

## APPENDIX 6 – SUMMARY OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

<b>The size and diversity of the area</b>	
BHT1	The proposed area is too big to be manageable. The Localism Act is only appropriate for small community areas.
BHT2	The proposed area is far too large for the proposed forum. A reduced area excluding Hamilton Square, the Town Centre and Wirral Waters would be more appropriate.
BHT5	The boundary is so large and the area so diverse, as to constitute more than a single neighbourhood.
BHT9	Welcome the proposals to involve local residents, business and other bodies in developing a neighbourhood plan, as the process will generate ideas and innovative solutions appropriate to the challenges faced by this area but the scale of the area may be too large to facilitate the degree of focus required, given the range of issues faced by a significant proportion of local residents and businesses. Securing a sufficiently representative involvement of all the different interests across this area will be very challenging.
<b>The representative nature of the forum</b>	
BHT1	Unsure of who the group are and why they feel they can represent residents, business and commuting workers in the area. The group is totally unrepresentative of the people who live and work within the area. Concern that a group of this nature can be formed without consulting local businesses and at the potential for a few local residents to have undue influence over business applications, which should be controlled by the Council.
BHT5	The Forum is not representative of the local community and will not lead to a successful neighbourhood plan. The support of the commercial director of the Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre, included in the original application documents, is a complete fabrication.
<b>The proposed remit of the forum</b>	
BHT1	The proposed remit of the Forum is too wide. Forums under the Localism Act should only focus on delivering valid local heritage projects such as the Tunnels and Williamson Art Gallery and other targeted projects that lead to community involvement, pride and well-being.
<b>The inclusion of Birkenhead Town Centre</b>	
BHT2	Birkenhead is a major Town Centre which should be excluded.
BHT3	Birkenhead Town Centre, as the Borough's main commercial, retail and district centre, is beyond the remit of such a proposal.
BHT5	It is inappropriate to include the principal commercial area of Birkenhead, which is the main commercial district of a major Sub-Regional Centre, within a neighbourhood plan.
<b>The inclusion of Wirral Waters and the Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone</b>	
BHT2	The Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone should be excluded. The pro-active working between Peel Holdings and the Council should not be disturbed by a community led organisation.
BHT3	The Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone should be excluded, given the significant local, regional and national importance of Enterprise Zones.
BHT3	The partnership areas identified in the Wirral Waters planning application should also be excluded, given the significant local, regional and national importance of this proposal.

BHT4	Given the significant national importance of Enterprise Zones, the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone and its associated Partnership Areas should also be excluded.
<b>The impact on the proposed Business Improvement District for Birkenhead</b>	
BHT1 BHT2	There is potential for conflict with the Birkenhead Business Improvement District, which would also want to have an involvement in planning issues.
BHT3	Wirral Chamber of Commerce is currently working with partners, including Wirral Council and representatives of Birkenhead's private and voluntary sectors, to develop a Business Improvement District for Birkenhead, which will encompass the Town Centre, Hamilton Square, Egerton Dock and the surrounding areas.
BHT4	The area covered by the proposed Business Improvement District should be excluded, as it includes assets that belong to the whole of Wirral rather than just the surrounding neighbourhoods.
BHT3 BHT4	The Government is currently consulting on giving additional powers to Business Improvement Districts, with particular reference to planning and the application, if granted, would affect the Business Improvement District's ability to use those powers.
<b>The inclusion of Hamilton Square Conservation Area</b>	
BHT2	Hamilton Square is a predominantly Grade 1 listed environment and should not be under the control of a community who may not have the necessary expertise to deal with the issues involved
BHT3	The historic area of Hamilton Square is a nationally recognised asset which should be outside the scope of any proposed neighbourhood plan.
BHT4	Hamilton Square, an area of significant historic importance, should also be excluded
<b>Other Policy Issues</b>	
BHT6	The Environment Agency has no objection in principle to the application or to the boundary proposed. The proposed boundary contains pockets of Flood Zones 2 and 3, which will need to be considered when bringing forward any specific policies or development allocations.
BHT7	The Neighbourhood Plan could result in proposals that could impact on the safety and operation of railway land and infrastructure. Rights of access, requiring unblocked access, including for emergency vehicles must be retained. Any development over or near to an operational railway tunnel is particularly sensitive and any proposal within 10m of any operational railway land will require review and approval by the Network Rail Asset Protection Team, accompanied by a risk assessment and a method statement.
BHT8	United Utilities must be consulted on any future development or policies to ensure that the necessary infrastructure can be delivered at an appropriate time as future proposals emerge.
BHT9	The conservation areas of Hamilton Square and Clifton Park do not have a Conservation Area Advisory Committee to represent their local interests. The Wirral Conservation Area Forum would like to see Conservation Area Advisory Committees for both these areas but as independent entities rather than under the umbrella of a local planning process. The Wirral Conservation Area Forum would be happy to work with the Forum and the Council to bring Conservation Area Advisory Committees for Hamilton Square and Clifton Park into being. The Wirral Conservation Area Forum are particularly concerned about the lack of a Conservation Area Advisory Committee for Hamilton Square given its national appeal as an outstanding conservation area, particularly as it is defined as at risk by Historic England.

BHT10	Natural England should be consulted on any future proposals including any Strategic Environmental Assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessments screening and Environmental Assessments. Opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment should be considered and the Forum should ensure that sufficient information is provided to fully understand the nature of any negative impact on a local wildlife site, protected species or Biodiversity Action Plan species.
BHT12	Supports the principle of a statutory community-led forum to prepare a neighbourhood plan but the rights of the port will need to be preserved, to prevent the addition of another unnecessary layer of planning framework. The existing Port Master Plan should be used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan, to reflect proposals that already exist.
BHT13	It will be important to ensure that any strategy will safeguard the significance of the heritage assets within the area, to ensure that character of the area is retained. The local Historic Environment Record who can provide further details of designated heritage assets, locally important buildings and archaeological remains. Local voluntary groups such as civic societies and historical associations should be involved. A specific policy for assets at risk or in need of new uses or repair and to protect and enhance important aspects of setting should be considered.

List of respondents:

Environment Agency  
 P Griffiths  
 Historic England  
 McDonalds Franchise  
 McEwan Wallace  
 Natural England  
 Network Rail  
 Peel Ports  
 Pyramids Shopping Centre  
 Smith and Sons  
 The Office of Rail and Road  
 United Utilities  
 Wirral Chamber of Commerce  
 Wirral Conservation Area Forum