

**REPORT TO:** Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment and Urban Renewal

**SUBJECT:** Call for Sites Exercise

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board with an update on the Call for Sites exercise, conducted in late 2025.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That this exercise is noted.**

## **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. The Council last conducted a Call for Sites exercise in preparation for the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP), which was adopted in March 2022.
- 3.2 As part of the routine maintenance of the Local Plan and general responsibilities of a Planning department, the Planning Policy team are expected to do a Call for Sites exercise. This exercise enables landowners, developers and site promoters to submit to the council land which they want to develop. It is important to note, that not all of the sites submitted in this exercise will be suitable. However, this helps the council understand potentially available sites for future development. This exercise forms a crucial part in forming the evidence base of a Local Plan but does not necessarily indicate that the authority is conducting a full review of its Local Plan.
- 3.3 The Call for Sites exercise is included within the Local Development Scheme, which is a document which details the Planning Policy teams workplan for the year. The Planning Policy

team is coming to the Policy and Performance Board with a review of the submissions to the Call for Sites exercise.

- 3.4 The Council opened the Call for Sites exercise on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and planned to run until the 24<sup>th</sup> October. This was extended to run until the 5<sup>th</sup> December after the Council received a request from a stakeholder to extend the deadline so they can submit a site(s) to the Council.
- 3.5 The Council received 15 submissions during the Call for Sites exercise.
- 3.6 6 submissions included land which was already safeguarded, which means it has already been assessed for its suitability, availability, and achievability in the development of the DALP (2022). This means that the identified land has been designated for future development, as and when land availability is required. E.g. not being able to demonstrate a 5-year supply.
- 3.7 Any new submitted sites will now be assessed against the latest government guidance to check its suitability, availability and achievability. These sites will become part of the upcoming partial review of the Local Plan, in late 2026.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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 Call for Sites exercise 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**

As part of the Call for Site's Assessment process, the Council will evaluate each site on its distance to existing centres, community facilities, and transport hubs. This ensures the most appropriate sites are put forward and the health, wellbeing and independence of residents is supported.

##### **6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

The Call for Sites process identifies the most suitable sites within the Borough for different types of employment land such as office and commercial space. This will provide floor space for local businesses and create job opportunities for the local community.

### **6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

As part of the Call for Site's Assessment process, the Council will evaluate each site on its distance to existing infrastructure like schools and greenspace. Prioritising sites which are close to these services ensures adolescents have appropriate education provision nearby and also open spaces to exercise.

### **6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

As part of the Site Assessment for Housing sites within the Call for Sites, the Council will assess sites for affordable housing, ensuring people looking to buy their first home are able to get on the housing market. The Call for Sites also helps identify opportunities to develop employment land, which can offer job opportunities for the unemployed.

### **6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future**

The Call for Sites exercise helps identify any brownfield land which might be available for development. Sites are also assessed on their connectivity, where the Council assesses how the site can be accessed by sustainable modes of transport, and eventually selecting the sites which score well.

### **6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

The Call for Sites exercise offers multiple opportunities for the local community to submit sites that they want to develop. The Council also assesses each site on its impact on the local community to ensure development is located close to existing services.

## **7.0 Risk Analysis**

7.1 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.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

‘None under the meaning of the Act.’