

WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SECTION 15

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR WIRRAL

FEBRUARY 2012

**BROUGHT INTO EFFECT
BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
FROM [DATE] 2012**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme for Wirral is a statutory document setting out the programme for the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework (or Local Plans), produced in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.2 Development Plan Documents within the Framework will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken by the Council and by others 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. Subsequent reviews took place in July 2006, July 2007 and January 2010.
- 2.2 This current document replaces the Local Development Scheme adopted by the Council on 15 February 2010.
- 2.3 Local Development Schemes no longer need to be approved by the Secretary of State before they can come 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.
- 3.2 The North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021, issued by the Secretary of State in September 2008, is to be revoked, once the appropriate provision of the Localism Act comes into force, in early 2012.

Unitary Development Plan

- 3.3 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/downloads/1856>.
- 3.4 The Unitary Development Plan Written Statement and Proposals Map can be viewed through the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/unitary-development-plan>.

- 3.5 The Unitary Development Plan will gradually be replaced by documents contained within the emerging Local Development Framework (or Local Plans) for Wirral.

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 future policies for the development and use of land within the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

- 4.2 These Documents will, over time, include:

- a Local Development Scheme;
- a Statement of Community Involvement;
- a Core Strategy Development Plan Document;
- a Site Allocations Development Plan Document;
- a Joint Waste Development Plan Document;
- a series of Neighbourhood Planning documents, including Neighbourhood Development Plans, prepared by the local community;
- a series of Supplementary Planning Documents;
- a Proposals Map; and
- a series of Monitoring Reports.

- 4.3 The links between the various documents are set out in Appendix 1.

- 4.4 Adopted Development Plan Documents, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the Proposals Map will have status alongside the Unitary Development Plan, as part of the statutory Development Plan for Wirral, until the Unitary Development Plan is fully replaced.

- 4.5 A list of the Local Development Documents that have already been adopted is provided at Appendix 6.

- 4.6 This review of the Local Development Scheme provides for the completion of the Core Strategy and Joint Waste DPD and the preparation of a Site-Allocations DPD.

Key Milestones

- 4.7 The future timetable for the Council's preparation of Development Plan Documents is set out in Appendix 3. A separate profile for each of the Development Plan Documents is attached at Appendix 4.

- 4.8 A continuously up-dated record of progress will be made available on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework>.

- 4.9 The information takes account of the changes proposed in the Localism Act 2011.

5 DOCUMENTS PROPOSED OR IN PREPARATION

Core Strategy Development Plan Document

- 5.1 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document is intended to set the long term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for future development in the Borough over the next 15 years.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy will also provide the framework for other area-based or site-specific matters to be addressed in subsequent Development Plan Documents and in Neighbourhood Planning documents.
- 5.3 The Core Strategy is now at the final stages of preparation. Public consultation on Issues, Vision and Objectives took place in February 2009, on Spatial Options in January 2010 and on Preferred Options in November 2010. Reports of consultation are available for each stage of the process undertaken so far.
- 5.4 Appendix 4.1 sets out the amended timetable for the remaining stages of the production of the Core Strategy. The timetable following submission of the Core Strategy will, however, largely be determined by the Planning Inspector appointed to undertake the independent public examination of the soundness of the proposals.
- 5.5 The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy, following submission to public examination in October 2012, is now August 2013.
- 5.6 Links to documents forming part of the evidence base to the Core Strategy can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/evidence-base>.

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

- 5.7 The preparation of a site-specific Site Allocation Development Plan Document, to show how the Core Strategy will be implemented in each local area and to replace the Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map, will be the first priority following the adoption of the Core Strategy.
- 5.8 Appendix 4.2 sets out the indicative timetable for the production of this Document. The target date for the adoption of the site-specific allocations Development Plan Document would currently be August 2015. The final timetable will be reviewed following the adoption of the Core Strategy.
- 5.9 Other site or area-specific Development Plan Documents may also be produced related to the future of Birkenhead including Wirral Waters

and to cover 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, once the necessary resources have been identified.

Joint Waste Development Plan Document for Merseyside and Halton

- 5.10 The proposal to prepare a Joint Waste Development Plan Document to cover Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral was brought forward in the first review of the Local Development Scheme.
- 5.11 The Joint Waste DPD is intended to promote sustainable waste management, ensure that Merseyside and Halton contribute to meeting identified needs for all waste streams and identify suitable sites for new waste-related development.
- 5.12 Work has been 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 Liverpool City Region Leaders and Chief Executives. The costs of preparation have been shared between the six District Councils based on the level of waste arisings within each district.
- 5.13 The Joint Waste DPD is now at the final stages of preparation. Consultation was undertaken on Issues and Options in March 2007, on Spatial Strategy and Sites in November 2008, on Preferred Options in May 2010 and on Additional Sites in May 2011. The Proposed Submission Draft Waste DPD was published in November 2011.
- 5.14 Appendix 4.3 sets out the future timetable, with a target date for adoption of December 2012, following submission for public examination in February 2012.
- 5.15 Progress on the preparation of the Joint Waste Development Plan Document can be viewed at <http://wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk/site.do>

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 5.16 The Local Development Scheme is no longer required to set out the timetable for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 5.17 Four Supplementary Planning Documents, for flat developments, telecommunications, food and drink and parking were adopted in accordance with earlier Local Development Schemes. Work on any further Supplementary Planning Documents was, however, postponed until work on the Core Strategy could be further advanced.
- 5.18 The need for additional Supplementary Planning Documents will be identified in the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy but is currently expected to include:

- Housing Design and Layout;
- Green infrastructure Design and Layout;
- Town Centre Design Guidelines;
- Water Environment;
- Developer Contributions; and
- Area Action Plan Guidelines for Birkenhead.

Neighbourhood Planning Documents

- 5.19 Neighbourhood Planning documents are prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council to provide further detail on planning proposals within local areas.
- 5.20 Devonshire Park Residents Association, Hoylake Village Life, and Central Liscard Area Residents Association have been nationally designated as Neighbourhood Planning “Front Runners”. Initial consultation on likely proposals began in Devonshire Park in August 2011 and in Hoylake in November 2011 to decide how the new powers for neighbourhood planning will be taken forward.
- 5.21 Further applications may also be submitted by other appropriate community groups during the period of this Local Development Scheme. Although the timetable for preparation of relevant documents will be led by the local communities involved, they will need to be taken account of in future reviews of the Scheme.
- 5.22 Progress on the preparation of neighbourhood planning documents can be viewed at [\[web-link\]](#).
- 5.23 The preparation of Neighbourhood Planning documents is governed by separate national Regulations.

6 DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

- 6.1 Council documents forming part of the emerging Local Development Framework for Wirral will be made available for public inspection at One Stop Shops, public libraries and at the public counter of the Technical Services Department in Birkenhead and on-line at <http://wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal> in accordance with the standards set out in the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement.
- 6.2 Documents from previous stages of consultation can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework>. Paper copies will also continue to be available, on request, from the Regeneration, Housing and Planning Department, for a reasonable charge.

7 RESOURCES

- 7.1 The Strategic Development Service in the Regeneration, Housing and Planning Department has primary responsibility for the preparation of the Local Development Framework, co-ordinated by a team of eight officers in the Forward Planning Section, reporting to the Council's Cabinet, subject to the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The principal risks to the delivery of the timetable set out in this Local Development Scheme are set out in Appendix 8 and will be kept under constant review.
- 8.2 The risk register will be regularly updated on the Council's web site at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/local-development-scheme>.

9 MONITORING & REVIEW

- 9.1 Progress on DPD preparation is reviewed in the Council's Monitoring Reports. The latest information on progress is also available at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework>
- 9.2 Previous Monitoring Reports for Wirral can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/annual-monitoring-reports>.

10 USEFUL CONTACTS

- 10.1 Forward Planning, Strategic Development, Regeneration, Housing and Planning Department, 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

11 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

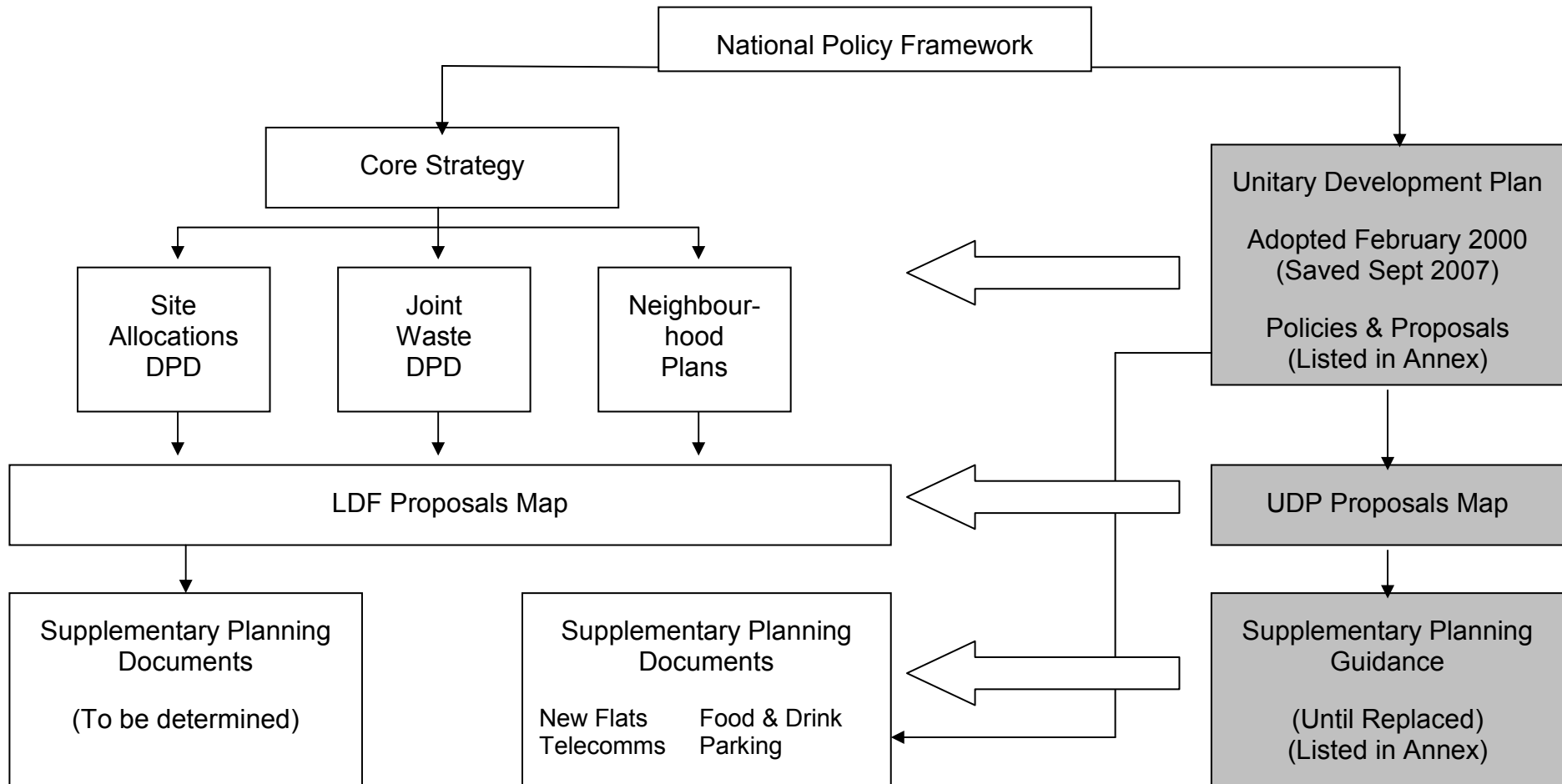
- 11.1 The following documents provide additional information on Local Development Framework processes and requirements:
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HMSO 2004, Chapter 5)
 - Localism Act 2011 (HMSO 2011, Chapter 20)
 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 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)¹
- 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 (PPS12): Creating Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning (CLG, 2008)²
- The Plan Making Manual (www.pas.gov.uk)
- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

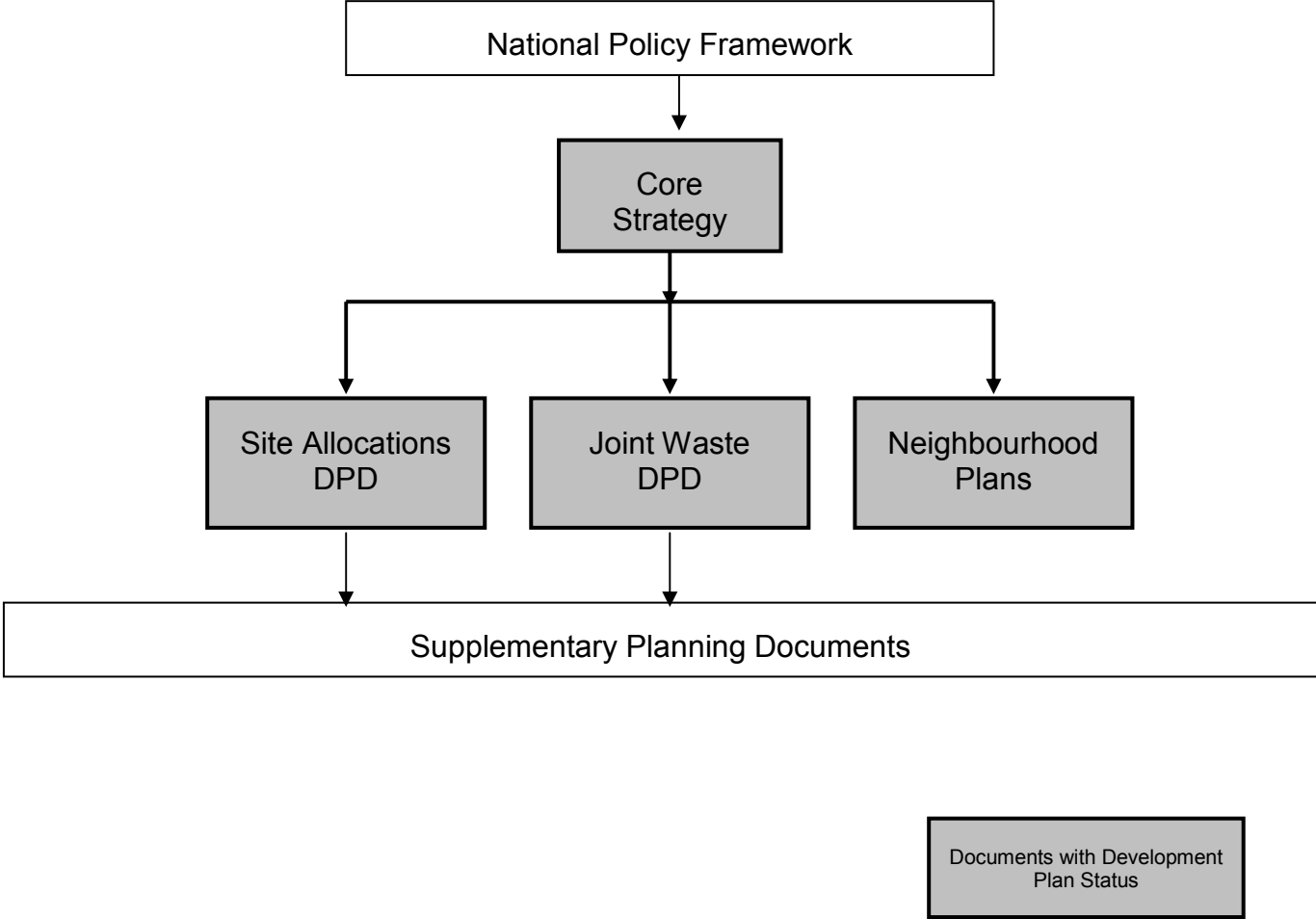
¹ SI 2004 No 2204; 2008 No 1371; and 2009 No 401 are expected to be replaced and supplemented by new Local Planning and Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, following the enactment of the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in early 2012

² PPS12 is expected to be replaced by a National Planning Policy Framework in early 2012

Appendix 1 – Document Linkages



Appendix 2 – Chain of Conformity



Appendix 3 - Document Production 2009/2014

			2011/12												2012/13														
Document	Type	Ref	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4					
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M			
Core Strategy	DPD	4.1										C						D			S			P			E		
Site Allocations	DPD	4.2																											B
Merseyside Joint Waste	DPD	4.3		C							D			S	P		E				R			A					

			2013/14												2014/15														
Document	Type	Ref	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4					
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M			
Core Strategy	DPD	4.1			R		A																						
Site Allocations	DPD	4.2						I						C				D			S			P			E		

			2015/16												2016/17														
Document	Type	Ref	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4					
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M			
Site Allocations	DPD	4.2			R		A																						

KEY

B = Start Work, Research and Scoping

I = Initial Consultation

C = Preferred Options Consultation

D = Publication of Proposed Submission Draft

S = Submission to Secretary of State

P = Pre-Hearing Meeting

E = Examination Hearing

R = Receipt of Inspector's Report

A = Adoption

Appendix 4 – Local Development Document Profiles

APPENDIX 4.1 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROFILE ³

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: National Planning Policy Framework Wirral Sustainable Community Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
Departmental Responsibility: Regeneration Housing and Planning Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders: Homes and Communities Agency Local Strategic Partnership The Mersey Partnership Primary Care Trusts Wirral Area Forums Highways Agency Environment Agency Natural England Countryside Council for Wales English Heritage Local Amenity Societies Developers & Landowners Utilities Providers 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)	January 2010*	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	November 2010*	
Settlement Areas (Regulation 25)	January/February 2012*	
Publication: (Regulation 27)	July/August 2012	
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	July/September 2012	
Submission: (Regulation 30/31)	October 2012	
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	December 2012	
Hearing:	February 2013	
Inspectors Report:	June 2013	
Adoption:	August 2013	
Re-Publish Proposals Map:	No	

³ 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 other uses to implement the policies of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document.			
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: up to 15 years	
Chain of Conformity: National Planning Policy Framework Core Strategy Wirral Sustainable Community Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment	
Departmental Responsibility: Regeneration Housing and Planning Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218	
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders:	
Commencement:	March 2013	Homes and Communities Agency Wirral Strategic Housing Partnership Wirral Investment Network Local Strategic Partnership Developers & Landowners Highways Agency Environment Agency Natural England English Heritage Countryside Council for Wales Local Amenity Societies Wirral Area Forums Utilities Providers Technical Services Department Cheshire West and Chester Council Liverpool City Council Sefton Borough Council Flintshire County Council	
SA Scoping:	March 2013		
Issue and Options: (Regulation 25)	September/ October 2013		
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	March/April 2014		
Publication: (Regulation 27)	July 2014		
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	July/Sept 2014		
Submission: (Regulations 30/31)	October 2014		
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	December 2014		
Hearing:	February 2015		
Inspectors Report	June 2015		
Adoption:	August 2015		
Re-Publication of Proposals Map:	Yes		

APPENDIX 4.3 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT PROFILE⁴

Document Name: Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document		Status: Joint Development Plan Document ⁵
Purpose: To establish up-to-date policies for the provision of waste management facilities.		
Coverage: Halton Borough, Liverpool City and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral		Time Period: 15 years
Chain of Conformity: National Planning Policy Framework National Waste Strategy Core Strategy		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Reports
Departmental Responsibility: Regeneration Housing and Planning Department		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders: Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority Waste Operators Merseyside Local Authorities and Halton Local Amenity Societies Technical Services Department
Commencement:	December 2006*	
SA Scoping:	December 2006*	
Issues and Options: (Regulation 25)	March 2007*	
Spatial Strategy (Regulation 25)	November 2008*	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 25)	May 2010*	
Preferred Options 2 (Regulation 25)	May 2011*	
Publication: (Regulation 27)	November 2011*	
Representations: (Regulation 28/29)	November 2011/ January 2012*	
Submission to SoS: Regulations 30/31)	February 2012	
Pre-Hearing meeting:	April 2012	
Hearing:	June 2012	
Inspector's Report:	October 2012	
Adoption:	December 2012	
Re-Publication of Proposals Map:	Yes	

⁴ Dates marked * have already been achieved

⁵ The Councils for 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 5.10 above.

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 will indicate broad locations but will not be site specific.
2. 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 policy and be prepared in co-operation with neighbouring authorities.

(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 management and set out land allocations for uses such as 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 policy.

(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 site-specific Development Plan Document is adopted.

(v) Supplementary Planning Documents

11. Supplementary Planning Documents do not have status as part of the Development Plan but will be material considerations in planning decisions if produced in accordance with statutory procedures, including public consultation. 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 another adopted Development Plan Document.

(vi) Monitoring Reports

13. Monitoring Reports must be published to report on progress and on the delivery of development. Reports must be no more than a year apart.

(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 7.
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 management. 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 accompanied by a statutory sustainability appraisal report.

(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 to ensure that the proposals will not have an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of European Sites⁶.

(xii) Neighbourhood Planning Documents

22. Neighbourhood Planning documents, including Neighbourhood Development Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders, are prepared by a qualifying body or community organisation and adopted by the Council following a local referendum.
23. Neighbourhood Planning documents must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area and with national policy.

⁶ Designated by the European Union as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Offshore Marine Sites

Appendix 6 – 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/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/statement-community-involvement>

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/downloads/1285>

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/downloads/1279>

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/downloads/1282>

SPD4 – Parking Standards - Adopted June 2007 – a copy of the final document can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/1310>

Appendix 7 – 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

Appendix 8 – Risk Assessment

Risk	Description	Control Measures
Political	Risk of political approval being withheld and/or change of leadership and/or direction and/or political priorities	Consultation and involvement of Members in the LDF preparation process in order to provide ownership, leadership and commitment to future implementation
Financial - constrained Council budgets, increases in Planning Inspectorate fees	Risk of inadequate financial provision hindering progress and scope of work required	Regularly report on budget requirements and minimise financial expenditure to ensure value for money, including joint and partnership working wherever feasible.
Staff turnover and recruitment difficulties	Staff turnover is difficult to predict. Risk of loss of key staff to other employment would severely affect our ability to progress the LDF work programme in a timely manner	Take prompt action to fill vacancies with staff with the appropriate skills. If considered appropriate, secure additional resources through use of consultants, temporary staff and internal secondment
Staff absence (e.g. long term sickness/maternity leave)	Reduced capacity causing slippage in programme	<p>Consider interim arrangements such as temporary appointments, use of agency staff or secondment, subject to resources</p> <p>The adequacy of staffing levels will be evaluated through the ongoing monitoring of the preparation of the LDF</p>
Lack of in-house skills for specialised areas of policy work/background studies	<p>Slow progress causing a slippage in programme</p> <p>Evidence base challenged or undermined</p> <p>Quality compromised</p>	<p>Obtain training for areas where expertise is lacking</p> <p>Review staffing requirements as part of annual service reviews</p> <p>Expand partnership working, where possible</p> <p>In some cases it will be more efficient to engage consultants where specialist skills are required to short timescales and in-house development is unrealistic</p>
Pressure on staff time due to competing work streams	Diverts team from LDF work causing slippage in programme	<p>Ensure LDF is recognised as a corporate priority</p> <p>Identify key staff to be “shielded” from other work, wherever possible</p>

Risk	Description	Control Measures
Legal	<p>Risk of non-compliance with legal procedures and requirements and/or judicial review leading to adopted DPD being quashed and additional workloads</p> <p>Changes in plan-making requirements/procedures can also result in delays</p>	<p>Ensure relevant legislation/ regulations are checked and complied with at each stage</p> <p>It is not possible to easily plan for further changes to the planning system. The Council will endeavor to deal with new requirements with minimum disruption to the timetable as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Third Parties	<p>Risk of comments and representations from third parties causing delay (including lengthening of examination) and/or additional expense from unexpected volumes and/or unforeseen issues arising</p>	<p>Consultation and involvement of relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Ensure timetable is realistic but has some flexibility built in</p> <p>Monitor progress against LDS</p> <p>Consider the need for additional resources as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Joint working with other internal departments and/or external authorities causes delay	<p>Key milestones in programme not met</p>	<p>Ensure timescales for DPDs realistically reflect partner authorities ability to contribute to joint working</p> <p>Ensure commitment to milestone dates and resource allocation is obtained from relevant parties in advance</p>
Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate	<p>Examination and/or Inspectors Report is delayed</p> <p>Key milestones in programme not met</p>	<p>Close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any problems</p> <p>The Council has sought to minimise the volume of issues to be resolved at examination, through ensuring a robust evidence base and wide pre-submission public consultation.</p>
Soundness – DPD found unsound by Planning Inspectorate	<p>DPD cannot be adopted without significant additional work, possibly including repeated stages of preparation and consultation</p>	<p>Ensure DPDs are legally compliant, founded on a robust evidence base, accompanied by appropriate assessments and appraisals and well-audited community and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Use of DPD self-assessment toolkit (published by national advisor PAS)</p> <p>Maintain awareness of best practice</p>