

APPENDIX 1 - LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of the Local Plan Working Group

To enable detailed consideration, guidance and support for the development of the Wirral Local Plan and to aid greater understanding of the key issues which the Local Plan must consider, and the reasonable options that exist to address those issues.

Role of the Local Plan Working Group

1. To consider and comment on documents that relate to the Local Plan including (but not restricted to) policy options, draft policies and evidence studies prepared to support the Plan.
2. To identify gaps in the evidence base and the mechanisms for addressing any such gap; to develop the outputs of technical work and other information into policy.
3. To make recommendations as required to the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee, Policy and Resources Committee and Council in respect of the development of the Local Plan.
4. To monitor progress on the preparation of the Local Plan (including in respect of the Direction of 28th January 2019 made to the Council by the Secretary of State and any further directions).
5. To provide updates to other Members including other relevant committees.
6. To consider and comment on responses to any plans being prepared by other local planning authorities (and the Combined Authority) as part of the duty to co-operate.

Membership of the Local Plan Working Group

1. The Advisory Group will comprise a member from each of the Council's political groups one of whom will be the Chair of the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee.
2. The Council's Substitution Scheme will apply
3. The Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of the Local Plan Steering Sub-Committee (unless he or she chooses not to) or otherwise a Chair will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.
4. The Working Group meetings must have at least 3 members to be quorate.

Local Plan Working Group Working Arrangements and Principles:

1. The Members be supported by officers and consultants as appropriate.
2. The Working Group has no decision-making powers. Its purpose is to aid greater understanding of issues, desires and policy development.

3. The focus of the Working Group is on key issues for the Local Plan, not all related detailed issues.
4. Meetings to be held on an 'as required' basis.
5. Meetings are not open to the public, but outcomes from the Working Group will be made available to all Members as appropriate.
6. The Working Group must be mindful of the direction of 28th January 2019 made by the Secretary of State to Wirral Borough Council under s.27 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
7. The purpose of the Working Group is to help speed up the Local Plan making, not delay it.
8. The Working Group will cease on formal adoption of the Local Plan by the Council.