

WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SECTION 15

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR WIRRAL

THIRD REVIEW

SUBMITTED 10 AUGUST 2009

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
23 NOVEMBER 2009

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme is a statutory document setting out the Council's programme for the preparation of the Local Development Framework for Wirral over the next three years, produced in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.2 The Local Development Framework is a collection of statutory Local Development Documents that will together set out the vision and spatial strategy for future development and investment across the Borough. Development Plan Documents within the Framework will form part of the Development Plan for the area.
- 1.3 The Framework will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The first Local Development Scheme for Wirral was approved by the Secretary of State on 31 March 2005 and came into effect on 20 May 2005. A review of the Scheme was approved in May 2006 and a series of minor amendments in November 2006. The second Local Development Scheme was subsequently approved on 24 April 2007 and brought into force from the 23 July 2007. This document is a further review of the Local Development Scheme, intended to accelerate the preparation of a Core Strategy Development Plan Document.
- 2.2 Consultation on the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report and on the intention to review the Local Development Scheme took place during January and February 2009. The comments received have been taken into account in this review.
- 2.3 Any revision to the Local Development Scheme must be approved by the Secretary of State before they can come into effect. This revised Scheme was submitted to the Secretary of State on 10 August 2009. It will be published on the Council's website once approval has been granted and the Council has formally resolved to bring it into effect.

3 THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WIRRAL

- 3.1 The statutory Development Plan for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral currently comprises:
 - The Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (adopted by the Council in February 2000); and
 - The North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (issued by the Secretary of State in September 2008).

Unitary Development Plan

- 3.2 The Unitary Development Plan Written Statement and Proposals Map can be viewed through the Council's website at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/content_0002218.html.
- 3.3 The policies and proposals of the Unitary Development Plan were initially "saved" to remain in force until September 2007¹ or until they are replaced by a Development Plan Document contained within the emerging Local Development Framework for Wirral.
- 3.4 A list of the policies and proposals "saved" beyond September 2007 can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/SavingDirecti onFinalWirral.pdf>. An up-to-date statement of the status of the policies and documents associated with the Unitary Development Plan is set out in an Annex to the Local Development Scheme.

Regional Spatial Strategy

- 3.5 The latest version of the Regional Spatial Strategy can be viewed on the Government Office for the North West website at <http://www.gonw.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/?a=42496>
- 3.6 A Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy will soon be completed to make additional provision for gypsies and travellers, travelling showpeople and parking standards. Progress on the Partial Review can be viewed at <http://www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk/>.
- 3.7 Work has commenced on a new Regional Strategy for the North West under the brand name RS2010. Following consultation on Issues and Principles in early 2009, it is intended that a draft strategy will be prepared over the summer to be subject to consultation towards the end of 2009.
- 3.8 The exact timing of future stages is dependent on the passing of legislation which would enable this strategy development work to become a formal Single Integrated Regional Strategy for the region, replacing the Regional Spatial Strategy. Progress on the new replacement Strategy can be viewed at <http://www.nwregionalstrategy.com/>.

¹ A period of three years from the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as specified in Schedule 8 of the Act.

4 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL

- 4.1 The Local Development Framework for Wirral is a collection of Local Development Documents that will set out the Council's spatial policies for the development and use of land. These will, over time, include:
- the Local Development Scheme;
 - a Core Strategy;
 - a Statement of Community Involvement;
 - a Site Allocations Development Plan Document;
 - a series of Supplementary Planning Documents;
 - a Proposals Map; and
 - a series of Annual Monitoring Reports.
- 4.2 The linkages between the various documents are set out in Appendix 1. The chain of conformity is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.3 The Core Strategy, adopted Development Plan Documents and the Proposals Map will have status alongside the Regional Spatial Strategy, as part of the statutory Development Plan for the area.
- 4.4 Supplementary Planning Documents do not form part of the Development Plan and must be prepared in conformity either with the Core Strategy, with another Development Plan Document or with the Unitary Development Plan until it has been replaced.
- 4.5 A list of the Local Development Documents that have already been adopted is provided at Appendix 7.
- 4.6 The main priority of this review of the Local Development Scheme is to secure more effective progress on the preparation of the Core Strategy.

Key Milestones

- 4.7 The future timetable for the Council's preparation of Local Development Documents over the next three years is set out in Appendix 3. A separate profile for each of the Council's Local Development Documents is attached at Appendix 4. A continuously up-dated record of progress will be made available on the Council's website at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/content_0001523.html
- 4.8 The revised dates set for the key milestones included in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 have been made following informal discussions with the Government Office for the North West in June 2009.

- 4.9 Recent changes to national Regulations have combined the Issues and Options and Preferred Options stages of consultation into a single stage (Regulation 25) and moved the statutory period for making representations to before rather than after submission (Regulations 27-31). These changes have now also been reflected in the timetables set out in Appendix 4.
- 4.10 The general nature of each Document and the process for preparing them is summarised in Appendix 5.

5 DOCUMENTS PROPOSED OR IN PREPARATION

Core Strategy Development Plan Document

- 5.1 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document will set the long term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough for a period of not less than fifteen years. It is also intended to provide the wider land use framework for the future delivery of public services within the area.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy can include strategic site allocations and will provide the framework for other area-based or site-specific matters to be addressed in subsequent Development Plan Documents to be prepared later on.
- 5.3 Consultation on the content of the Core Strategy began in October 2005. The initial findings were reported in July 2006, followed by a series of workshops in November 2006. Further consultation with hard to reach groups was undertaken in September 2007. A second report of initial consultation was issued in February 2009.
- 5.4 Public consultation on the scope of the sustainability appraisal for the Core Strategy was undertaken during July 2006.
- 5.5 In December 2006, the Council's Annual Monitoring Report identified the need to strengthen the evidence base for the Core Strategy. As a result, a series of technical studies to further assess the needs, demands and capacity of the area were commissioned. The majority of this major programme of work will be brought to conclusion in autumn 2009. A review of the Housing Needs Assessment to take into account recent changes in the housing market, a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and a renewable energy potential study are still in preparation.
- 5.6 Public consultation on the issues, vision and objectives for the Core Strategy took place in February and March 2009, accompanied by an initial sustainability appraisal, an initial equality impact assessment and two reports of initial consultation. The results of consultation will be made available for public

inspection through the Council's consultation website at <http://wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>.

- 5.7 Appendix 4.1 sets out the amended timetable for the remaining stages of production of the Core Strategy. The timetable takes account of recent amendments to national Regulations, progress on the completion of the necessary technical studies and guidance issued by the Planning Inspectorate on the minimum achievable timescales following submission.
- 5.8 The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy is now June 2011.

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

- 5.9 Government Office has advised that site specific proposals should now be presented in a single site-allocation Document, to better facilitate the consideration of mixed use developments. The preparation of a single site-allocation Document is now identified as the first priority following the adoption of the Core Strategy.
- 5.10 Appendix 4.2 sets out the timetable for the production of this Document. The target date for the adoption of the site-specific allocations Development Plan Document is now June 2013, to reflect the amended timetable for the Core Strategy.
- 5.11 Other site or area-specific Development Plan Documents may also be produced related to the future of Birkenhead including Wirral Waters and issues such as heritage and green infrastructure. A timetable for the production of these Documents will be included in a future review of the Local Development Scheme.

Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document

- 5.12 The proposal to prepare a Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document to cover the geographic areas of Liverpool City Council and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral and Halton Borough, was brought forward in the first review of the Local Development Scheme.
- 5.13 The Joint Waste DPD will promote sustainable waste management principles. It will ensure that Greater Merseyside contributes to meeting identified needs for all waste streams alongside other spatial concerns, provide for new capacity based on clear policy objectives, and set out agreed criteria for the allocation of suitable sites. Site allocations, for inclusion on the Proposals Map, will be supported by site-specific policies, alongside policies for speculative proposals on un-allocated sites.

- 5.14 The Merseyside Authorities and Halton Borough Council have formally agreed joint working arrangements. St Helens MBC is the lead authority. Work is being managed on behalf of the Authorities by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, advised by a Waste DPD Steering Group, with representatives from each Authority, reporting to the Merseyside Leaders and Chief Executives Group. The costs of preparation are shared between the six District Councils.
- 5.15 The Merseyside Joint Waste DPD is being prepared to reflect national policy statements², DEFRA guidance³ and the Local Development Schemes, Statements of Community Involvement and Annual Monitoring Reports for each District.
- 5.16 Consultation on Issues and Options began in March 2007. Appendix 4.3 sets out the future timetable, with a target date for adoption of April 2012. Progress on the preparation of the Joint Waste Development Plan Document can be viewed at <http://wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk/site.do>

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 5.17 Changes to national Regulations mean that the Local Development Scheme is no longer required to set out the timetables for the production of Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 5.18 The Council does not propose to prepare any additional Supplementary Planning Documents until work on the Core Strategy is further advanced. The preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents is, however, likely to prioritise matters related to:
- Design;
 - Affordable housing;
 - Green infrastructure;
 - Transport and accessibility; and
 - Developer contributions.

6 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Council consulted on a draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework, during August 2005, as a guide to the individual appraisals to be carried out as part of the preparation of the Local Development Framework. The final Framework was adopted in July 2006.

² Such as Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005) and Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004)

³ Guidance on the Preparation of Municipal Waste Management Strategies (July 2005)

- 6.2 An independent panel was appointed to oversee the appraisal processes in October 2006 and has already considered the comments received on the scope of the sustainability appraisals for the Core Strategy and the Supplementary Planning Document for Parking. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Core Strategy was adopted in July 2007.
- 6.3 A review of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, building on experience from the initial appraisals and the emerging lessons of regional best practice, will be carried out when resources allow.

7 EVIDENCE BASE

- 7.1 A number of specialist technical studies have been commissioned to establish the evidence base for the Core Strategy DPD. These studies include:
- Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment⁴
 - Wirral Strategic Housing Market and Housing Needs Assessment⁵
 - Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study
 - Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure Study
 - Wirral Open Space and Recreation Audit⁶
 - Wirral Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity Audit
 - Wirral Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
 - Wirral Landscape Character Assessment
 - Merseyside Minerals Study⁷
 - Merseyside Renewable Energy Potential Assessment⁸
 - Wirral Social and Community Infrastructure Requirements Study⁹
- 7.2 The majority of these studies have been undertaken in consultation with local stakeholders by external consultants appointed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.
- 7.3 Separate evidence prepared by consultants on behalf of Peel Holdings in support of the Wirral Waters development project can be viewed at <http://www.wirralwaters.co.uk/>.

⁴ Commissioned jointly with Liverpool City Council

⁵ The initial Strategic Housing Market and Housing Needs Assessment, commissioned by the Council in 2006, was reported to the Council's Cabinet in February 2008. An update of this study, to include a strategic economic viability assessment, is underway and is due to report in during 2009.

⁶ Prepared as part of the contract for the preparation of a Strategic Forward Plan for Cultural Services

⁷ Commissioned jointly by the Merseyside authorities through Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

⁸ Commissioned jointly by the Merseyside authorities through Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

⁹ To be prepared in-house

- 7.4 The Prioritised Programme for 2009/10 and 2010/11 for the Mersey Heartlands New Growth Point can be viewed at [http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/Published/C00000121/M00000726/AI00005004/\\$HeartlansCABCS090625REP4A.docA.ps.pdf](http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/Published/C00000121/M00000726/AI00005004/$HeartlansCABCS090625REP4A.docA.ps.pdf)

8 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

- 8.1 Documents forming part of the emerging Local Development Framework for Wirral will be made available for public inspection at public libraries, at the public counter of the Technical Services Department and on the Council's website at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/content_0001523.html in accordance with the standards set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.
- 8.2 The Council has purchased Limehouse document creation and consultation management software and intends to use it in full from the Core Strategy Spatial Options stage onwards, to publish and consult on planning-related documents and encourage the use of online consultation. The on-line consultation portal can be found at <http://wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>.
- 8.3 Paper copies will continue to be available, on request, from the Corporate Services Department, for a reasonable charge.

9 RESOURCES

- 9.1 The Strategic Development Division in the Corporate Services Department has primary responsibility for the preparation of the Local Development Framework.
- 9.2 The preparation of the Local Development Framework is co-ordinated by a team of eight officers in the Forward Planning Section of the Strategic Development Division, reporting to the Council's Cabinet, subject to the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.3 The estimated costs for the production of each Local Development Document are set out in Appendix 4.

10 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The revised timetable for the preparation of the Local Development Framework is challenging. A register of the likely risks to delivery of the timetable set out in this report is being prepared based on previous experience. The principal risks identified relate to:
- The need for specialist officers to support development management decisions, planning appeals and call-in inquiries;
 - Delays to accommodate local and national election processes;

- The time required to gain the necessary approvals and the dates available for future Council/Cabinet meetings;
- The possible call-in of Cabinet decisions for further scrutiny;
- The availability and turnover of specialist officers within the Forward Planning Team;
- Changes in national legislation, policies and guidance;
- The unexpected findings of evidence base studies and statutory assessments such as sustainability appraisals, strategic environmental assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessments;
- Significant objections from statutory consultees and other stakeholders; and
- Limited take-up of on-line consultation leading to additional time for the manual inputting of consultation data.

10.2 The risk register will be regularly updated and published on the Council's web site at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/content_0001523.html

11 MONITORING & REVIEW

11.1 Progress on DPD preparation is reviewed in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. Previous Annual Monitoring Reports for Wirral can be viewed on the Council's website at http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/content_0001673.html. The timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme itself should, however, only be reviewed exceptionally.

11.2 The North West Regional Assembly is also required to submit and publish a regional Annual Monitoring Report. Copies of regional monitoring reports can be viewed on the Assembly's website at <http://www.nwriu.co.uk/aboutus/2329.aspx>.

12 USEFUL CONTACTS

12.1 Forward Planning, Strategic Development, Corporate Services, North Annexe, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED

- Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager: 0151 691 8218
- John Entwistle, Principal Forward Planning Officer: 0151 691 8221

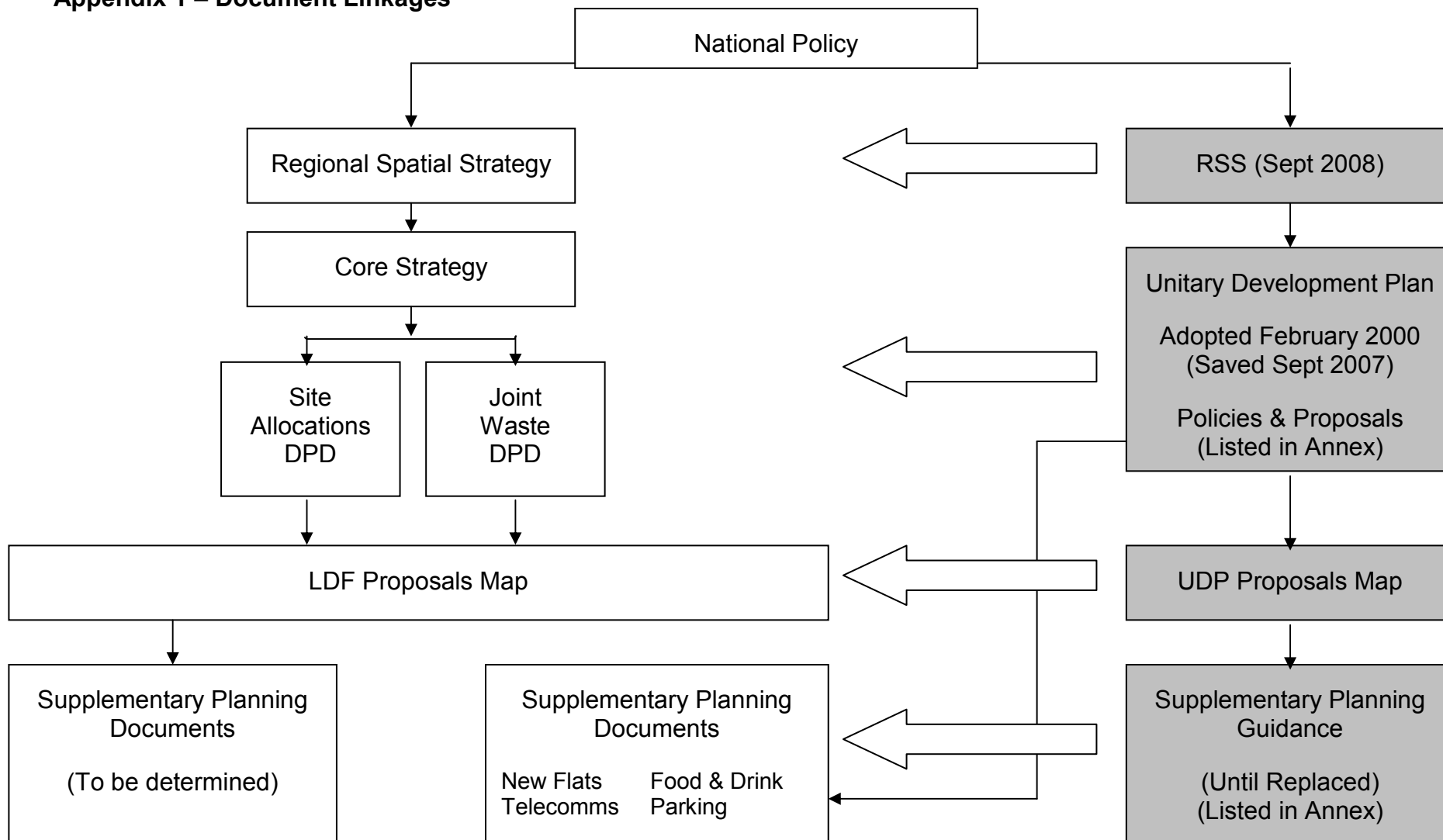
13 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 The following documents provide additional information on Local Development Framework processes and requirements:

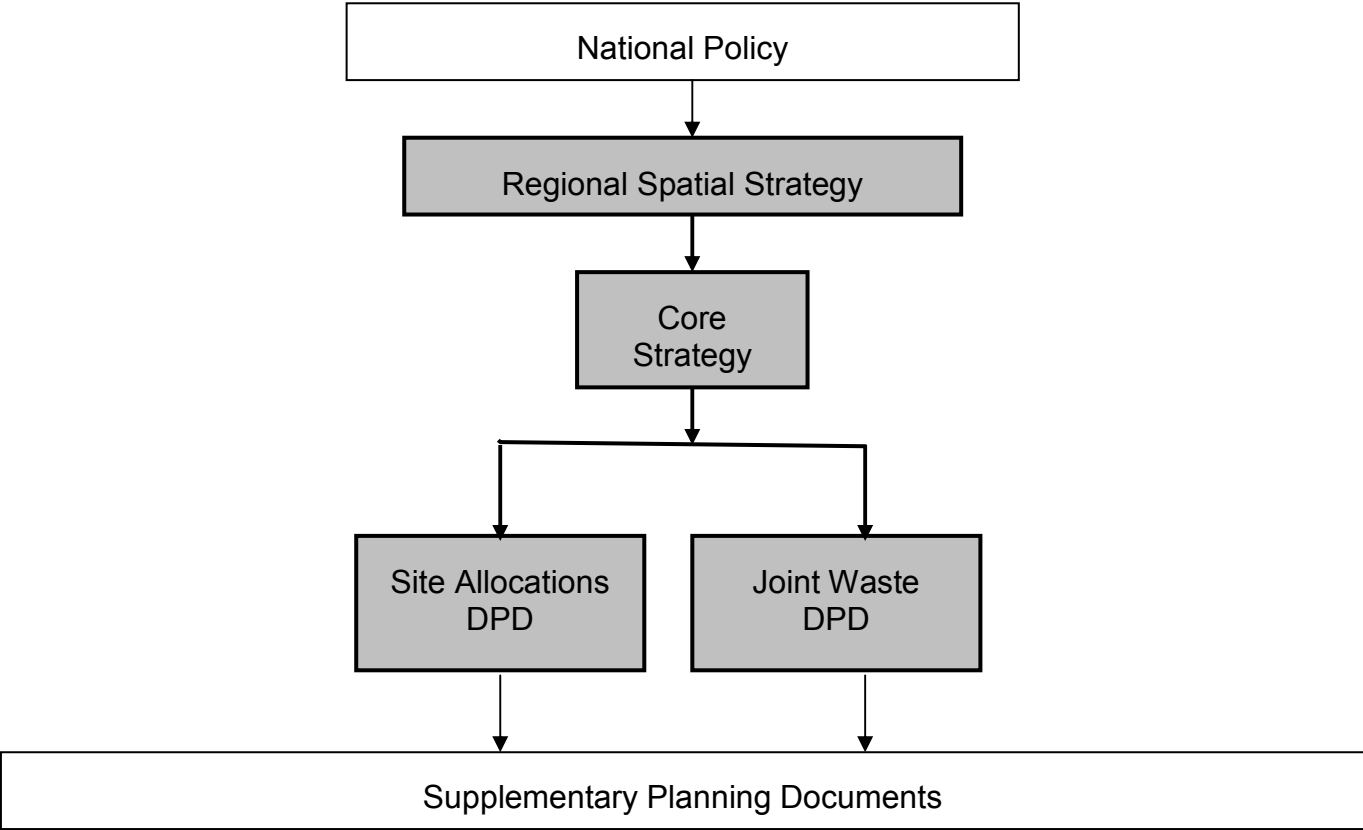
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HMSO 2004, Chapter 5)

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 2204)
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2008 (HMSO SI 2008 No.1371)
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2009 (HMSO SI 2009 No.401)
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 1633)
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (HMSO, 1994 No 2716) (as amended)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning (CLG, 2008)
- The Plan Making Manual (www.pas.gov.uk)
- Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, 2005)
- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

Appendix 1 – Document Linkages



Appendix 2 – Chain of Conformity



Documents with Development
Plan Status

Appendix 4 – Local Development Document Profiles

APPENDIX 4.1 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROFILE ¹⁰

Document Name: Core Strategy		Status: Development Plan Document
Purpose: To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: 15 years
Chain of Conformity: Regional Spatial Strategy, Wirral Sustainable Community Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
Departmental Responsibility: Corporate Services Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Acting Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders: Government Office Regional Leaders Forum (4NW) North West Development Agency English Partnerships Homes and Communities Agency New Heartlands Board Local Strategic Partnership Mersey Partnership Primary Care Trusts Wirral Area Forums Highways Agency Environment Agency Natural England English Heritage Regeneration Department Local Amenity Societies Developers & Landowners Cheshire West and Chester Council Liverpool City Council Sefton Borough Council Flintshire County Council
Commencement:	July 2005*	
SA Scoping:	July 2006*	
Initial Consultation:	September 2007*	
Issues Vision and Objectives:	February 2009*	
Spatial Options: (Regulation 25)	November 2009	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	March/April 2010	
Publication: (Regulation 27)	July/August 2010	
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	August/September 2010	
Submission: (Regulation 30/31)	October 2010	
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	November 2010	
Hearing:	January/February 2011	
Inspectors Report:	April 2011	
Adoption:	June 2011	
Re-Publish Proposals Map:	No	
Evidence Base: Listed in Appendix 6 Community Consultation		Additional Resources: 2009/10 £83,000 2010/11 £98,000 2011/12 £90,000

¹⁰ Dates marked * have already been achieved

APPENDIX 4.2 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROFILE

Document Name: Site Allocations		Status: Development Plan Document	
Purpose: To allocate land for new residential, employment, retail and leisure development to secure an adequate supply of land for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other uses and to provide a mechanism to phase development to meet regeneration priorities.			
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: up to 15 years	
Chain of Conformity: Regional Spatial Strategy, Core Strategy, Wirral Sustainable Community Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment	
Departmental Responsibility: Corporate Services Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Acting Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218	
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders:	
Commencement:	June 2011	Government Office Regional Leaders Forum (4NW) North West Development Agency Homes and Communities Agency House Builders Federation Wirral Strategic Housing Partnership Wirral Investment Network Local Strategic Partnership Developers & Landowners Highways Agency Environment Agency Natural England English Heritage Local Amenity Societies Wirral Area Forums Regeneration Department Technical Services Department Cheshire West and Chester Council Liverpool City Council Sefton Borough Council Flintshire County Council	
SA Scoping:	June 2011		
Issue and Options: (Regulation 25)	July/August 2011		
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	February/April 2012		
Publication: (Regulation 27)	July/August 2012		
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	August/Sept 2012		
Submission: (Regulations 30/31)	October 2012		
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	November 2012		
Hearing:	January/February 2013		
Inspectors Report	April 2013		
Adoption:	June 2013		
Re-Publication of Proposals Map:	Yes		
Evidence Base: Listed in Appendix 6 Community Consultation			

APPENDIX 4.3 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROFILE¹¹

Document Name: Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document		Status: Joint Development Plan Document ¹²	
Purpose: To establish up-to-date policies for the provision of waste management facilities.			
Coverage: Halton Borough Council, Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough, St Helens Borough Council and the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral		Time Period: At least 10 years	
Chain of Conformity: Regional Spatial Strategy, Core Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report	
Departmental Responsibility: Corporate Services Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Acting Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218	
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders:	
Commencement:	December 2006*	Government Office Regional Leaders Forum (4NW) Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority Waste Operators Greater Merseyside Local Authorities Wirral Area Forums Local Amenity Societies Regeneration Department Technical Services Department	
SA Scoping:	December 2006*		
Issues and Options: (Regulation 25)	March 2007*		
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	Feb/March 2010		
Publication: (Regulation 27)	January 2011		
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	Jan/March 2011		
Submission to SoS: (Regulations 30/31)	March 2011		
Pre-Hearing meeting:	May 2011		
Hearing:	July 2011		
Inspector's Report:	January 2012		
Adoption:	April 2012		
Re-Publication of Proposals Map:	May 2012 ¹³		
Evidence Base: National Waste Strategy Regional Waste Strategy Merseyside Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy		Additional Resources:	
		2009/10	£48,563
		2010/11	£70,894
		2011/12	£42,284

¹¹ Dates marked * have already been achieved

¹² The Greater Merseyside Districts of Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton, Wirral and Halton have formally agreed the timetable for the production of the Joint Waste DPD. Further details are set out at paragraph 5.13 above.

¹³ The publication of the Proposals Map will be undertaken alongside the changes arising from the Site-Allocation DPD (Appendix 4.2).

Appendix 5 - Summary of Content and Procedures

(i) Core Strategy

1. The Core Strategy is intended to set out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough, for a period of up to fifteen years. The Core Strategy can indicate broad locations but will not be site specific.
2. The Core Strategy is the key Local Development Document from which all other documents within the Local Development Framework must flow. Following the consideration of issues and options, a draft Strategy must be published for public consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent public examination.
3. The Core Strategy must be prepared in conformity with national and regional policy, as expressed through the Regional Spatial Strategy. A written certificate of conformity must be requested from the Regional Planning Body when the Core Strategy is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent public examination.

(ii) Statement of Community Involvement

4. The Statement of Community Involvement is intended to set local standards for community involvement in planning decisions.
5. A draft Statement must be produced to ask the community how they would wish to be consulted on Local Development Documents and planning applications. Once adopted, all Local Development Documents must be prepared in conformity with the standards set out in the Statement.

(iii) Development Plan Documents

6. Development Plan Documents are site-specific or topic based documents and can include strategies such as master plans and Action Area Plans produced in support of area-based regeneration initiatives. They can contain detailed policies for development control and set out land allocations for uses such housing, retail and employment.
7. Development Plan Documents must be prepared using the same statutory processes as the Core Strategy. Following the consideration of issues and options, a draft Document must be published for public consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent public examination.
8. Development Plan Documents must be prepared in conformity with the Core Strategy, as well as with national and regional policy. A written certificate of conformity must be requested from the Regional Planning Body when the Development Plan Document is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent public examination.

(iv) Proposals Map

9. A Proposals Map must be prepared alongside adopted Development Plan Documents to illustrate the geographical application of the Council's policies to a recognised scale. It will include areas designated for protection, such as the Green Belt and Conservation Areas, as well as land allocated for development.
10. The Proposals Map must be kept up-to-date and must be amended every time a new Development Plan Document is adopted.

(v) Supplementary Planning Documents

11. Supplementary Planning Documents do not have status as part of the Development Plan but, if produced in accordance with the statutory procedures, will be material considerations in planning decisions. The procedures involve only public consultation and sustainability appraisal. Supplementary Planning Documents are not subject to independent public examination.
12. Supplementary Planning Documents cannot be used to allocate land for development and must be clearly linked to the application of an adopted policy or proposal from the “saved” Unitary Development Plan, from the Core Strategy or from another adopted Development Plan Document.

(vi) Annual Monitoring Report

13. An Annual Monitoring Report must be submitted to Secretary of State by December each year, to report on progress on the Local Development Framework and on development trends during the previous year to 31 March.

(vii) The Unitary Development Plan

14. The Unitary Development Plan is an “old-style” Borough wide development plan produced under the previous development plan system and adopted in February 2000. The majority of the policies and proposals in the Unitary Development Plan have been “saved” to remain in force beyond September 2007. A list of deleted policies is included at Appendix 8.
15. “Saved” policies and proposals will remain in force until they are replaced by part of a “new-style” document. The Core Strategy will replace some of the higher-level policies. Other more detailed policies will need to be replaced by Local Development Documents still to be produced. The status and anticipated destination of each of the policies and proposals in the Unitary Development Plan is set out in an Annexe to the Local Development Scheme.

(viii) Supplementary Planning Guidance

16. The Council currently operates over 40 “old-style” Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes to provide further advice to applicants on development control. These Notes have not been prepared under the new procedures and a programme of review will need to be undertaken to prepare a new series of Supplementary Planning Documents.

(ix) Sustainability Appraisal

17. The Council is under a legal duty to exercise plan-making functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.
18. Development Plan Documents must be made subject to a statutory sustainability appraisal process. A sustainability appraisal report must be produced for public inspection at each stage in the document preparation process. Following the coming into force of the Planning Act 2008 and subsequent regulations, not all SPDs will be subject to sustainability appraisal.

(x) Strategic Environmental Assessment

19. Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents must also be formally assessed for their likely effects on the environment, in consultation with the Consultation Bodies: English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
20. Where the environmental effects are likely to be significant, an additional environmental report must be prepared as part of the sustainability appraisal process.

(xi) Habitats Directive Assessment

21. Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents must be formally assessed for their likely effects on the conservation objectives of European sites¹⁴ to ensure that the proposals will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site.

¹⁴ Designated by the European Union as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Offshore Marine Sites

Appendix 6 – Evidence Base

1. Completed Studies

- 2001 Census;
- Merseyside Urban Capacity Study (2003);
- Merseyside Housing Demand Study (2003);
- Housing Market Renewal Strategy for Inner Wirral (2003);
- Wirral Strategic Integrated Investment Framework (2003);
- Wirral Playing Pitch Assessment (2003);
- Wirral Retail Assessment (2004);
- Wirral Tourism Strategy and Action Plan to 2015 (2004);
- West Kirby & Hoylake Masterplan (2004);
- Cheshire Review of Regionally Important Geological Sites (2004);
- Merseyside Green Belt Study (2005);
- Merseyside Employment Land Study (2005);
- Wirral Hotel Futures Report (2005);
- Interim Housing Policy for Wirral (2005);
- New Heartlands Prospectus 2006/07 to 2009/10
- Wirral Investment Strategy
- North West Employment Land Study (2005);
- North West Town Centre Assessment Study (2005);
- North West Regional Technical Advisory Board - Waste Management Technical Report;
- DEFRA North West Municipal Waste Management Survey;
- Merseyside Broad Site Search for Potential Sites for Waste Management Facilities (2005);
- Initial Needs Assessment for Waste Management Facilities in Merseyside (2005).
- Wirral Biodiversity Action Plan (2005)
- Housing Market Renewal Fiveways Masterplan (2005);
- Housing Market Renewal North Birkenhead Masterplan (2005)
- Housing Market Renewal Church Road Masterplan (2005);
- Index of Multiple Deprivation for England (2007);
- Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation: Wirral's rural areas ;
- Merseyside Historic Landscape Characterisation: Wirral's urban areas ;
- Wirral Waters Strategic Regeneration Framework

2. Regular Studies

- ONS Population Data (as notified)
- NOMIS Socio-Economic Data (continuous)
- National Land Use Database (annual);
- Wirral Land and Property Database (continuous);
- Wirral Development Control System (continuous);
- Wirral Housing Land Database (continuous);
- Merseyside Economic Review (annual);
- Wirral Employment Land Database (continuous);
- Wirral Retail Database (continuous);
- Wirral Wildlife Surveys of Sites of Biological Importance (continuous);
- Environment Agency Indicative Flood Maps (as notified);
- Wirral Annual Monitoring Reports (annual);
- North West Annual Monitoring Reports (annual).

3. Forthcoming Studies

- Woodside Regeneration Area Masterplan;
- Hind Street Regeneration Area Masterplan;
- Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment¹⁵
- Wirral Strategic Housing Market and Housing Needs Assessment Update, including viability assessment¹⁶,
- Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study
- Wirral Town Centres, Retail and Commercial Leisure Study
- Wirral Open Space and Recreation Audit¹⁷
- Wirral Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity Audit
- Wirral Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Wirral Landscape Character Assessment
- Wirral Social and Community Infrastructure Requirements Study¹⁸
- Merseyside Minerals Study¹⁹
- Merseyside Renewable Energy Potential Assessment²⁰
- Integrated Regeneration Study for Birkenhead and Wirral Waters

¹⁵ Commissioned jointly with Liverpool City Council

¹⁶ The initial Strategic Housing Market and Housing Needs Assessment, commissioned by the Council in 2006, was reported to the Council's Cabinet in February 2008. An update of this study to include a strategic economic viability assessment is underway and is due to report during 2009

¹⁷ Prepared as part of a Strategic Forward Plan for Cultural Services

¹⁸ To be prepared in-house

¹⁹ Commissioned jointly by the Merseyside authorities through Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

²⁰ Commissioned jointly by the Merseyside authorities through Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

Appendix 7 – Adopted Local Development Documents

1. Statement of Community Involvement

Statement of Community Involvement - Adopted December 2006

- a copy of the final document can be viewed at
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/FinalAdoptedSCIDec06.pdf>

2. Supplementary Planning Documents

SPD1 – Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators – Adopted October 2006

- a copy of the final document can be viewed at
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/SPD1Telecommunications301006.pdf>

SPD2 – Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions – Adopted October 2006

- a copy of the final document can be viewed at
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/SPD2FlatsAdopted301006.pdf>

SPD3 – Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments – Adopted October 2006

– a copy of the final document can be viewed at
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ldf/SPD3Food&DrinkAdopted301006.pdf>

SPD4 – Parking Standards - Adopted June 2007

– a copy of the final document can be viewed at
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/LGCL/100006/200074/856/SPD4Parking25Jun07.pdf>

Appendix 8 – Policies and Proposals No Longer in Force

Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (adopted February 2000)

1. Part One Policies:

Policy HSG1 – New Dwelling Requirement

Policy WMT1 – Landfill Provision

2. Part Two Policies and Proposals:

Policy EM10 – Birkenhead and Eastham Dock Estates

Policy EM11 – Bidston Observatory and the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory

Proposal HS2 – Land at Noctorum Way, Noctorum

Proposal HS3 – Land to the East of Fender Farm, Moreton

Proposal RE3 – New Neighbourhood Indoor Sports Facilities

Proposal RE4 – New Neighbourhood Swimming Pool, Beechwood

Policy RE5 – Criteria for the Protection of Playing Fields

Policy RE7 – Criteria for the Protection of School Playing Fields

Proposal TL3 – Land for Tourism Development at Wirral Waterfront

Policy TL6 – The Control of Tourism in Port Sunlight

Proposal TL8 – Land at the Former Derby Pool, New Brighton

Proposal NC9 – Dibbinsdale Nature Centre

Proposal TR4 – Birkenhead Central Bus Facility

Policy WM10 – Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of Waste Disposal Facilities

Policy WA7 – Heswall Drainage Catchment Area

Policy CO3 – Tourism and Leisure in the Coastal Zone