

REPORT TO: Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12th November 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Progress of the Planning Policy Team's Local Development Scheme (LDS)

WARD(S) Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks to notify the board of the progress of the following projects:

- Transport and Accessibility SPD
- Social Value in Planning SPD
- House Extensions SPD
- Call for Sites Exercise

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1. the report is noted.**
- 2. Officers proceed with necessary consultation to endorse Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Local Plan for Halton currently comprises of the adopted Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (2022) and the Joint Waste Plan (2013). The statutory Local Development Plan is the set of Local Plans also known as Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that together form the statutory basis for determining whether or not planning permission should be granted.

3.2 Government instructed all Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to publish and submit an up-to-date LDS, as part of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) changes in December 2024. There is a statutory requirement for all LPAs to produce an annual LDS. The purpose of an LDS is to inform the reader of the programme of work that is being undertaken to meet NPPF framework, whilst maintaining and monitoring Halton's Local Plan to ensure it is meeting national and local objectives. In the 2024/25 LDS it was outlined that the Planning Policy team would prepare the

Transport and Accessibility, House Extension and Social Value in Planning SPDs. This is an update on the progress of these documents.

- 3.3 Supplementary Planning Documents add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on issues such as House Extensions or Transport. Social Value in Planning provides the opportunity for Developers to create training/work opportunities in the Construction Industry. They must meet the legal and procedural requirements but once adopted, SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.
- 3.4 The Planning Policy team would like to take the House Extension and Transport and Accessibility SPDs out for a short consultation in Mid-November, the Social Value in Planning SPD will follow the same process in the early New Year, with a consultation statement summarising any responses as part of the final documentation. The Planning Policy team plan to bring these SPDs to the Executive Board early in the new year for adoption.
- 3.5 The Call for Sites exercise provides the Council with information on the level and nature of interest in developing land in Halton and helps the Council to understand potentially available sites for future development. It is part of the routine maintenance of the Local Plan and does not constitute a new Local Plan. It is a process of gathering information and helps the Council understand any potentially available sites for future development.
- 3.6 The Council has chosen to extend the period of time where we invite landowners, developers and site promoters to submit to the Council land which they want to develop. The exercise will now run until the 5th December, instead of terminating on the 24th October. This is due to a request from a large landowner to extend the deadline so they can submit a site(s) to the Council.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Plan is a plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community, under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Local Plan is designed to provide broad and strategic policies, with Supplementary Planning Documents providing any further information that may be required.
- 4.2 Planning applications should normally be determined in accordance with the Development Plan.

“If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the Planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.” [Section 38(6): Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004]

- 4.3 Given the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and emerging Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) having an up-to-date Local Plan is important to ensure the Council has control over decision-making. The Planning Policy team have prepared these SPDs to provide more guidance to internal and external stakeholders on the topic issues in question.
- 4.4 Furthermore, as part of the routine maintenance of the Local Plan the Council is to keep an up-to-date register of the level and nature of interest in developing land in the borough. This will then inform the future review of the Local Plan’s policies and allocations.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The adoption of the Social Value in Planning, Transport and Accessibility and House Extension SPDs have no direct financial implications for the Council. The Call for Sites exercise also has no direct financial implications for the Council.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The Transport and Accessibility SPD supports active travel which enables healthy lifestyles. House Extension SPD protects health and amenity for the householder and neighbouring properties. The Social Value in Planning SPD also creates opportunities to develop skills and knowledge leading to employment opportunities.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

The Transport and Accessibility SPD helps ensure is well-connected to support the local economy. The House Extension SPD will provide more technical information, which will make the development process smoother and give back to the Local Economy. Social Value in Planning SPD reinvesting in the local communities through skills and training opportunities.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Transport and Accessibility SPD helps promote healthy lifestyles for young people and families. Social Value in planning works with local education and further educations to create learning and apprenticeship opportunities. House Extensions SPD

ensure householders still have access to amenity spaces like gardens and lighting, vital for the development of young children.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Social Value in Planning in SPD creates opportunities for more disadvantaged members of the community to engage in learning and employment. The Transport and Accessibility SPD is supported by Inclusive Mobility which supports people with accessibility issues. The House Extension SPD will ensure protects health and amenity for the householder and neighbouring properties.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

The House Extension SPD ensures extensions meets energy efficiency standards. The Transport and Accessibility SPD encourages also sustainable modes of travel to help reduce carbon emissions. The Social Value in Planning SPD enables local residents to learn the importance of energy efficiency in the construction industry

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The community feel that they have a voice in how Halton is developed by participating in the opportunities offered in the Social Value in Planning SPD. The House Extension SPD helps preserve the character of Halton. The Transport and Accessibility SPD aims to help create a well-connected sustainable community.

The Call for Sites exercise is part of the routine maintenance of the Local Plan, which includes policies that addresses the six Council priorities above.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Supplementary Planning Documents provide up-to-date relevant information in support of the Local Plan, and assists developers by providing clarity on topic area's therefore reducing the risk of a non-determination. The Call for Sites exercise helps identify potential future development land, which is then assessed against a national criteria to ascertain its suitability to be considered in the future for development. By ensuring there is enough suitable developable land as per National Planning Policy Guidance will ensure unsuitable development for the borough is not permitted.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Building stronger communities through community engagement and good planning is a key aspect of the Local Plan. The Council is already committed to equality regardless of age, sex, caring responsibility, race, religion, marital status, maternity issues, gender reassignment, socio economic need, sexuality or disability and

these commitments are reflected in the Local Plan as far as is relevant. Planning Policy documents are subjected to Equality Impact Assessments during their production to ensure compliance.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct climate change implications of the SPDs or the Call for Sites exercise.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP 2022)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
Waste Local Plan (2025)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor