooking of the open space without encroaching onto the Landlife site or river bank to the extent as options 1 and 2, which both impinge upon the flood plain.
- 4.5.6. Options 2 and 3 both had similar scores for preserving or enhancing open space and areas of biological interest, in addition to improving environmental quality and local character. In terms of overall numbers, option 2 retained and improved the most amount of open space; however, it was the location and treatment of these spaces which resulted in option 3 being preferred. With regard to option 1, there are no areas of open space provided within newly developed areas and unlike options 2 and 3, no tree planting or landscape improvements to the smaller squares and spaces of existing streets are proposed.
- 4.5.7. Whilst options 2 and 3 achieved similar scores for most categories of the appraisal, their scores were notably marked with regard to improving health and reducing health inequalities. Option 3 was the preferred option, as it included provision for a new health centre, as opposed to option 2 where it was proposed

to lose the health centre, which would consequently worsen access to healthcare and may have a detrimental impact on the health of the community.

- 4.5.8. In evaluating the significance of the effects of these options, it is clear that despite options 2 and 3 having similar scorings for a number of categories of the appraisal, option 3 is more attainable and desirable than the other options proposed. The only negative aspects associated purely with option 3, relate to the lack of managed workspace and the lack of local retail centres within individual neighbourhoods, as depicted in both option 1 and 2. However, with regard to the lack of managed workspace, it was felt that the provision in options 1 and 2 may have been of little significance to make much of an impact on North Huyton as a whole. Also it is questionable whether employment land provision is desirable in the context of North Huyton's suburban residential qualities.
- 4.5.9. A further point of concern to arise, although not purely associated with option 3, relates to the impact of construction upon biodiversity and the health and well being of residents. The demolition of old housing stock may entail the loss of habitats for bats and breeding birds and the construction period will result in increased levels of waste, noise, dust and pollution, which could potentially harm local species and habitats and may cause nuisance for residents without proper mitigation.
- 4.5.10. Like all options there was concern that a more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted. This is a significant effect, which could increase economic deprivation and will require adequate mitigation.

4.6. Task B5- Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

- 4.6.1. Having considered option 3 as the most sustainable option, ways of securing mitigation of adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects have been explored to give the most positive residual impact.
- 4.6.2. As an example, across all 'development' options, concern regarding the impact of the demolition and construction process on existing habitats and the local population was raised. It is proposed that to alleviate any adverse effects that may arise from implementation of the Final Outline Plan, appropriate surveys will be required at each phase to ascertain the amount of local habitat and to assess appropriate mitigation measures specific to that phase. It will also be the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that considerate construction principles are employed to be agreed with Knowsley Borough Council on an individual basis.
- 4.6.3. Table 4.4 demonstrates that the Final Outline Plan can have a very positive residual impact over all, provided the detail of the SPD includes sufficient guidance.

Table 4.4: Proposed Mitigation of Adverse Effects/Maximisation of Beneficial Effects

| SA Objectives | Appraisal | Proposed mitigation/ways of maximising beneficial effects | Residual Impact |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| <p>1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.</p> | <p>+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of poverty in the estate as a whole.</p> <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>+ Provision of JET centre will improve opportunity to employment.</p> <p>- No provision for managed workspace may lessen economic opportunity.</p> | <p>Ensure there is sufficient affordable housing to meet demands and provide adequate compensation for decanted population.</p> <p>Facilitate better access to public transport (particularly to the north) so that people can access wider economic opportunity.</p> <p>Introduce the flexibility to provide employment opportunities centred on the Page Moss local centre and 'The Hub.'</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p>2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.</p> | <p>-- Demolition of old housing stock may entail destruction of habitats for bats and breeding birds.</p> <p>+ 8 ha of open space will be lost but it will be compensated by improvements to almost 24 ha of open space.</p> <p>+ Creation of boulevard creates a potential for a green wildlife corridor.</p> <p>○ Some development on the River Alt corridor but sufficiently far from the Landlife site and the River Alt.</p> <p>++ New development includes a variety of well related open spaces.</p> <p>+ Tree planting and landscape improvements to existing streets, contribute to wildlife corridor potential and to the wider attractiveness of the estate.</p> <p>++ Boulevard and linked open spaces form a strong vista and sense of place.</p> <p>++ Pepper potting of open spaces creates an attractive setting for new dwellings.</p> <p>++ The scale and form of buildings responds well to corners, creating gateways and focal points.</p> <p>++ Layouts respond well to existing block structure and incorporate</p> | <p>Undertake bird/bat surveys for each individual phase. No demolition during the bird breeding season (March to August). Revisit sites prior demolition to check they are no longer in use. Removal of roof structures carried out carefully under the guidance of a trained ecologist. Increased provision of bat boxes.</p> <p>Undertake invasive weed surveys for each phase, following treatments proposed in each survey.</p> <p>As part of any hydrological survey, review water vole habitat.</p> <p>State the importance of nature conservation principles where improving/providing open space.</p> <p>Ensure that the development north of Woolfall Heath Ave does not adversely impact on to the Landlife site or River Alt.</p> <p>Encourage wider landscape and public realm improvements to the setting of existing dwellings.</p> <p>Encourage the provision of good</p> | <p>++</p> |

| SA Objectives | Appraisal | Proposed mitigation/ways of maximising beneficial effects | Residual Impact |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| | <p>attractive open spaces forming focal points within the estate.</p> <p>-- The construction period will result in levels of waste, noise, dust and pollution, which could harm local species and habitats.</p> | <p>quality open spaces within new development.</p> | |
| <p>3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.</p> | <p>++ Landscape improvements to the River Alt corridor will enhance its quality and use.</p> <p>++ No development on the flood plain.</p> | <p>Add reference to SuDs in SPD to the effect that surface water run off should be restricted to existing rates in order that redevelopment does not contribute to and increased flood risk.</p> <p>Undertake a hydrological survey for the development area and follow its recommendations.</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p>4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.</p> | <p>++ New housing stock with modern amenities such as central heating will reduce health problems associated with poor quality stock.</p> <p>++ New health centre will improve access to healthcare.</p> <p>+ Improved open spaces and areas for recreation will provide better opportunities for residents to engage in outdoor recreation, which will engender a series of health benefits.</p> <p>- The impact of construction activity in terms of traffic, noise and dust during the construction period, may have a medium term impact upon residents.</p> | <p>Ensure the detailed design of community facilities (e.g. frontages, boundaries, internal layout) is accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>Ensure provision for outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>Construction period to follow considerate guidelines relating to times of operations, number of vehicle movements, storage and removal of waste and other material.</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p>5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.</p> | <p>++ Perimeter block layouts will have good security and overlooking.</p> <p>++ Greater opportunity for new high quality housing will contribute to the creation of a safer neighbourhood.</p> <p>+ New youth centre will offer a diversion to young people and could alleviate anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>+ Diversification of the socio-economic profile may lead to a reduction in crime related incidents.</p> <p>+ Improvements to open space will enhance the feeling of safety within</p> | <p>Specify the importance of perimeter block layouts within the SPD.</p> <p>Ensure there is sufficient mix of housing types/tenures to broaden the socio-economic profile of the area.</p> <p>Provide guidance to encourage 'designing out crime' principles.</p> <p>Encourage the provision of good quality open spaces within new development that are safe and</p> | <p>++</p> |

| SA Objectives | Appraisal | Proposed mitigation/ways of maximising beneficial effects | Residual Impact |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| | <p>the area.</p> <p>++ The primary infrastructure plan will include better quality open space and street lighting, which will have a positive impact upon fear of crime.</p> <p>+ New shops will incorporate improved security measures.</p> <p>++ Development of cleared sites will reduce nuisance and anti-social behaviour.</p> | <p>secure.</p> <p>State the opportunity for improved youth 'diversion' facilities within the SPD, embody these opportunities in detailed design of open space.</p> | |
| <p>6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.</p> | <p>- A more sustainable house market driven by clearance and new build could have affordability implications for those decanted.</p> <p>++ Plan indicates a broad range of terraces, semi-detached and detached houses, as well as apartments.</p> <p>+ Scale and distribution of development will contribute to a greater diversity of housing in North Huyton as a whole.</p> <p>+ Plan indicates areas of social housing for the elderly.</p> <p>+ New homes will be built to EcoHomes 'good' standard.</p> | <p>Ensure there is sufficient affordable housing to meet demands and provide adequate compensation for decanted population.</p> <p>Ensure there is sufficient mix of housing types/tenures to meet current population demands and to encourage a mix of new people to North Huyton.</p> <p>Provide design guidance to inform well designed quality housing.</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p>7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.</p> | <p>++ The provision of new community facilities should improve accessibility to these amenities.</p> <p>+ Six traffic restrictions will be removed, which will improve connectivity between neighbourhoods.</p> <p>++ The boulevard creates a strong pedestrian linkage between the new educational campus and Liverpool Road.</p> <p>+ New PCT located next to Liverpool Road bus route.</p> <p>-- No local retail centres within individual neighbourhoods.</p> | <p>Ensure the detailed design of community facilities (e.g. frontages, boundaries, internal layout) is accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>State the opportunity for further reduction of traffic restrictions in conjunction with appropriate traffic calming measures and consultation with residents.</p> <p>Introduce the flexibility for some mix of uses within primarily residential areas.</p> <p>Allow for improved bus penetration into new development areas.</p> | <p>++</p> |

| SA Objectives | Appraisal | Proposed mitigation/ways of maximising beneficial effects | Residual Impact |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| 8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability. | ++ New schools will improve educational attainment. ++ Provision of JET centre will improve economic opportunities for the community. | Ensure the detailed design of community facilities (e.g. frontages, boundaries, internal layout) is accessible and inclusive. | ++ |
| 9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making. | ++ This option was the result of the community consultation process. - On account of the loss of the community centre there will be fewer opportunities for community groups to operate. + Improved linkages between neighbourhoods will assist in improving social inclusion. + Improved access to education may assist in improving social inclusion. | Ensure other existing community buildings adequately replace the loss of the community centre. Continue to keep the local community informed of the development of North Huyton and consult the local community at each phase of development. | ++ |

4.7. Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD

4.7.1. The monitoring of the plan will test the impact of the options and determine if the predicted impact during the SA process was correct. Once this has been determined further investigation can then take place to rectify any adverse impacts and to further enhance positive impacts. The SA framework and baseline situation established in tasks A3 and A4 provide a base for monitoring. The indicators for each SA objective should be monitored and compared to the baseline situation established in task A2 to determine if the plan has had a positive or negative impact on the baseline.

4.7.2. At this stage the monitoring framework does not have to be concrete (the final monitoring framework is produced as part of stage E of the SA guidance after adoption) but it should still be well informed. Knowsley Borough Council will consider the indicators in the SA framework and draw a selection of indicators for each objective that will form the monitoring framework. The indicators selected should be readily monitored by the Council or another body to ensure an effective monitoring framework is built. The framework should include:

- Indicator to be monitored for each objective;
- Baseline situation/trend;
- Targets and thresholds to trigger remedial action;
- Who will monitor it;
- When it will be monitored;
- Links to other monitoring frameworks of other plans;
- Organisational arrangements to ensure monitoring will be ongoing; and,

- Reporting system that feeds back into the plan.

4.7.3. A draft monitoring framework based on the baseline information available at this time is shown in table 4.5. Knowsley Borough Council is currently assessing the scope of the Annual Monitoring Report within the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so that the Local Development Framework aligns with sustainability criteria. Future Annual Monitoring Reports are therefore likely to provide information on a range of indicators, which can feed into the monitoring of the North Huyton Action Area SPD.

Table 4.5: Draft Monitoring Framework for SPD

| Headline Objective | Indicator | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment | SOA multiple deprivation rankings | Ranking in England |
| | | E01006441 2187 |
| | | E01006442 54 |
| | | E01006444 136 |
| | | E01006467 42 |
| | | E01006468 7 |
| | | E01006469 14 |
| | E01006470 7 | |
| | % of population living in 10% most deprived SOA's nationally | Knowsley 52.2% |
| | Annual population change | Knowsley - 30% |
| | Median full time weekly earnings | Knowsley Male £376.10 Female £355.20 |
| | Average annual household income | Knowsley £22,591 |
| | Annual % change in total claimant count for Job Seekers Allowance | Knowsley -2.8% |
| 2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered | Amount of open space per 1,000 people ⁴ | North Huyton 3.6 ha |
| | % of space that is of a high or acceptable standard of horticultural maintenance ⁵ | North Huyton 84% |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character | Number of identified sitings of invasive weeds | North Huyton Phase 1 site: Japanese Knotweed: 6 sites Giant Hogweed: 0 sites Himalayan Balsam: 1 site |
| | Applicable North Merseyside BAP targets for species and habitats in SBI's | North Huyton 1. Seth Powell Way 2. Grassland west of Seth Powell way |
| | Chemical river water quality classification (EA Chemistry GQA) | Knowsley Good 0.4% Fair 61.1% Poor 5.6% Bad 32.9% Total Km 28.1 |
| | Biological river water quality classification (EA Biology GQA) | Knowsley Good 0% Fair 41.06% Poor 57.22% Bad 1.72% Total Km 26.10 |
| | Number of regionally important habitats | North Huyton 1 - unimproved neutral grassland |
| | Number of habitats considered to be priority habitats as defined within the local biodiversity action plan | North Huyton 1 - unimproved neutral grassland |
| | Number of bats recorded | North Huyton Phase 1 Site: A single bat roost in the Hillside area as well as evidence of common Pipistrelle bats foraging in the Hillside area |
| | Number of nesting birds | North Huyton Phase 1 Site: No evidence of nesting house martins, swallows or swifts, although properties on Bruton Road and Hillside Avenue found to contain evidence of nesting birds, predominately sparrows and pigeons |
| | Number of regionally important plant species | North Huyton 1 - burnet rose (rosa piminellifolia) |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Number of locally rare plant species | North Huyton 21 |
| | Amount of previously developed land and built structures that are derelict | Knowsley 40.7% |
| | New build on previously developed land | Knowsley 65% |
| 3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk | Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 ⁶ | North Huyton 0 |
| | Chemical river water quality classification (EA Chemistry GQA) | Knowsley Good 0.4% Fair 61.1% Poor 5.6% Bad 32.9% Total Km 28.1 |
| | Biological river water quality classification (EA Biology GQA) | Knowsley Good 0% Fair 41.06% Poor 57.22% Bad 1.72% Total Km 26.10 |
| | Type of species contained within the River Alt | North Huyton The River Alt is a water vole habitat and the Environment Agency have a positive water vole record |
| | Estimated carbon emissions | Knowsley CO2 tonnes Industry and Commerce 695 Domestic 386 Road Transport 287 Land use change 4 Domestic per capita 2.6 |
| 4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities | No and % of residents with limiting long term illness ² | North Huyton All people 9,318 2681 (29%) |
| | Years of healthy life expectancy | Knowsley Male 73.60 Female 78.20 |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime | Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households ³ | Knowsley 17.7 |
| | Violent offences committed per 1,000 population ³ | Knowsley 19.76 |
| | Theft of a vehicle per 1,000 population ³ | Knowsley 7.72 |
| | % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day ³ | Knowsley 95.8 |
| | % of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark ³ | Knowsley 62.7 |
| | Number of recorded fly tipping incidents | Knowsley 4,030 |
| 6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing | Dwelling stock by council tax band ¹ | North Huyton All dwellings 4,076 Band No A 3952 97% B 72 1.8% C 45 1.1% D 6 0.2% E 0 0% F 0 0% G 0 0% H 1 0.02% |
| | Tenure type (Owned houses & Social rented) ² | North Huyton Total dwellings 3,836 1045 (27%) 2512 (65.5%) |
| | Average house prices | Knowsley Detached £212,008 Semi-detached £119,161 Terraced £82,701 Flat/Maisonette £87,729 Overall £119,500 |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Number and % of homes with central heating ² | North Huyton Total dwellings 3,839 Central heated 1,872 (48.8%) Without central heating 1,967 (51.2%) |
| | Percentage of homes meeting decent homes standard | Knowsley Unfit Dwellings: Total 2,270 LA 0 (0%) RSL 0 (0%) Other public sector 0 (0%) Owner-Occupied and private rented 2270 (100%) Total (5.2%) |
| | Percentage of homes achieving Eco Homes rating Good / Very Good | 0 |
| | Thermal efficiency of housing stock (average SAP rating of authority dwellings) | Knowsley 53 |
| 7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes | Method of travel to work | North Huyton All people 6,163 Work at home 79 1.3% Metro or tram 0 0% Train 37 0.6% Bus 485 7.9% Taxi 49 0.8% Driving 843 13.7% Passenger 205 3.2% Motorbike 13 0.2% Bike 39 0.6% On foot 215 3.5% |
| | Level of car ownership | North Huyton All households 3,833 No car or van 2481 65% 1 1134 29% 2 185 4.8% 3 24 0.6% 4 9 0.2% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Public transport users in households with and without a car or van | North Huyton With car or van 225 Without car or van 299 |
| 8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability | No and % of residents who are economically active/inactive ² | North Huyton All persons 6,149 Active 2647 (43%) Inactive 3502 (57%) |
| | No and % of residents with no qualifications ² | North Huyton All persons 6,149 3579 (58%) |
| 9. To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making. | The amount of new or renovated facilities. | 0 |

4.8. Task D1- Public participation on the draft SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 4.8.1. The Draft Final SA report was open for consultation with the draft North Huyton Action Area SPD between 31st July to 31st August 2006. Responses were received (principally on the SPD) from Government Office for the North West, Environment Agency, Merseytravel, Highways Agency, Health and Safety Executive, Liverpool City Council, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, The Mersey Partnership, Lancashire County Council, Northwest Regional Development Agency, Countryside Agency and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. These comments are documented in Appendix 6.
- 4.8.2. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service made detailed comments on the Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal and a meeting was held with officers from Merseyside EAS and Knowsley Borough Council on 20th September 2006 to discuss these points further.
- 4.8.3. After consultation the Draft Final SA report was revised where necessary to produce this Final SA Report. A brief summary of these changes is listed in table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Response to Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Comments on Draft Final Sustainability Report

| Merseyside EAS Comment | Response |
|--|--|
| 1. The SA does not present a clear picture to the reader. | Errors in text corrected. Clearer presentation of the process and objectives of the SA made. |
| 2. Limited range of indicators. | Gaps in baseline information addressed and more indicators added where possible and necessary. |
| 3. The document correctly reflects the approach to SA. | No change. |
| 4. Limited range of sustainability objectives and indicators. | Screening of Merseyside EAS's 22 SA objectives to create a new set of 9 SA appraisal framework objectives. |
| 5. There is no recognition of environmental issues beyond limited set of issues. | Task A3 updated as necessary. |
| 6. The document has not been based on Merseyside EAS's SA objectives. | Screening of Merseyside EAS's 22 SA objectives to create a new set of 9 SA appraisal framework objectives. |

| | |
|--|--|
| 7. Missing baseline information. | Gaps in baseline information addressed where possible. |
| 8. Task B2 is difficult to follow. | Task B2 rewritten to define 4 clear options to be appraised. |
| 9. Clarification is required on determination of conclusion of SA. | This has now been superseded by the revised 4 options. |
| 10. Further clarification on SA conclusion. | This has now been superseded by the revised 4 options. |

4.9. Task D2: Appraising of significant changes

- 4.9.1. The amending of the Draft Final SA Report resulted in not only a revised SA Framework of 9 SA objectives, but also the modification of the options into one combined assessment (as opposed to an appraisal of strategic 'scenarios' and an appraisal of options). These significant changes required re-appraisal of the options in the context of the redefined SA framework. The content of this Final Sustainability Appraisal Report represents the results of these changes.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. The final chapter of this report provides an illustration of how the requirements of SEA have been met as well as identifying the next steps that must be undertaken to finalise the sustainability appraisal of the North Huyton Action Area Supplementary Planning Document.

5.2. Quality Assurance

- 5.2.1. Quality assurance is an important element of the appraisal process; it helps to ensure that the SEA requirements are met and shows how effectively the appraisal has integrated sustainability considerations into the emerging SPD.

| SEA Requirements for Environmental Report Integrated into the Final Sustainability Report | Location in Sustainability Report |
|---|--|
| An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. | Chapter 1 pg 1-4 Chapter 3 pg 8 – 18 |
| The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. | Chapter 3 pg 20-41 |
| The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. | Chapter 3 pg 20-41 |
| Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular those relating to any area of a particular environmental, economic or social importance. | Chapter 3 pg 43-46 |
| The environmental protection objectives, established at international, national or community level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and considerations have been taken into account during its preparation. | Chapter 3 pg 8 – 18 |
| The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship. | Chapter 4 pg 62 – 72 |
| The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme. | Chapter 4 pg 77 – 80 |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information. | Chapter 4 pg 63 – 64 |
| A description of measures envisaged concerned with monitoring in accordance with article 10. | Chapter 4 pg 80 |
| A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings. | Separate Non-Technical Summary Report |
| Information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment. | Chapter 1 pg 1 – 4 |
| Consultation with authorities with environmental responsibility and the general public to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental/sustainability appraisal before their adoption. | Chapter 4 pg 87-88 |
| Consultation with authorities with other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan is likely to have significant effects on that country. | Not applicable |
| Provision of information on the decision. | Not applicable |
| Monitoring of the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan's or programme's implementation. | To be completed after adoption |
| Quality Assurance. | Chapter 5 pg 89 – 90 |

APPENDIX 1: COMMENTS FROM SA/SEA SCOPING REPORT

Our Ref : SO/2006/028933-1/1
Your Ref : ALECK WHILLANS

Date : 27 April 2006

Head Of Planning Services
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L36 9UX

Dear Sir/Madam

**SCOPING REPORT STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NORTH HUYTON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the scoping report and inviting comments. There are a number of key issues that must be considered when developing this document further.

3.1 Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Environment Agency would like the council to consider the following under this chapter.

Water Framework Directive

The Council should have regard to the above directive when considering other plans and programmes that are relevant for the scoping report. This covers 'controlled waters' and aims to take a holistic approach to water management, preventing deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and restoring surface waters and groundwaters to "good status".

Waste Framework Directive

The above directive seeks to reduce the production of waste and its impacts to the wider environment.

PPS22 - Renewable Energy

This sets out Governments policy for renewable energy which all local authorities should have a regard to.

PPS 25 - Development and Flood risk

PPS25 advises that development plans should give appropriate weight to information available on flood risk, guiding development away from areas of flood risk. There is also an indication for Councils to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Annex E paragraph 6

states that ' The SFRA should either form part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents (LDDs), or be used to inform it and will inform the sequential approach to flood risk in the development allocation and development control process'.

PPS23 - Planning and Pollution Control

This advocates the precautionary approach when dealing with contaminated sites, what levels of contamination and remediation are acceptable.

Draft RSS for the North West

There are many policies within the draft RSS that the Council will have to consider for the sustainability appraisal. From the Environment Agency's point of view particular regard should be given to policy EM5 which sets out a requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to be undertaken.

Baseline Data

The Environment Agency has various data that is available on our website. Please find attached a copy of the specific data that is available as well as recommendations for other sources.

There are also suggestions for possible indicators in table 6.2 which should be taken into consideration.

Key Environmental Issues

Flood Risk

Part of the development site falls within the floodplain of the River Alt. The Environment Agency would not want to see any development within these areas. Any development proposals in high risk areas would have to be supported by a detailed Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with Appendix F of PPG 25/Annex E PPS 25. This is to ensure that development would not be subject to unacceptable flood risk or lead to an increase in flooding elsewhere.

Biodiversity

The SPD should seek to protect and improve the valuable SBI sites. The importance of watercourses should be recognised for the valuable ecological habitats they provide. Effective management of watercourses can also provide opportunities to develop recreational resources and help to reduce flood risk. The retention or reinstatement of watercourse corridors is considered an essential element of sustainable development.

Contaminated Land

The SPD should encourage development in areas of brownfield land in line with government guidance, considering the guidance within PPS 23. This has been reflected as a key objective for the sustainability appraisal.

Development on brownfield land can support economic, social and environmental regeneration. However, the Agency would like to point out that areas of brownfield can also be a valuable wildlife habitat and this must be considered with any application. PPS23 encourages developers to investigate land contamination at an early stage in order to avoid delays at the planning application stage.

Water Resources

The Environment Agency would like to see the Council consider the protection of controlled waters (as defined by section 104 of the Water Resources Act 1991). This includes the supply of water resources to developments, balanced with protection of ecological features and water quality itself. This is important under the Water Framework Directive.

I trust these comments will be considered when developing the Sustainability Appraisal and North Huyton Action Area SPD. If you wish to discuss anything in further detail then please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

HELEN BARRETT
Planning Liaison Officer

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

BIODIVERSITY FLORA and FAUNA (relates to UK SDS priority 'Natural Resources and Environmental Enhancement')

The indicators (and data sources) below identify the extent and quality of those priority species and habitats for which the Environment Agency is responsible. The SA should identify potential sources of damage or irreversible loss to these as a result of particular LDF spatial options or specific allocations of sites. This data will also enable monitoring of the effect of the plan and its policies on these features over time.

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on biodiversity exists, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INFORMATION | Provision of Information | Useful links to Background information |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of BAP targets | <p>The Environment Agency is a lead partner for many of the water based species and habitats identified under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Information on these species, together with regional priority species and habitats in each LA area is available through the NW Biodiversity Forum audit web site.</p> | <p>http://www.biodiversitynw.org.uk/audit/</p> <p>LBAP co-ordinators should be contacted in the first instance to identify priorities. Contact details are available through the NW Biodiversity forum web site.</p> <p>http://www.biodiversitynw.org.uk/cgi-bin/showbaps.cgi</p> <p>Actions currently taking place to improve biodiversity are being recorded through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) site.</p> <p>www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/search</p> | <p>Background information on biodiversity including links to partner organisations is available from the EA regional web site via the link below.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/346950/588310/?version=1&lang=e</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish populations | <p>Salmon/Sea Trout returns – numbers of Salmon and Sea Trout caught in rivers in the North West. Data from the licence returns from anglers 1982-2003</p> | <p>NW Environment regional web site</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/346950/588312/588811/?version=1&lang=e</p> | <p>The state of salmon stocks and fisheries national EA report is available from the National web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/fish/165773/169852/753343/?version=1&lang=e</p> |

Other important sources of information on:

- Designations of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Achievement of BAP targets (English Nature/NW biodiversity Forum)
- Damage to designated sites (English Nature)
- Population indices of farmland and woodland birds (RSPB, Defra Sustainable Development Indicators)
- Number and extent of local nature reserves (English Nature, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Countryside Agency)

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH (predominantly relates to UK SDS priority - ‘Natural Resources and Environmental Enhancement’)

The indicators (and data sources) below relate to those industrial and waste management processes regulated by the Environment Agency and other key sustainable community indicators potentially affecting human health and local amenity. The SA should consider potential human health and amenity impacts associated with these when developing particular LDF spatial options, allocating specific sites or developing planning policy (please note Flood Risk is dealt with under Climatic Factors).

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on population and human health and amenity impacts exist, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DATA | PROVISION OF INFORMATION | Useful links to Background information |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency regulated industry. • Licensed waste management facilities • Fly tipping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of IPPC Sites | Maps showing location of sites are available from EA offices. | Information on individual sites is available from “What’s in your back yard “ national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/ |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of waste management facilities | Maps showing location of sites are available from EA offices. | Information on individual sites is available from “What’s in your back yard “ national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/ |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-tipping incidents | The fly capture database contains information on fly-tipping incidents recorded by LAs and the EA. It is available to Local Authorities and Environment Agency registered users. Annual summary of NW data is available from http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ | Background information from the National EA web site on fly-tipping. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/eff/pollution/213370/fly-tipping/?version=1&lang=e |

Other important sources of information on:

- Indices of multiple deprivation (ODPM)
- Fuel poverty (DEFRA)
- Water affordability (DEFRA)
- Population change trends (ONS)
- Levels of crime (Defra – Sustainable development indicators)

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

WATER and SOIL (predominantly relates to UK SDS priority – ‘Natural Resources and Environmental Enhancement’)

The indicators (and data sources) below show trends and changes to water quality but also issues surrounding quantity/availability of water. The SA should look at potential impacts and risks of particular LDF spatial options or site allocations on water quality and the need for specific mitigation/pollution prevention policies. The location of vulnerable groundwater assets should also be considered in the SA as various LDF spatial options or the allocation s of specific sites for certain high-risk uses can threaten the quality of these valuable resources unless appropriate and effective pollution prevention measures can be implemented.

The ability of water resources to supply the growth proposed in various LDF spatial options and the need to manage demand through increasing the water efficiency of development should also be considered through the SA. United Utilities (UU) should also be asked to consider the impact of this growth on existing water supply and waste water treatment capacity, particularly any implications this has for the timing/phasing of growth required in relation to the provision of new infrastructure.

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on water quantity/consumption, brownfield/contaminated land and soil exist, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DATA | PROVISION OF INFORMATION | Useful links to Background information |
|---|---|---|--|
| WATER | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River length of good and fair quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Quality Assessment – chemistry & biology <p>United Utilities should be approached to consider the impacts of increased growth on existing waste water treatment capacity.</p> | <p>Information on the general chemical and biological quality of water in each North West Local Authority area is available from the EA regional web site.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/347005/440418/445438/?version=1&lang=_e</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathing water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathing water compliance. | <p>Information on North West bathing water compliance from 1988 to date is available from the EA regional web site.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/347005/434865/434875/?version=1&lang=_e</p> | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater resources vulnerability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW Groundwater vulnerability maps NW Source Protection Zones | <p>Maps showing location of the major source protection zones and groundwater vulnerability are available from EA offices.</p> | <p>Background information on why groundwater supplies are important and how we protect them is available from the national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/eff/water/213872/groundwater/?lang=_e</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water availability for licensed abstractions and water dependent habitats. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) | <p>Each catchment in England and Wales will have a strategy on how to balance abstraction needs with environmental concerns. The rolling programme will be complete by 2007. Completed CAMS are available from the EA web site below.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterres/564321/309477/?lang=_e</p> | |
| <p>Other important sources of information on water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public water supply demand and availability (United Utilities) Water use by sector, including leakage (United Utilities/Ofwat) Water efficiency in new buildings (BREEAM) | | | |
| <p>Other important sources of information on soil (including Brownfield and Contaminated land issues):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amounts of brownfield land and rates of use of Brownfield Land (NLUD database, ODPM) Agricultural land quality classification (DERFA) Local Authority | | | |

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

WASTE (predominantly relates to UK SDS priority –‘Sustainable Consumption and Production’)

The indicators (and data sources) below show trends and changes to the management of waste and will enable the SA appraise progress made towards the implementation of the waste hierarchy and proximity principle (please note location of waste management facilities is dealt with under Population and Human Health).

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on waste management exist, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY INFORMATION | Provision of Information | Useful links to Background information |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of waste managed and deposited in landfills in each North West local authority. | <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/</p> <p>More information is available from EA offices.</p> | <p>Background information on North West waste arisings and deposits for municipal, construction and demolition, commercial and industrial, agricultural waste from the regional EA web site.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/346940/?version=1&lang=e</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amounts of hazardous waste produced and disposed of in the North West | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of hazardous waste produced, deposited at regional and county levels and movement of waste between planning regions | <p>Hazardous waste interrogator available on the EA national web site from the link below.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1031954/315439/908042/?lang=e</p> | |
| <p>Other important sources of information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NW Waste Strategy (NWRA) Municipal waste arisings, household recycling rates (Defra) Household waste management facts and figures (ODPM best value performance indicators) | | | |

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

AIR (predominantly relates to UK SDS priority – ‘Natural Resources and Environmental Enhancement’).

The indicators (and data sources) below relate to those specific pollutants (from the eight key air pollutants within the Governments Air Quality Strategy) which are regulated by the Environment Agency under PPC and IPPC. The SA should appraise and monitor the plan in relation to these emissions as well as other air quality problems (i.e. from traffic) and consider any possible population and human health issues arising from various LDF spatial options or allocations of specific sites/uses.

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on Air Quality exist, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DATA | PROVISION OF INFORMATION | Useful links to Background information |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions to environment from Environment Agency regulated processes | Industrial emissions to air of benzene, 1,3 butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates. | http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ | National EA background information on air quality and emissions to air. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/eff/air/?version=1&lang=_e Information on individual sites is available from “What’s in your back yard “ national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/ |

Other important sources of information on:

- Air quality emissions maps (NETCEN)
- Location of AQMA (Local Authority, NETCEN)
- Number of days when air pollution is moderate or higher (Defra sustainable development indicator)
- Transport trends including modal splits traffic volumes, distances travelled per person per year by mode (Department for transport)

SEA ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES

CLIMATIC FACTORS (predominantly relates to UK SDS priority – ‘Climate Change and Energy’)

The indicators (and data sources) below show green house gas emissions from industries regulated by the Environment Agency and data on flood plain and flood risk. The SA should consider the impacts of climate change on developments, people and wildlife as a result of particular LDF spatial options or site allocations (e.g. through increased GHG emissions, storminess, extreme weather events, floods and droughts) and the need for specific mitigation and adaptation responses or policies.

Note: Other relevant SEA baseline indicators and data on climate change exist, but are not held by the Environment Agency. These are outlined below, along with an indication of the responsible data owner(s).

| POTENTIAL SEA INDICATOR | ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DATA | PROVISION OF INFORMATION | Useful links to Background information |
|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greenhouse gas emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ emissions from EA regulated industry | http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ | <p>Background information on climate change from EA national web site http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/eff/natural_forces/?lang=_e</p> <p>Information on individual sites is available from “What’s in your back yard “ national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of CO₂ emissions per local authority | http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ | <p>Background information from Defra www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalmos/galocalghg.htm</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> flood risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency Flood Map | <p>Flood Map (and any updates) already distributed to all local authorities in England and Wales</p> | <p>Information on flood plain in relation to individual sites is available from “What’s in your back yard “ national EA web site. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 (as defined in table 1, paragraph 30 in PPG25) per local authority. | http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836/ | <p>More information is available from EA offices.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of EA maintained raised flood defences in each local authority. | <p>Information is available from EA offices.</p> | <p>Annual stewardship statement outlining regional performance against regional and national targets. Hard copy available from EA regional office.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management plans, outlining possible catchment based flood risk management options. | <p>Each catchment in England and Wales will have a CFMP by end of December 2007. Completed CFMP are available from EA area offices.</p> | <p>Background information on flood risk management in the North West. http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/346910/346928/436624/?version=1&lang=_e</p> |

Other important sources of information on:

- electricity and gas consumption (DTI)
- electricity generated from renewable sources and CHP located in the area (DTI)
- Energy efficiency rates of new buildings (BREEAM)



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NORTH WEST REGION

Knowsley Council
Forward Planning
Attn aleck Whillans
PO Box 26
Archway Road
Huyton
Knowsley
L36 9FB

Your ref:
Our ref: HD/P 5090/01
Telephone: 0161 242 1423

Knowsley M.B.C.
Planning & Development Dept
24 APR 2006
1029
Planning Section

20 April 2006

Dear Mr Whillans,

North Huyton Action Area SPD – SEA scoping report

I refer to your letter dated 24th March 2006 consulting English Heritage on the above scoping report. We will be looking to see how the purposes of SEA "...to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with view to promoting sustainable development ..." are integrated in to the SPD with particular reference to our area of concern; "cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape ...".

However the scoping report seems to be predicated on your view that North Huyton does not contain any cultural heritage and hence you include no SA objectives relating to the historic environment. In addition to existing development and spaces there may be potential for archaeology associated with the earlier development of the area.

It is important that the baseline information for the SEA includes an assessment of the character and quality of the area to determine the characteristics of the plan area and to fulfil the objective you include of retaining, enhancing and nurturing distinctive elements of North Huyton's physical environment. You have to some extent done this through the townscape appraisal and the sections on spatial characteristics. Paragraph 4.23 refers to photo sheets in appendix 1 however this is not included in my report. It also refers to attractive and unique architecture distinct to North Huyton however it is not possible from Figure 4.1 to understand where this is and how it might influence the assessment of options. I also query whether Fig. 4.1 correctly annotated.

Table 3.1 should also include:

- PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW
Telephone 0161 242 1400 Facsimile 0161 242 1401
www.english-heritage.org.uk

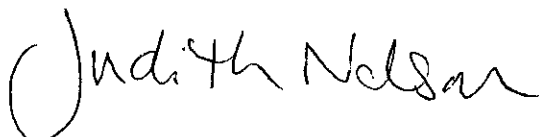
Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available

- The Government statement *The Historic Environment: a Force for Our Future* (DCMS 2001).
- And table 3.2 should draw out for PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development - reference to protecting and enhancing the historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside, [Paragraph 5]; ensuring high quality design [Paragraph 5]; a high level of protection to the most valued townscapes and landscapes [Paragraph 17]; enhance as well as protect the historic environment and landscape and townscape character [Paragraph 27(ix)]; promotion of design which is appropriate for its context [Paragraph 34-5]; reinforcement of local distinctiveness [Paragraph 38]

Table 5.1's assessment that North Huyton does not contain any significant historical buildings, land marks or cultural heritage may need reviewing following an assessment of the wider historic environment which includes not only designated elements but also locally important buildings, features and spaces and potential for archaeology.

This in turn should lead to the inclusion of an SEA objective covering the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment and local distinctiveness in Table 6.1. Without this it is difficult to see how the subsequent assessment of SPD options will address impact upon cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage.

Yours sincerely



Judith Nelson
Regional Planner
E-mail: judith.nelson@english-heritage.org.uk

APPENDIX 2: IDENTIFIED SPECIES IN KNOWSLEY

| Species Importance (p) UK Priority Species (c) UK Species of Conservation Concern | Common Name | Scientific Name | Record of Species (l) Recorded in LA area (m) Recorded in a 10km OS grid square covering more than one district/unitary authority |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| MAMMALS | | | |
| p | Water vole | Arvicola terrestris | l |
| c | Hedgehog | Erinaceus europaeus | l |
| p | Brown hare | Lepus europaeus | l |
| c | Harvest mouse | Micromys minutus | m |
| c | Stoat | Mustela erminea | l |
| c | Weasel | Mustela nivalis | l |
| c | Daubenton`s bat | Myotis daubentonii | l |
| c | Whiskered bat | Myotis mystacinus | m |
| c | Water shrew | Neomys fodiens | l |
| c | Noctule | Nyctalus noctula | l |
| p | Pipistrelle | Pipistrellus pipistrellus | l |
| c | Brown long-eared bat | Plecotus auritus | l |
| p | Red squirrel | Sciurus vulgaris | l |
| c | Common shrew | Sorex araneus | m |
| c | Pigmy shrew | Sorex minutus | m |
| BIRDS | | | |
| c | Sparrowhawk | Accipiter nisus | l |
| c | Sedge warbler | Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | l |
| c | Reed warbler | Acrocephalus scirpaceus | l |
| p | Skylark | Alauda arvensis | l |
| c | Kingfisher | Alcedo atthis | l |
| c | Mallard | Anas platyrhynchos | l |
| c | Meadow pipit | Anthus pratensis | l |
| c | Long-eared owl | Asio otus | l |











| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| c | Goldeneye | Bucephala clangula | l |
| c | Buzzard | Buteo buteo | l |
| p | Linnet | Carduelis cannabina | l |
| c | Goldfinch | Carduelis carduelis | l |
| c | Greenfinch | Carduelis chloris | l |
| c | Lesser redpoll | Carduelis flammea | l |
| c | Treecreeper | Certhia familiaris | l |
| p | Corncrake | Crex crex | e |
| c | Mute swan | Cygnus olor | l |
| c | House martin | Delichon urbica | l |
| c | Great spotted woodpecker | Dendrocopos major | l |
| c | Yellowhammer | Emberiza citrinella | l |
| p | Reed bunting | Emberiza schoeniclus | l |
| c | Merlin | Falco columbarius | l |
| c | Kestrel | Falco tinnunculus | l |
| c | Brambling | Fringilla montifringilla | l |
| c | Snipe | Gallinago gallinago | l |
| c | Swallow | Hirundo rustica | l |
| c | Grasshopper warbler | Locustella naevia | l |
| c | Jack snipe | Lymnocyptes minimus | l |
| p | Corn bunting | Miliaria calandra | l |
| c | Pied wagtail | Motacilla alba | l |
| c | Yellow wagtail | Motacilla flava | l |
| p | Spotted flycatcher | Muscicapa striata | l |
| c | Coal tit | Parus ater | l |
| c | Blue tit | Parus caeruleus | l |
| c | Great tit | Parus major | l |
| c | Willow tit | Parus montanus | l |
| p | Tree sparrow | Passer montanus | l |
| p | Grey partridge | Perdix perdix | l |
| c | Chiffchaff | Phylloscopus collybita | l |
| c | Willow warbler | Phylloscopus trochilus | l |
| c | Dunnock | Prunella modularis | l |

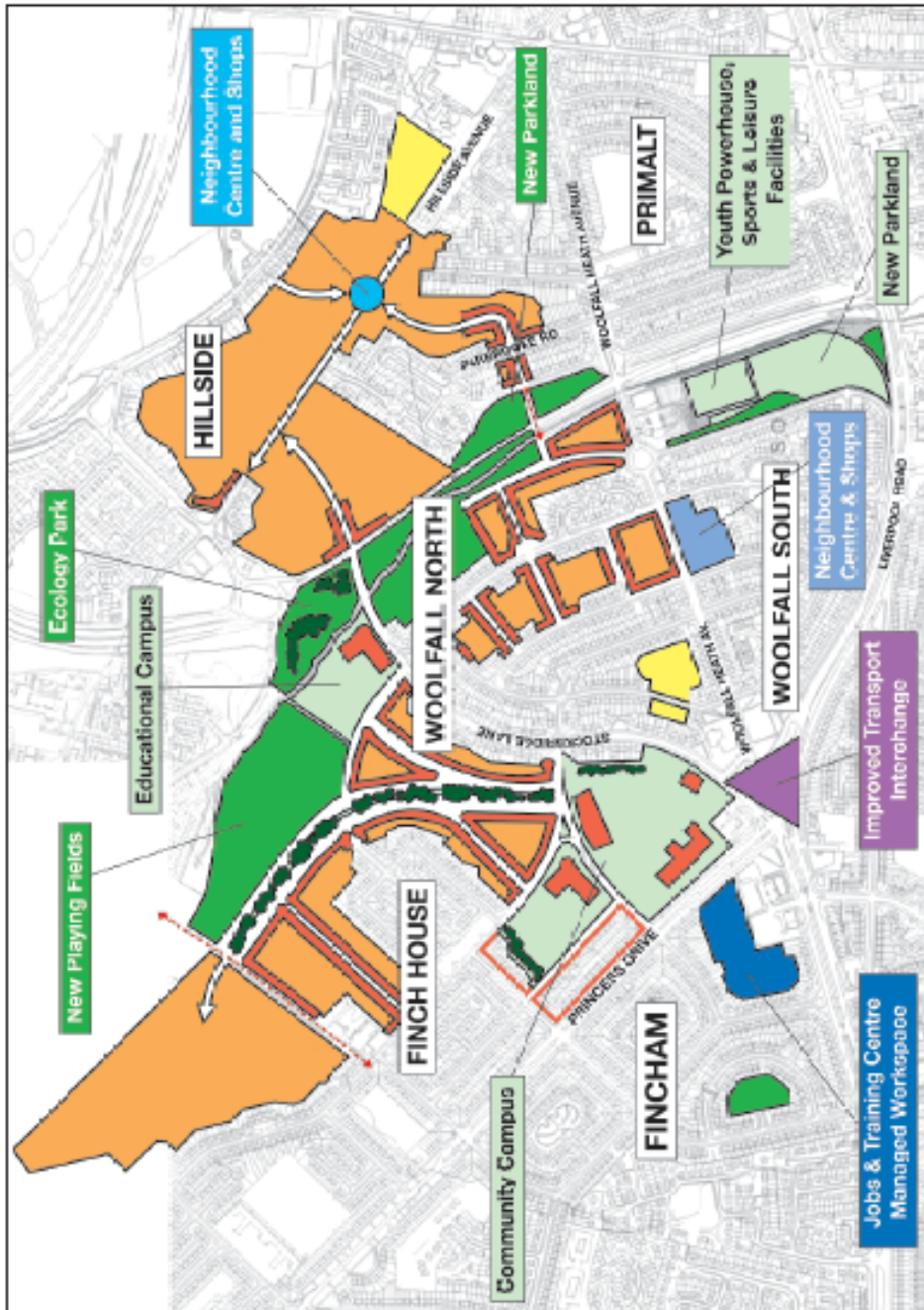
| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| p | Bullfinch | Pyrrhula pyrrhula | l |
| c | Goldcrest | Regulus regulus | l |
| c | Woodcock | Scolopax rusticola | l |
| c | Nuthatch | Sitta europaea | l |
| c | Tawny owl | Strix aluco | l |
| c | Blackcap | Sylvia atricapilla | l |
| c | Whitethroat | Sylvia communis | l |
| c | Lesser whitethroat | Sylvia curruca | l |
| c | Redwing | Turdus iliacus | l |
| p | Song thrush | Turdus philomelos | l |
| c | Fieldfare | Turdus pilaris | l |
| c | Barn owl | Tyto alba | l |
| c | Lapwing | Vanellus vanellus | l |
| AMPHIBIANS | | | |
| c | Common toad | Bufo bufo | l |
| c | Common frog | Rana temporaria | l |
| c | Palmate newt | Triturus helveticus | m |
| c | Smooth or common newt | Triturus vulgaris | l |
| DRAGONFLY | | | |
| - | Broad-bodied chaser | Libellula depressa | l |
| BUTTERFLIES | | | |
| c | Small blue | Cupido minimus | m |
| MOTHS | | | |
| c | Grey scalloped bar | Dyscia fagaria | l |
| VASCULAR PLANTS | | | |
| - | Narrow water-plantain | Alisma lanceolatum | l |
| - | Pyramidal orchid | Anacamptis pyramidalis | l |
| - | Wormwood | Artemisia absinthium | l |
| - | Yellow-wort | Blackstonia perfoliata | l |
| - | Prickly sedge | Carex muricata | l |
| - | Cyperus sedge | Carex pseudocyperus | l |
| - | Greater pond-sedge | Carex riparia | l |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| - | Rigid hornwort | Ceratophyllum demersum | |
| - | Red goosefoot | Chenopodium rubrum | |
| - | Dwarf thistle | Cirsium acaule | |
| - | Small-flowered crane`s-bill | Geranium pusillum | |
| c | Bluebell | Hyacinthoides non-scripta | |
| - | Sheep`s-bit | Jasione montana | |
| - | Blunt-flowered rush | Juncus subnodulosus | |
| - | Toothwort | Lathraea squamaria | |
| - | Grass vetchling | Lathyrus nissolia | |
| - | Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea | Lathyrus sylvestris | |
| - | Fat duckweed | Lemna gibba | |
| - | Early forget-me-not | Myosotis ramosissima | |
| - | Bird`s-foot | Ornithopus perpusillus | |
| c | River water-crowfoot | Ranunculus fluitans | |
| c | Ivy-leaved water-crowfoot | Ranunculus hederaceus | |
| - | Pond water-crowfoot | Ranunculus peltatus | |
| - | Northern dock | Rumex longifolius | |
| - | Common club-rush | Schoenoplectus lacustris | |
| - | Club-rush | Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani | |
| - | Greater duckweed | Spirodela polyrhiza | |
| - | Marsh stitchwort | Stellaria palustris | |
| - | Common comfrey | Symphytum officinale | |
| - | Field penny-cress | Thlaspi arvense | |
| c | Western gorse | Ulex gallii | |
| - | Common cornsalad | Valerianella locusta | |
| - | Smooth tare | Vicia tetrasperma | |
| - | Marsh violet | Viola palustris | |

APPENDIX 3: OUTLINE PLAN

This map shows the long term vision for the regeneration of North Huyton. An extensive consultation with the local community was recently carried out and this 'Outline Plan' was, in general, very positively received.

-  New Housing Development
-  Educational campuses
-  Community & Retail uses
-  Social housing for the elderly
-  Landscaped open amenity space
-  Jobs, Education & Training Centre/Managed Workspace
-  Area for possible further development
-  Indication of building layout and location
-  Transport Hub
-  Linkages

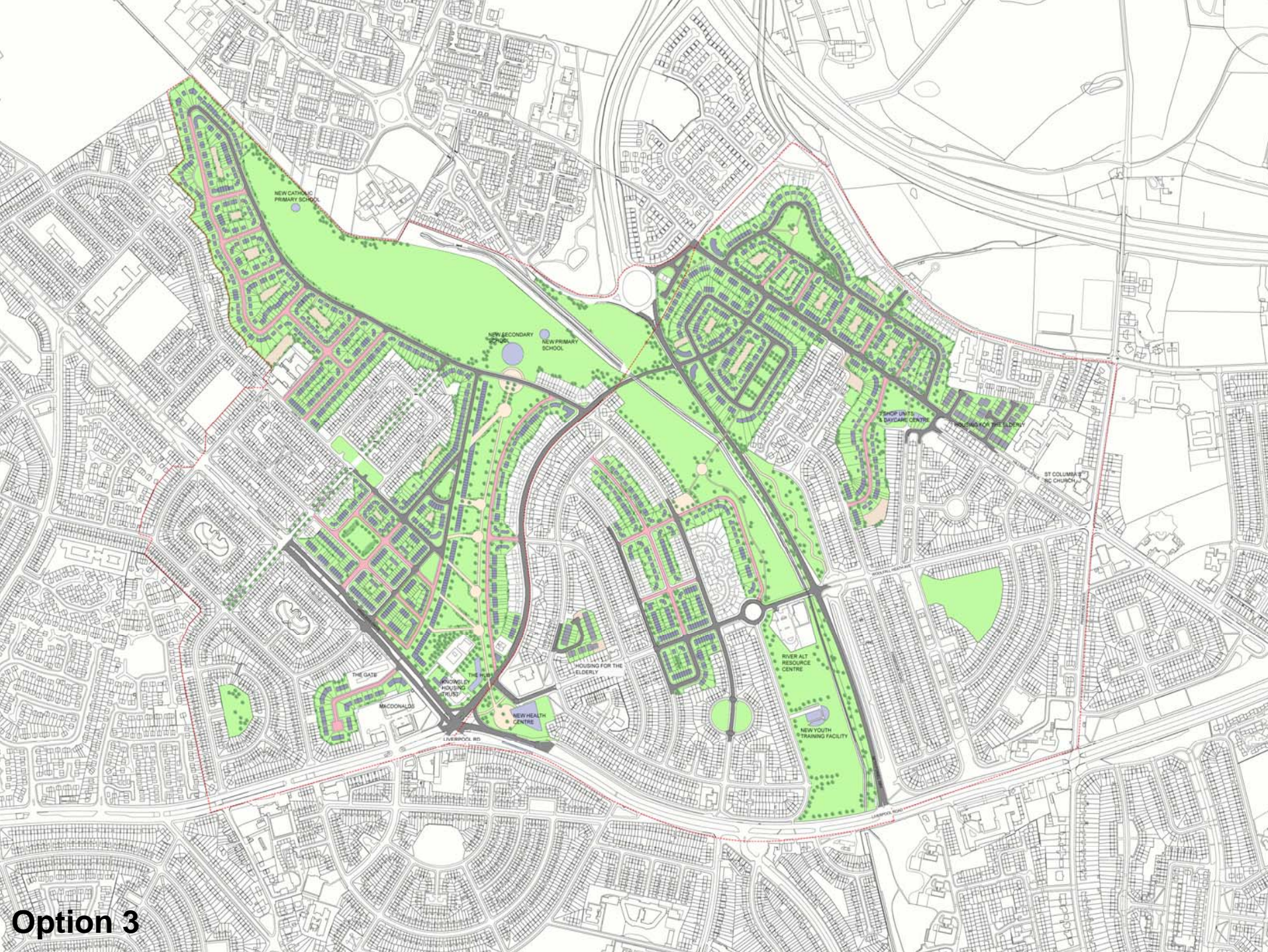


APPENDIX 4: FIRST DETAILED MASTERPLAN



Option 2

APPENDIX 5: FINAL OUTLINE PLAN



Option 3

APPENDIX 6: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON DRAFT FINAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

R00027 Government Office for the North WestComment 1:

The document is well-structured, well written and contains useful illustrations. You may wish to consider whether it is worth including additional illustrations to demonstrate such things as scale and massing of new development, suitable construction materials, hard landscaping etc., or to cross-reference with documents that might contain such detail (see Comment 5 below).

Proposed change:

Include reference to “North West Best Practice Design Guide” (North West Regional Assembly: May 2006) in paragraph 5.1.

Comment 2:

The “Introduction” section (paragraphs 1.2 to 1.9) in Chapter 1 provides a guide to the role of the SPD within the LDF. It would be as well to mention here that whilst the SPD is linked to saved UDP policies, once the Core Strategy DPD is adopted the SPD will need to be revisited.

Proposed change:

Add reference to paragraph 1.6 to the effect that whilst the SPD is linked to saved UDP policies, once the Core Strategy DPD is adopted the SPD will need to be revisited.

Comment 3:

Within the same section (“Introduction”) it would be helpful to include a reference to the SCI and the role it will play in setting the framework for consultation on developments/planning applications affecting the North Huyton Area. Similarly, the Annual Monitoring report which will report on the progress of the SPD and eventually the effectiveness of both it and its parent policies in addressing the issues within North Huyton.

Proposed change:

In paragraph 1.14 add reference to the role of the SCI in future consultation on developments and planning applications affecting the North Huyton Area; noting also that the Annual Monitoring report will report on the progress of the SPD and eventually the effectiveness of both it and its parent policies in addressing the issues within North Huyton.

Comment 4:

The “Introduction” section of Chapter 3 refers to RSS and Policy SD3. It would be helpful to point out that RSS is being revisited and that once adopted, the SPD will be reviewed to ensure conformity with any revised policy wording.

Proposed change:

Add to paragraph 3.1, to the effect that RSS is being revisited and that once adopted, the SPD will be reviewed to ensure conformity with any revised policy wording.

Comment 5:

Paragraph 3.9 refers to UDP policies which are key consideration for the North Huyton area. It would be helpful to mention here that any future proposed SPDs which will supplement those policies and thus will need to be cross-referenced with this SPD, for example, “Design Quality in New Development”.

Proposed change:

Add reference to the introductory sentence to paragraph 3.9, to the effect that:-
“any future proposed SPDs which will supplement those policies and thus will need to be cross-referenced with this SPD, for example, “Design Quality in New Development” and other documents include in the Local Development Scheme (LDS)”.

Comment 6:

Again, in Chapter 3 there is reference to “sustainability impact”. It should be here that the SPD will be screened to ensure compliance with the Appropriate Assessment of European sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

Proposed change:

Add to paragraph 3.14 to the effect that:-
“the SPD will be screened to ensure compliance with the Appropriate Assessment of European sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive”.

Comment 7:

Chapter 9 should mention that from 10th August 2006, most planning applications will need to be accompanied by Design and Access Statements, with perhaps a suitable link to Knowsley’s planning web page for anyone seeking further guidance.

Proposed change:

Add to paragraph 9.3 to the effect that:-
“most planning applications will need to be accompanied by Design and Access Statements,.

Comment 8:

It would be helpful to list, perhaps in an appendix, the national guidance taken into account in the production of the SPD, ie PPGs and PPSs (there is reference in paragraph 5.49 to Flood Risk Assessments, which may confuse as it refers to PPG25 and the draft of PPS25). In addition, it would be worth making reference to the recently published “North West Best Practice Design Guide” issued by the North West Regional Assembly.

Proposed change:

(i) Amend and correct the wording of paragraph 5.49;
(ii) add Appendix and reference to national guidance taken into account in the production of the SPD, ie PPGs and PPSs.

Comment 9:

A major issue is theft from vehicles which have been parked away from the owner’s property. Consequently, we welcome the integration of new parking provision with new development, which should help reduce this risk. The document should also mention the forthcoming Transport SPD, designed to incorporate the joint preparatory work being undertaken by the Merseyside authorities.

Proposed change:

Add to the Appendix reference to the forthcoming Transport SPD, designed to incorporate the joint preparatory work being undertaken by the Merseyside authorities.

Comment 10:

On a more general safety issue, we welcome the concept of building safety needs into the design of new buildings, especially the recognition of the notion of “defensible space” and the benefits it can bring.

Proposed change:

None.

Comment 11:

Overall, the document would benefit from the inclusion of a glossary of terms.

Proposed change:

Add Glossary, as an appendix to the SPD.

R00052 Environment AgencyComment 1:

Part of the area lies within the flood plain of the River Alt (identified in Fig 4.9). A Flood Risk Assessment will therefore be required for any development in areas of flood risk. The Environment Agency will object to a proposal which has buildings at risk from flooding or which increases the flood risk elsewhere. Reference should be made to the national standing guidance on flood risk which can be found on www.pipernetworking.com

This provides guidance on flood risk assessments and when they are required.

Proposed change:

Insert reference to the national standing guidance on flood risk and www.pipernetworking.com in paragraph 4.73 of SPD.

Comment 2:

Surface water run off should be restricted to existing rates in order that redevelopment does not contribute to and increased flood risk downstream. The Environment Agency advocates the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDs) in any development where feasible. There appears to be no mention of SuDs within the document and the Environment Agency would like to see this included in chapter 5 which discusses general design of development.

Proposed change:

Add reference to SuDs to paragraph 5.74, to the effect that surface water run off should be restricted to existing rates in order that redevelopment does not contribute to and increased flood risk.

Comment 3:

The Environment Agency has a positive water vole record within the site and reference should be made to this species under the ecology and nature conservation section. We support any opportunity for enhancing the river corridor within the SPD.

Proposed change:

Add reference to paragraph 5.51 to the positive water vole record within the site and Environment Agency’s support to enhancing the river corridor.

Comment 4:

With regards to Chapter 9 and paragraph 9.3 there should be mention of a requirement to submit a flood risk assessment when a development falls within an area of flood risk or when it is a major development. Again, developers could be referred to the national standing advice.

Proposed change:

Add to paragraph 9.3 reference to a requirement to submit a flood risk assessment when a development falls within an area of flood risk or when it is a major development; and refer developers could to the national standing advice.

Comment 5:

Draft Sustainability Appraisal – with regards to relevant plans and programmes the Environment Agency would like to see the inclusion of Draft PPS25 and the Draft RSS. We have produced guidance on potential sustainability indicators/baseline data which is attached to this correspondence.

Proposed change:

Include reference in the SA to PPS25, RSS and EA's sustainability indicators/baseline data.

R00117 MerseytravelComment 1:

Housing Densities and Orientations: Merseytravel would wish to see clear Guidance in the SPD that ensures housing density levels and orientation of housing areas are constructed in a manner that facilitates ease of access to and for public transport services.

Proposed change:

None; it is the Council's view that the relevant aspects of this comment are addressed in Chapter 8 of the Replacement Knowsley Unitary Development Plan (RUDP), and sufficient additional guidance will also be given in the Merseyside Transport SPD.

Comment 2:

Siting of Retail, Health Care and Community Facilities: Merseytravel would wish to request that the SPD contains guidance on the location of retail, health and community facilities that would ensure that these facilities are located at sites that are easily served by the public transport network and are orientated in a manner that facilitates ease of access to the public transport network.

Proposed change:

None; the Council's view is that there is sufficient guidance relating to the matters referred to in the comment in the RUDP, for example Policy T8, which together with provisions in the Merseyside Transport SPD will give the clarity required.

Comment 3:

Maintenance and creation of bus priority measures: Merseytravel wish to see the retention of the bus-only highway link between Stockbridge Lane and Waterpark Drive and this should be referred to in the SPD. Guidance should also be given in the SPD with regard to the introduction of further bus priority measures.

Proposed change:

None; the Council's view is that there is sufficient guidance on these matters in paragraphs 5.6 to 5.12 of the SPD, which, together with policies in Chapter 8 of the RUDP will cover issues relating to appropriate access to public transport to and within the Action Area.

Comment 4:

Designation of Hillside Road as a Public Transport route: regeneration of the area is likely to locate significant new housing in the Hillside Road area and the SPD should contain guidance regarding the reintroduction of bus services.

Proposed change:

None; the Council's view is that in paragraphs 5.66 to 5.72 of the SPD and Chapter 8 of the RUDP there is sufficient clarity on the matters referred to in the comment; any highway works that may be necessitated to facilitate bus services will be addressed in the determination of planning applications for new dwellings.

Comment 5:

Traffic calming: Merseytravel would wish to see clear guidance in the SPD that ensures that all bus routes within the Action Area are appropriately treated in terms of traffic calming measures and that only bus-friendly calming measures will be used on public transport routes.

Proposed change:

None; paragraph 5.12 of the SPD addresses this matter.

Comment 6:

Creation of walking routes to public transport access points: Merseytravel wish to see guidance in the SPD with regard to creation and facilitation of good walking routes between new dwelling and appropriate bus stops.

Proposed change:

None; paragraphs 5.6 to 5.11 and Policy T7 of the RUDP emphasise the need for good walking routes.

Comment 7:

Parking: Merseytravel would wish to see clear guidance in the SPD regarding parking levels and the location of parking facilities that would ensure the objective of sustainable transportation use.

Proposed change:

None; the Council's view is that there is sufficient guidance in the SPD relating to parking provision, ie in paragraphs 6.17 and 6.18; 7.7 to 7.9 and 8.16 to 8.18 which set out proposals for each of the elements of the Action Area. Additional guidance on parking and its relationship with sustainable transport use can be found in Chapter 8 of the RUDP and will be given in the Merseyside Transport SPD.

Comment 8:

Merseytram Line 2: Merseytravel requests that the SPD should contain an appropriate reference to the proposed alignment of the tramway along the southern boundary of the Action Area and an appropriate reference to the protection of relevant land for this purpose.

Proposed change:

None; Policy T2 and the Proposals Map of the RUDP indicates the proposed alignment of Merseytram Line 2 and the Council's view is that this is sufficient

guidance. It must be pointed out that the SPD in itself cannot allocate land and to comply with Merseytravel's request would have the effect of exceeding the provisions of the RUDP.

Comment 9:

Cycle facilities: Merseytravel wish to see clear guidance in the SPD with regard to the creation of a coherent and effective cycle network in the Action Area. The SPD should also contain guidance relating to extending the cycle route to Roby station which is on the Merseyside City Line.

Proposed change:

None; the Council's view is that Policies T6 and T7 of the RUDP set out sufficient guidance with regard to cycle routes and facilities; together with the aim of the SPD in improving permeability in the Action Area there is no need to be more prescriptive in the manner suggested by Merseytravel.

Comment 10:

Sustainability Appraisal: Merseytravel notes that despite the stated importance given to sustainable travel use within the Action area the Sustainability Appraisal does not test the delivery of sustainable transport usage. Merseytravel is of the view that the Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD should contain appropriate testing for all of the proposed development options in terms of the costs and benefits for the delivery of sustainable transport usage.

Proposed change:

It is proposed to revisit the Sustainability Appraisal with regard to a number of issues and a final draft of the SA report will aim to address Merseytravel's comments in relation to testing the delivery of sustainable transport usage.

R00002 Highways Agency

Comment 1:

In general terms the Agency prefers development of the most sustainable locations first, such as those which are most accessible by public transport services and locating development on previously developed land. The Agency encourages early, pre-application contact from developers whose proposals are adjacent to or near to the strategic road network or may have an impact, particularly developments of a scale likely to generate a material increase in traffic.

Proposed change:

None

Comment 2:

We support the promotion of non-car modes of transport and improvements which reduce the use of the private car. We support improvements to the public transport network – any improvements or initiatives which reduce the use of the private car and in particular reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, plus encourage walking and cycling are welcome.

Proposed change:

None.

Comment 3:

The area within the Action Area is in close proximity to the M57 and M62. The document indicated that there may be some 200 additional properties resulting from the regeneration initiatives. The Agency would wish to see Traffic Assessments undertaken to establish the likely impact of these additional households. We are happy to engage with Knowsley Council and developers to discuss proposed developments at an early stage.

Proposed change:

None; given the proposed scale of each of the main phases of development, traffic assessments will be required in the determination of detailed planning permission, as indicated in Policy T8 of the RUDP.

R00050 Health and Safety ExecutiveComment 1:

In your role as the Hazardous Substance Authority under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 and the Planning (Control of Major-Accident Hazards) Regulation 1999 and previous legislation, you should be aware of the location of dangerous substance establishments or major pipelines within the plan area. You are strongly advised to consult the hazardous pipeline operators to confirm the exact location and route of their pipelines in the area covered by the plan and to ensure that your records are kept up to date.

Proposed change:

None; the planning requirement referred to is covered by Policy ENV4 of the RUDP.

Comment 2:

In view of the possible presence of dangerous substance establishments in the area covered by the plan it would be helpful to potential developers if the constraints likely to be imposed by their presence were indicated in a policy statement in the plan.

Proposed change:

None; Policy ENV4 and paragraphs 13.19 and 13.20 provide appropriate guidance on these matters.

R00105 Liverpool City Council (Officer-level comments only)Comment 1:

It could be considered that Knowsley's proposals for North Huyton complement the City Council's objectives of securing improvements in its housing estates in the Eastern Fringes.

Proposed change:

None.

Comment 2:

In strategic terms the need to address the issues faced in North Huyton had been established through its designation as an NDC. In planning terms, both extant RSS and the Knowsley Replacement UDP provide policy support for the

regeneration of Huyton. This is further reflected in emerging RSS which stresses the need to support housing market restructuring in areas in the Liverpool city region (outwith the Pathfinder) in need of regeneration. North Huyton clearly falls into this category. In the Liverpool City Region policies in draft RSS the need to promote and enhance the role of Huyton as a service centre is highlighted and this SPD would help to secure this objective.

Proposed Change:

None.

Comment 3:

Some of the new housing towards the north western boundary of the area is to be built on green space. This needs to be balanced through the creation of new open space in the Fincham area and Knowsley needs to have regard to the brownfield targets in draft RSS.

Proposed change:

None; Policy H3 of the RUDP has indicated that any loss of such greenspace that may be required to facilitate regeneration will be balanced by the creation of new greenspace, within the standards also set out in Policies OS3 and OS4.

R00032 Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Comment 1:

Prior to any road closures, traffic calming or alley-gating, the Fire Authority must be consulted.

Proposed change:

None; the comment is noted but consultation with the Fire Authority will be included in the determination of any application under Planning or Highways legislation.

R00096 The Mersey Partnership

Comment 1:

The Mersey Partnership has looked into this and do not have any comments to make.

R00079 Lancashire County Council

Comment 1:

The County Council has no comments they wish to make

R00029 Northwest Regional Development Agency

Comment 1:

The Northwest Regional Development Agency has no comments to make.

R00021 Countryside AgencyComment 1:

As the proposed documents refer to land based urban planning and would be unlikely to affect our interests we do not wish to comment formally on this proposal.



Environmental
Advisory Service

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
Bryant House
Liverpool Road North
Maghull
L31 2PA

MEMO

TO: Jonathan Clarke
Strategic Planning Manager
Knowsley Council

FROM: Paul Slinn
Environmental Projects Team Leader

Your ref: PS/FP/SPD/R124

File ref: 11/1/1

C:\Documents and Settings\sefuser\My
Documents\Huyton Action Area
SA.doc

Date: 31 August 2006

Public Consultation on the North Huyton Action Area Draft Supplementary Planning Document Sustainability Appraisal

Thank you for consulting Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on the draft of the North Huyton Action Area SPD and associated sustainability appraisal. This memo will focus specifically on a review of the sustainability appraisal, which has provided an early opportunity to use the Knowsley SA Framework in a live situation. We hope that our comments in relation to the North Huyton Action Area SPD will contribute constructively to the further development of the SA Framework into a robust and procedurally compliant tool that can be utilised with confidence in the future.

We make the following comments:

1. The SA does not present a clear picture to the reader. This is partly because there is a lack of clarity (and some errors) in the text (notes which may be of assistance in editing the document further are attached as an appendix), but also because insufficient attention is given to describing the SA process for the recently adopted UDP and its relationship with the SA for the North Huyton Action Area SPD. We advise that a much clearer presentation of the process and objectives of the SA would assist understanding by an 'informed lay person'.

Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service – delivering high quality environmental advice and sustainable solutions to the Districts of Knowsley, St. Helens, Sefton, Halton, Liverpool and Wirral



2. A range of issues has been identified from the SA report that we feel may need to be addressed. In particular, the range of indicators utilised is limited and appears inadequate to allow for a full assessment of all the significant potential effects of the SPD. There are also gaps in the baseline information and provisions for monitoring and review are unclear. Where possible, suggestions have been made of ways to address the issues highlighted. Our conclusion is that it may be questionable whether the document as it currently stands adequately addresses the requirements of the SEA Directive.
3. The document correctly reflects the approach to SA which is set out in the guidance issued by the former ODPM (now DCLG), and correctly recognises the need to integrate the procedure for sustainability appraisal (SA) with that for strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The report presents a thorough overview of the key policy framework and related planning documents, though the relationship between the policy context provided by the unitary development plan and the SPD should be made more explicit. Both the 1998 (adopted) and 2004 (replacement) UDPs are included, but this can be simplified now that the replacement UDP has been adopted and the period for challenge has passed.
4. The report attempts to integrate the SEA impact criteria into the chosen sustainability objectives and indicators (page 23). This is an interesting attempt to streamline the process but, as the approach is developed in this SA document, it runs the risk of short-changing the requirements of SEA, in that it very much follows a small range of indicators that derive from the very specific regeneration objectives of the SPD. The SPD sets the framework for a range of development activity that have potentially severe, if temporary, impacts on environmental quality and quality of life in a number of ways unrecognised by the SA.
5. The environmental issues identified are flood risk, open space provision and quality, and the presence of two sites of biological interest. While these are certainly important, there is no recognition that there may be environmental impacts beyond this very limited range of issues – e.g. on habitats and species. For instance, there is no recognition that the demolition of old housing stock may entail the destruction of habitat for bats and breeding birds. Likewise there is no recognition of other significant impacts (such as waste, pollution or temporary nuisances) caused by the lengthy, large-scale demolition and construction activities that are called for in order to implement the SPD. In SEA terms there is surely a need to recognise these issues and put forward appropriate mitigation proposals, e.g. for traffic, noise and dust.
6. In ‘Developing the SA Framework’ on page 24, it is argued that the Merseyside EAS *Sustainability Objectives and Indicators for Merseyside* are not relevant at the spatial scale of the SPD. We believe that this statement is, at best, debatable as they were designed specifically with local development documents in mind. The SA Framework presented here has only 5 headline objectives, compared to 21 in the Merseyside EAS document. Even accounting for potential duplication between the SA exercises for the UDP and SPD (which is not addressed in the Action Area SA), this seems like an over-simplification. It has always been the intention that the Merseyside Objectives, Indicators and Targets should be focused and tailored to the specific plan or programme requirements and geographical scale.
7. The ‘SA Framework’ presents a series of detailed indicators, with itemised data sources for monitoring progress.
 - 7.1. However, the following detailed indicators presented in the SA Framework (page 26) are not included in the ‘Baseline Information’ section:
 - River Alt, general quality assessment – chemistry and biology;
 - Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3.

7.2. Additionally, the following indicators, while including in the baseline table, have no baseline figures displayed:

- % of homes meeting decent homes standard;
- % of homes meeting eco homes standard good/very good;
- % of new development containing SUDS;

7.3. Several categories are included but baseline data is said to be ‘currently unavailable’. This is not adequate for a baseline study. The exact status of this data should be indicated; i.e. is it permanently unavailable or just delayed? While it is accepted that not all baseline environmental data may be available, it is necessary that a procedure for updating, monitoring and reviewing the baseline is clearly set out as part of the SA Framework.

8. The ‘Developing the SPD Options’ section (page 32) is particularly difficult to follow. The relationship between the 4 ‘scenarios’ and the 4 ‘options’ and the transition from one to the other is unclear. We advise that this section would benefit from review and restructure.
9. On page 38, the conclusion is presented that scenario 4 was taken forward to the options stage because it performed worse than ‘...scenario 3 in terms of transformational change, [but] the scale of demolition was not as severe and therefore had reduced social and cost implications for existing residents.’ This statement is not rooted in the ‘Appraisal of Strategic Options’ table, where the social and cost implications of demolition is not assessed at all. Comparative numbers of buildings to be demolished are presented on page 32, but there is no discussion of the relative social and cost impacts. Clarification is required on the basis for this determination?
10. The final paragraph of page 42 is also confusing. It states that ‘Option 2 also scored well..., however as stated before, these improvements are not entirely desirable or even possible.’ This begs two questions. Firstly, if the improvements are neither desirable nor possible, how could they score well? Secondly, what is the purpose of putting forward undesirable and impossible measures, as assessing something that cannot be implemented is surely futile? Clarification is required on this matter.

I would be very pleased to provide additional information or to meet to discuss these points further if that would be helpful.

Contact Officer: Paul Slinn

Tel: 0151 934 2791

Email: paul.slinn@eas.sefton.gov.uk

Appendix- Editorial and Structural Notes

11. The report is generally well presented and generally well-written. However, we would like to highlight the following issues with the text as presented:

- The spacing is incorrect in the final line of the introduction on page 1.
- On page 2, there is a missing word (probably ‘a’) in the first line of the second paragraph.
- In the same paragraph, should the purpose of SA be to “...avoid or lessen any significant **negative** social, environmental or economic effects....”.
- Also on page 2, in the first paragraph of the section on strategic environmental assessment, the use of the term ‘planning strategies’ is insufficiently precise and potentially confusing. Replacing the end of that sentence with ‘...strategic plans to be subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment’ may aid clarity.
- On page 3, the bulleted list changes its tone halfway through. The list should use consistent terms in the present tense or the ‘...ing’ form throughout, and should not mix the two.
- In the same bulleted list, there is a typographic error in the point that begins ‘Take a long term view...’
- In the final para of page 3, ‘on going’ should be ‘ongoing’.
- Page 4, the spacing is wrong in the final line before the three bullet points.
- Page 5, the table of SA stages and tasks has, as Stage C ‘Preparing the environmental report’, and as C1 ‘Preparing the SA environmental report’. To be consistent with the ODPM flowchart on page 4, these should both simply read ‘Preparing the SA report’.
- The final entry on page 6 indicates ‘KMBC to add Directorates who will be consulted’. As this is the draft final report, this information should be present.
- The first column of the table in the ‘Baseline Information’ table (pages 16-21) is labelled ‘SEA Topic’. Should this actually read ‘SA topic’?
- In the same table, a ‘PMP study’ is referenced as an important source of baseline data, yet there is no explanation of what this report is.
- On page 34, the paragraph describing the consortium is confusing and has at least one missing word.

APPENDIX 7: GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| AMR | Annual Monitoring Report | Part of the Local Development Framework. Will assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies in local development documents are being successfully implemented. |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan | A plan that sets a series of measurable targets for improving and enhancing biodiversity. Produced at three scales, regional, sub regional and local. |
| DPD | Development Plan Document | Part of the 'portfolio' of documents which make up the Local Development Framework. These form the development plan for the local authority and include core strategy, site specific allocations of land and area Action Plans. Other development plan documents, including generic development control policies, can be produced. |
| LDD | Local Development Document | The LDF consists of a 'portfolio' of Local Development Documents which will provide and deliver the spatial planning strategy. LDDs are likely to be a mix of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), together with a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). |
| LDF | Local Development Framework | New system for planning, introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which replaces existing Local Plans currently prepared under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). |
| LDS | Local Development Scheme | To implement the new development plan system (the LDF), the Council must prepare and monitor a three year management plan, known as the Local Development Scheme (LDS). |
| NDC | New Deal for Communities | A government funding programme designed to help tackle inequalities in the poorest areas, taking forward the Government's commitment to address social exclusion. |
| ODPM | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | This was a Central Government department charged with the responsibility for planning; now replaced with DCLG – the Department for Communities and Local Government. |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| PPG | Planning Policy Guidance Note | Central Government publication under the old planning system outlining good practice on a particular planning topic. |
| PPP | Plans, Policies and Programmes | A review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the plan being assessed comprises an essential element of the sustainability appraisal process. |
| PPS | Planning Policy Statement | Previously known as Planning Policy Guidance Notes these are issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and set out the Government's land use planning policies for England under the new planning system. They must be taken into account in preparing the development plan. They are a material consideration in determining planning applications, and generally supersede development plan policies if they are of a later date. |
| RSS | Regional Spatial Strategy | RSSs will replace RPGs and Structure Plans as a result of the Introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. RSSs will form part of statutory development plan system. |
| SA | Sustainability Appraisal | Assessment that considers social, environmental and economic effects of a plan. |
| SBI | Site of Biological Importance | Sites which are important for nature conservation but which do not receive statutory protection. The designation of an SBI provides a means of protecting sites that are of local interest and importance. |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment | Derived from the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC which took effect in July 2004. SEA involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme) on the environment. Applies to documents such as the Local Development Framework. |
| SOA | Super Output Areas | This is the basis for the geographical comparison of statistical data across England. It roughly coincides with wards but allows a finer grain of analysis at the neighbourhood level. |
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document | Part of the 'portfolio' of documents which make up the Local Development Framework under the new planning system. They provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in the Development Plan Documents. |
| SPG | Supplementary Planning | Additional advice, provided by the Council, on particular topic or policy areas, and related to and |

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Guidance | expanding upon statutory policies. |
| SuDS | Sustainable Urban Drainage System | Structures designed to reduce the potential of flooding in new and existing urban developments. Unlike traditional urban stormwater drainage systems, they also help to protect and enhance ground water quality. |
| UDP | Unitary Development Plan | A document setting out the strategic framework for the use of land and detailed policies and specific proposals for development. |