

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	15 th January 2026
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director Environment and Regeneration
SUBJECT:	Policy Documents: Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Transport and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document, House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document, and Vehicle Crossing Guidance
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks approval from the Board to support the adoption of the following Documents:

- Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- Transport and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Associated Technical Guidance:

- Vehicle Crossing Guidance (VCG)

Documents can be accessed using the following link:

[Background Documents](#)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

1. the report be noted;
2. the Board approves the Strategies for adoption; and
3. Authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal and Climate Change and Housing to amend the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) if required.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is an evidence-based, locally led, spatial strategy designed to provide a joined-up, regional approach to nature recovery. The strategy follows the same boundary as that of the Liverpool City Region (LCR), which comprises Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The document

identifies and maps opportunities for habitat enhancement, restoration and creation, where the biggest benefit will be felt to both nature and people at a localised level.

- 3.2 Halton Borough Council have been liaising with the partner authorities across the Liverpool City Region on the drafting of this document. However, The LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) was appointed by Defra as the Responsible Authority for the LCR LNRS and led the preparation of the strategy, with support from Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Merseyside BioBank and Liverpool John Moores University.
- 3.3 The LCRCA is hoping for full approval from their Combined Authority meeting on the 6th March 2025.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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 Transport and Accessibility or House Extensions. The production of such documents 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.
- 3.6 The Transport and Accessibility SPD has clear links to policy, notably Policy CS(R)15 Sustainable Transport, although there are a number of other policies in the DALP which support this SPD, notably CS(R)7 Infrastructure Provision, CS(R)18 High Quality Design, CS(R)21 Green Infrastructure, C1 Transport Network and Accessibility and C2 Parking Standards and Appendix D Parking Standards.
- 3.7 The House Extension SPD also has clear links to policy, Policy RD3: Dwelling Alterations, Extensions, Conversions and Replacement Dwellings. In addition to Policy RD3, the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan contains other policies that are relevant to this SPD which, amongst others, include: CS(R)18 – High Quality Design, CS(R)19 – Sustainable development and climate change, RD3 – Dwelling alterations, Extensions, Conversions and Replacement Dwellings, RD5 – Primarily Residential Areas, GR1 - Design of development, GR2 – Amenity and C2 – Parking Standards.
- 3.8 The Vehicle Crossing Guidance (VCG) has been brought to Members before at Policy and Performance Board 25/11/2009 and

Executive Board on 04/11/2010. The VCG was Revised to Policy and Performance Board on 13/11/19 and Executive Board on 30/07/2020. Since it was last brought to Executive Board, the Vehicle Crossing Guidance has increased its parking sizes slightly in line with national policy. Therefore, this is reflected in the revised document.

3.9 The Vehicle Crossing Guidance has clear links to policy, predominantly C2 Parking Standards and Appendix D Parking Standards. Other policies in the DALP also support this guidance such as RD3 Dwelling Alterations, Extensions, Conversions and Replacement Dwellings and C1 Transport Network and Accessibility.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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]

4.2 The Local Plan is a statutory development plan 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. SPDs provide detailed guidance on the implementation of policies outlined in the Local Plan. This helps ensure that policy intentions are clear.

4.3 Given the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and emerging Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) the Planning Policy team are preparing to adopt these SPDs to provide more guidance to internal and external stakeholders on the topic issues in question.

4.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Nature Recovery Strategies are mentioned in regard to protecting the green belt, however, does not go into much detail. Protecting biodiversity and nature is mentioned heavily in the NPPF.

4.5 DALP does not mention LNRS, however we do have policies which looks to support and complement the LNRS. The LNRS is also part of the evidence base documents which will inform the review of the Local Plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The adoption of the above documents have 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 LNRS supports health and wellbeing by providing green infrastructure and offering outdoor spaces for people to visit promoting healthy lifestyles. Overall, the provision of green spaces provides green lungs assisting with the overall air quality within the borough.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD support active travel which enables healthy lifestyles. House Extension SPD protects health and amenity for the householder and neighbouring properties. Vehicle Crossing Guidance ensures sufficient highway safety and wellbeing.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

The LNRS promotes growth by providing places where people want to live and supports business by providing green investment opportunities.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD ensure it is well-connected to support the local economy. The House Extension SPD provides more technical information, which will make the development process more efficient and assist the Local Economy.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The LNRS supports attractive and healthy places to live. It identifies sustainable locations, to benefit current and future generations.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD promotes healthy lifestyles for young people and families.

House Extensions SPD ensure householders still have access to amenity spaces which includes gardens and lighting, vital for the health and well-being of families.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

The LNRS supports inclusive access to green spaces across the Liverpool City Region. Residents will have access to identified green spaces within Halton and the LCR within their local community.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD supports Inclusive Mobility ensuring access for all, wherever possible.

The House Extension SPD provides consideration to those with disabilities and / or the elderly to allow greater independence to remain in their own homes for longer.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

The LNRS looks to secure and protect identified areas of environmental and biodiversity assets within the borough.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD supports green/sustainable modes of transport.

The House Extension SPD promotes energy efficiency standards and water / energy efficient guidance, supported by the Environment Agency.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The LNRS identifies local habitats within Halton, ensuring the boroughs environmental assets are protected and enhanced where possible.

The House Extension SPD helps preserve the character of Halton.

The Transport and Accessibility SPD aims to create a well-connected sustainable borough for its residents and visitors.

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.

7.2 No risks are identified for the any of the above documents.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Building stronger communities through good planning and community engagement is key to the delivery of the Local Plan. The Council is 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. If necessary, Planning Policy documents are subject to Equality Impact Assessments during their production to ensure compliance.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 All of the above documents support the Council's commitment to protecting against climate change.

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 (2013)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor