

Southern Widnes SPD
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT
APPENDICES

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Reference: EN6768/R/4.2.1
(Appendices)/LM

Status: SECOND ISSUE

Date JANUARY 2009

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APPENDIX A – REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The following Plans, Policies and Programmes have been reviewed as part of this Sustainability Appraisal. Applicable targets have been selected and incorporated into the SA Framework in Appendix B.

International PPPs

- Johannesburg Declaration
- Kyoto Protocol
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan
- Habitats Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Birds Directive
- Air Quality Directive
- Waste Framework Directive
- Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy
- Aarhus Convention

National PPPs

- Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy
- Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation
- Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future
- Urban White Paper
- The Future of Transport: a network for 2030. White Paper
- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Working together for clean air (DETR, 2000)
- Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for England and Wales (Environment Agency, 2001)
- Conservation (Natural Habitats & C) Regulations 2006
- Biodiversity Duty
- UK BAP
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 – Creating Sustainable Communities
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) Climate Change- Supplement to PPS 1 document on Climate Change
- Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 2 – Green Belt
- PPS 3 – Housing
- PPG 4 – Industrial, commercial development and small firms
- PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres
- PPS 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- PPS 12 – Local Development Frameworks
- PPG 13 – Transport
- PPG 14 – Development on Unstable Land
- PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning
- PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- PPG 20 – Coastal Planning
- PPG 21 – Tourism
- PPS 22 – Renewable Energy
- PPS 23 – Planning and Pollution Control
- PPG 24 – Planning and Noise
- PPS 25 – Development and Flood Risk
- UK Climate Change Programme
- A Space for Nature (Natural England)

Regional PPPs

- North West of England Plan, Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021.
- Regional Economic Strategy
- The Cultural Strategy for England's North West 2001

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- Advancing Sustainable Energy – A Sustainable Energy Strategy for the North West
- North West Regional Freight Strategy
- Regional Waste Strategy for the North West – September 2004
- Regional Housing Strategy for the North West
- Investment for Health A Plan For North West England 2003
- Action for Sustainability
- Rising to the Challenge: A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest
- North West Best Practice Design Guide (2006)
- Draft Green Infrastructure Guide for the North West (2006)

Local PPPs

- Halton Unitary Development Plan
- Core Strategy- Issues and Options Consultation Document 1
- Corporate Plan for Halton Borough Council
- Community Strategy, 2006-2011
- Local Transport Plan (LTP2)
- Halton Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2007
- Housing Strategy
- Halton's Natural Assets Strategy
- 'Halton: Gateway to Prosperity' 2005-2008
- Sports Strategy 2006 - 2009
- Safer Halton Partnership
- Strategy 2005-2008
- Halton's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Waterside Development Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- LA 21 Strategy Action Plan for Halton

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APPENDIX B SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Economic	1. To continue reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increase the economic activity rate	Social inclusiveness Economic development	Will it encourage new employment that is consistent with local needs?	Population in employment and unemployment	To bring employment and unemployment rates in line with England and Wales rate by 2021.	By 2001, Halton borough was ranked as the 18th most deprived English local authority area overall, with complex problems of poverty and social exclusion. Eight of Halton's 21 wards rank in the lowest 10% for employment, and unemployment among under-25s was the second highest in England. Nevertheless, in recent years the borough has shown some of the strongest improvements in the region in this area and economic activity rates in Halton are now similar to the rest of the North West but slightly lower than Great Britain as a whole. 68.6% of people aged 16-74 in Riverside are economically active and in full time employment, whilst 31.4% are economically inactive (<i>Source: Office of National Statistics, April 2001</i>). This compares to 76.2% of people aged 16-59/64 in Halton are economically active and in full time employment, whilst 23.8% are economically inactive and unemployed. In the North West 76.8% of people aged 16-59/64 are economically active and in full time employment with 23.2% economically inactive and unemployed. In Great Britain as a whole 78.6% are economically active and 21.4% are economically inactive (<i>Source: Office of National Statistics, January 2007 – December 2007</i>)
				Job Density	To bring Halton's job density in line with England and Wales densities by 2016.	The 2003 job density (the ratio between total jobs to working age people), in Halton (0.76) is lower than the regional (0.81) and national average (0.83). The 2005 job density in Halton (0.80) is the same as the regional figure but still lower than the national (0.84) average (<i>Source: Nomis, 2005</i>)
	2. To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	Social inclusiveness Economic development	Will it provide improved access to vocational training, education and skills for young people? Will it provide local	% of 15 yr olds achieving five or more GCSE's at grades A-C or equivalent	Increase proportions achieving five or more GCSE's at Grades A*-C to 60% by 2010. (Community Strategy, 2006-2011)	The proportion of students achieving GCSE's at grades A-C in Halton is as follows: 2005 - 49.2% (does not have to include Maths and English) 2006 - 52.6% (does not have to include Maths and English) 2006 - 33.3% (including Maths and English) (<i>Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Economic			employment opportunities for local people by linking in to local businesses?	% of adults educated to NVQ level 2, 3 or 4	<p>Increase the % of adults qualified to Level 3 to 70% by 2010.</p> <p>Reduce the number of adults with no qualifications to 10% by 2010.</p> <p>(Community Strategy, 2006-2011)</p>	<p>Educational achievement in the Riverside Ward is lower than Halton, the Region and UK as a whole.</p> <p>NVQ2: Riverside Ward– 20.7%</p> <p>NVQ3: Riverside Ward–5.9%</p> <p>NVQ4: Riverside Ward– 6.8%</p> <p>No qualifications: Riverside Ward– 40.6%</p> <p>(Source: 2001 Census)</p> <p>No Qualifications: Halton – 22.5%, GB –22.25%, NW – 20.64%, Greater Merseyside – 20.49%</p> <p>NVQ4 and above: Halton – 16.8%, GB – 26.6%, NW - 24.8%, Greater Merseyside – 21.3%.</p> <p>(Source: State of the Borough 2008, Halton Borough Council)</p>
	3. To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	Economic development	Will it encourage the growth of indigenous businesses?	Total number of VAT registered businesses	<p>To increase the number of VAT registered businesses by 15% by 2010.</p> <p>(Community Strategy, 2006-2011)</p>	<p>Traditionally, employment in Halton was concentrated within a small number of large, mostly manufacturing, companies. Like many other parts of the North of England with a similar historical dependence on the manufacturing sector, Halton has typically suffered from low rates of business starts ups and low business densities. However, VAT registered businesses have been increasing year on year as follows:</p> <p>2,185 (2004)</p> <p>2,305 (2005)</p> <p>2,415 (2006)</p> <p>(Source: Nomis)</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
				Percentage of business registrations and de-registrations	To increase the % of VAT registrations whilst decreasing the % of de-registrations	<p>% of VAT Registrations:</p> <p>2004 - 10.8 % VAT registrations and 9.8% de-registrations <i>(Source: InterDepartmental Business Register (IDBR), Nomis, 2004)</i></p> <p>2005 - 10.8 % VAT registrations and 7.4% de-registrations</p> <p>2006 - 9.7% VAT registrations and 7.5% de-registrations.</p> <p>The figure for the North West is 9.6% VAT registrations and 7.3% deregistrations. In Great Britain the figure is 9.4% VAT registrations and 7.4% de-registrations.</p> <p><i>(Source: DTI Small Business Service – VAT registrations/deregistrations by industry, Nomis 2006)</i></p>
	4. To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	Economic development	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	Gross Value Added (GVA) per head	Sustain levels of GVA at above the regional norm. (Community Strategy, 2006-2011)	<p>GVA per head for Halton and Warrington was £19,766. This compares to a GVA per head for Merseyside of £12,488.</p> <p>Gross weekly pay full-time in Halton is £427 compared to £430 in the North West and £460 in Great Britain.</p> <p><i>(Source: Merseyside Economic Review, 2007)</i></p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Economic	5. To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres (Runcorn Old Town, Halton Lea and Widnes)	Economic development	Will it provide an improvement to one or more of the town centres?	Footfall within the town centre	Increase footfall through each town centre by 25% by 2010. (Community Strategy, 2006-2011)	There are 3 town centres in Halton: Halton Lea, Widnes and Runcorn Old Town. Widnes is the largest of the three with 350 units. Rental yields are an indicator of investor confidence in a centre (the lower the confidence the higher the perceived investment risk and the higher the yield) and for Widnes the yield has remained static since 1997 at 8.5% (<i>Shopping Centre yield at 01/07/05, Valuation office Agency</i>). This is slightly higher than may be expected for a centre of this size and importance. Average weekly footfall within Halton Lea of 292,605 Average monthly footfall for Widnes 595,747 (July – Nov 2005) Average monthly footfall for Runcorn Old Town 187,207 (July – Nov 2005) (<i>Source: Halton Lea – Brandspace, Runcorn and Widnes – Halton Borough Council Footfall Counters</i>)
				Vacancy rates within the town centre	Decrease vacancy levels year on year.	The % of vacant units in Halton Lea and Widnes has increased whilst the % in Runcorn Old Town has decreased since 1995. Number of vacant units in 2005: Halton Lea – 35 Widnes – 4 Runcorn Old Town – 41 (<i>Source: Town Centre Survey 2005, Halton Borough Council</i>)
	6. To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment	Economic development	Will it encourage inward investment?	Number of investment enquiries and the number of conversions (enquiries that are translated into actual, completed investment or expansion projects).	To increase the number of investment enquiries and the number of conversions.	In 2003 the Council undertook a review of how people and organisations perceived both the Council and the Borough. It discovered that there is limited recognition of Halton in the wider regional and national arenas, in some instances, almost complete lack of awareness of Halton and what it has to offer (<i>Source: Halton Gateway to Prosperity 2005-2008</i>). Investment enquiries 2004/5: 317 enquiries 42 conversions (<i>Source: Economic Development, Halton Borough Council</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Social	7. To improve health and reduce health inequalities	Population and human health, Social inclusiveness	<p>Will it improve the standard of healthcare, particularly for the elderly?</p> <p>Will it support healthy lifestyles?</p>	Years of healthy life expectancy	<p>Narrow the gap between life expectancy, in Halton and the national average by at least 10% by 2010.</p> <p>(Community Strategy, 2006-2010)</p>	<p>Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country with low standards of life expectancy. Although life expectancy rates have been improving, these have not kept pace with other local authorities.</p> <p>Halton: Males – 74.3 years; Females – 78.4 years</p> <p>North West: Males – 75.7 years; Females – 80.3 years</p> <p>UK: Males – 76 years; females – 81 years</p> <p>(Source: North West Public Health Observatory, 2008)</p>
				Number of people who have a long-term illness	<p>To reduce the % of residents with a long-term illness to within 1.5% of the England & Wales % by the 2001 Census.</p>	<p>23.5% of residents in Riverside considered themselves to have a limiting long-term illness compared to 21.5% of residents in Halton and 18.2% for England and Wales as a whole (Source: 2001 Census)</p> <p>41% of Halton's households and 44% of Riverside ward's households have one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness, in comparison to 38.4% of households in the North West and 34.1% in England (Source: 2001 Census)</p>
Social	8. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Social inclusiveness	<p>Will it encourage crime-sensitive design?</p> <p>Will it target, reduce and sustain a reduction in crime?</p> <p>Will it reduce the likelihood of violence and antisocial behaviour?</p>	Recorded crimes per 1,000 population	To reduce number of offences per 1,000 pop.	<p>Levels of crime in Halton are fairly high: By 2006-07, the total crime score in Halton had risen from 103.6 to 114.0 a figure just below the regional average, but 14% above that for England and Wales. In 2006-07 Halton's rank was 79th out of 376 in terms of total offences per 1000 population. This is compared to 140th for 2003-04 ie a worsening of crime levels (Source: The State of the Borough, 2008).</p>
				Number of people reporting fear of crime	<p>Reduce levels of expressed fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by 25% by 2010.</p> <p>(Community Strategy, 2006-2011)</p>	<p>16.4% of people in Halton thought reducing crime would improve their local area.</p> <p>Just under three tenths (29.2%) of residents stated that they feel 'fairly unsafe' (17.3%) or 'very unsafe' (11.9%) when they are outside in their local area after dark. (Source: Halton Strategic Partnership Consulting the Communities of Halton 2005, March 2005)</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Social	9. To provide well designed, good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	Social inclusiveness	<p>Will it provide for affordable housing for local people?</p> <p>Will it ensure that new housing is of a high standard of design and layout?</p> <p>Will it provide safe, secure and decent housing?</p>	Proportion of different housing types and tenures	To meet the requirements set out in the most up-to-date Housing Needs Survey.	<p>The Riverside Ward has a very low percentage of detached housing and flats as seen across the borough as a whole. Social housing is also relatively high, again similar to the borough as a whole.</p> <p>Housing Type 2001 for the Riverside ward:</p> <p>Detached 13.7%</p> <p>Semi detached 23.6%</p> <p>Terraced 49.6%</p> <p>Other (flats etc.) 13.1%</p> <p>Housing Tenure 2004 for the Riverside ward:</p> <p>Private 62.9%</p> <p>Council 31.9%</p> <p>Housing Association 5.2%</p> <p><i>(Source: Census 2001)</i></p> <p>The average house price in Halton is £116,000 compared to an average price of £174,000 in England and Wales. <i>(Source: Land Registry, House Price Index Halton, February 2008)</i>. In the period 2003/4, there were 257 people accepted as being homeless and in priority need, equivalent to 5.3 homeless people per 1000 households in Halton. In comparison there were 6.4 homeless people per 1000 households in the North West and 6.6 homeless people per 1000 households in England <i>(Source: statutory Homelessness, ODPM)</i>.</p> <p>The population level within the borough is shown to have fallen since a peak in 1989 until 2003 when positive figures have been achieved. Population is therefore predicted to grow until around 2022 <i>(Source: Nomisweb, 2007)</i>. This should drive future housing provision.</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
	10. To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	Social inclusiveness	<p>Will it improve transport provision and accessibility?</p> <p>Will it provide for local retail needs?</p> <p>Will it improve public access to services and amenities?</p>	Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre.	To ensure that all new housing development is within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a town centre.	<p>Halton is ranked 138th out of 408 districts in Great Britain for accessibility and connectivity, down slightly from its 2002 rank of 120th (<i>State of the Borough 2008</i>). % of housing completions 2004/5 within 30 minutes public transport time of key services: GP – 100% Hospital (Halton) – 48% Primary School – 100% Secondary School – 100% Employment – 100% Town centre – 100% (Source: <i>Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005</i>)</p> <p>% of housing completions 2005/6 within 30 minutes public transport time of key services: GP – 100% Hospital (Halton) – 21% Primary School – 100% Secondary School – 92% Employment – 100% Town centre – 93% (Source: <i>Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2006</i>)</p> <p>% of housing completions 2006/7 within 30 minutes public transport time of key services: GP – 99% Hospital (Halton) – 89% Primary School – 100% Secondary School – 99% Employment – 100% Town centre – 99% (Source: <i>Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007</i>)</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
	11. To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	Social inclusiveness Biodiversity, fauna and flora, Cultural heritage and landscape	Will it ensure that all people have access to public open space within a reasonable distance from where they live?	Number and area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	Ensure no loss of LNR (number or area).	Research carried out by Natural England shows that for every 1000 population, 1ha of Local Nature Reserve should be available. Using the estimated population at 2004, there is 1ha of LNR per 837 population within Halton. There are no LNRs within or adjacent to the SPD boundary (<i>Source: Halton Borough Council, 2004</i>).
			Will it improve access to natural greenspace?	Number of Green Flag Parks	To maintain and if possible increase the number of Green Flag Parks.	The green flag award scheme is the national standard for parks and green spaces across England and Wales. 9 parks in Halton have Green Flag Awards. There is 1 Green Flag Park within the boundary of the SPD (Victoria Promenade). (<i>Source: the Civic Trust – Green Flag Awards, 2005</i>)
				Amount of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standards	No loss in area	Overall the borough is well provided for in Natural & Semi Natural open space but there is a deficiency in all other types of open space within the borough. There is an overall surplus of outdoor sports facilities within the borough, but this is only due to a large supply in central Widnes. The other areas within the borough are all experiencing a shortfall in outdoor sports facilities. Open space types and areas within Halton: -Parks and Gardens 134.4 ha -Natural and semi natural greenspace 604.37 ha -Green Corridors 182.02 ha -Amenity Green Space 115.624 ha -Facilities for Young people and children 7.93 ha -Outdoor sports facilities 398.51 ha -Allotments and community gardens 8.86 ha -Cemeteries and churchyards 23.35 ha (<i>Source: Halton Borough Council, Survey of Open Space, 2005</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Social	12. To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	Social inclusiveness	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?	Index of Deprivation	For Halton and the riverside ward to become less deprived and for Halton to move outside the 40 most deprived districts in England by 2010 (Community Strategy, 2006-2011)	The Riverside ward is ranked 4 th out of 21 wards within Halton, where rank 1 is the most deprived. In 2004, Halton was ranked 21 st , out of 354, in the average of ward scores where rank 1 is the most deprived (<i>Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004</i>). It is now ranked 30 th out of 354 (<i>Source: State of the Borough, 2008</i>).
				Average household income	To increase average household income in Halton to 90%+ of the national average by 2010. (Community Strategy, 2006-2011)	The average household income in Halton is £27,898 which is 89.4% of the UK average (UK average salary is £31,200) (<i>Source: Merseyside Economic Review, 2006</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Environmental	13. To minimise the risk of flooding in relation to both new & existing development whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	Water and soil	Will it improve the quality of controlled waters?	Water quality (chemical & biological) classification of rivers, canals, estuaries and coastal waters and percentage lengths in different classes	To increase the % of rivers, canals, estuaries and coastal waters that classified as either good or fair year on year.	<p>Information from the Environment Agency's web-site indicates that the majority of the Southern Widnes Area is located in a groundwater Source Protection Zone III. This is the complete catchment area of a groundwater drinking water supply borehole within which some activities are controlled.</p> <p>The principal river in Halton Borough is the River Mersey and this forms the southern boundary to the Southern Widnes SPD. Biological water quality within Halton is generally poor and chemical quality fair.</p> <p>Halton: Biology 2004 Good – 0% Fair – 13.18% Poor – 79.39% Bad – 7.4% Chemistry 2004 Good – 11.0% Fair – 60.43% Poor – 20.55% Bad – 8.02%</p> <p><i>(Source: Environment Agency from Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007)</i></p>
			Will it ensure that the area within Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 does not increase?	New development with sustainable drainage systems installed	To ensure Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 do not increase.	A large area of Widnes waterfront and Southern Widnes is in flood risk zone 3; part of the same area is also in flood risk zone 2. Most other areas will fall into zone 1. However, there is no history of flooding in this area. Bowers Brook which runs through the area is culverted <i>(Source: Halton Borough Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, October 2007).</i>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Environmental			Will it ensure that new developments are not at risk from flooding?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on with flood defence grounds or water quality	To decrease the number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice	There have been 7 planning applications objected to by the Environment Agency on Flood Risk Grounds between 1/4/06 and 31/3/07 (<i>Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007</i>)
	14. To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	Biodiversity, Fauna & Flora	<p>Will it protect or enhance statutory protected sites and habitats of nature conservation value?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance statutory protected species?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance BAP habitats?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance BAP species?</p> <p>NB: the Halton BAP reedbed habitat is not located in close proximity to the Southern Widnes SPD boundary.</p> <p>The Halton BAP Species comprising</p>	Number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites	To maintain the number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites	<p>The Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar Site, which is located to the southwest of the Southern Widnes SPD boundary, immediately to the west of the Silver Jubilee Bridge, is a wetland of international importance. The intertidal flats and saltmarshes provide feeding and roosting sites for large and internationally important populations of waterfowl. During the winter, the site is of major importance for duck and waders. The site is also important during spring and autumn migration periods, particularly for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain. Species of international importance include the Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>, Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> and Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>.</p> <p>The Mersey Estuary is also designated as a site of national importance (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)). It occupies an area of 1035ha of which 917.7ha is also designated as the Ramsar Site (<i>Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council 2007</i>).</p> <p>It should be noted that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be undertaken as part of the Mersey Gateway proposals. A HRA is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan on the Mersey Estuary RAMSAR and Special Protection Area (SPA).</p>

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			Bluebells, Purple Hairstreak and Great Crested Newts are not known to be present within close proximity to the Southern Widnes SPD boundary. These indicators have therefore been removed.	Condition of SSSIs 95% of SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. (Public Service Agreement (PSA) target)	All SSSIs in 100% favourable condition	Mersey Estuary SSSI - 99.95% favourable, 0.05% unfavourable recovering (Various 08/02- 03/04) (<i>Source: Natural England</i>)
				Number and area of Local Wildlife Sites	Maintain number and area of Local Wildlife Sites	Within Halton there are 61 Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as SINCs) with an area of 742.65ha. None are located within the Runcorn Old Town SPD area (<i>Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007</i>).
				Extent and condition of saltmarsh	Maintain, in a favourable condition, the current extent of Saltmarsh in Halton.	166 hectares occur in Halton, with the main sites at Hale Marsh (72 ha), Astmoor (51 ha) and Widnes Warth (45ha) (<i>Source: Halton BAP, 2003</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
				Population of Redshank pairs	<p>Increase the population of Redshank pairs by 20% and wintering numbers by 20% by 2015. To be based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 -2010. Survey data to include over wintering numbers as well as breeding numbers on saltmarsh and surrounding farmland.</p> <p>Promote sympathetic management of saltmarsh in targeted areas, in particular as part of the New Mersey Crossing Proposal.</p>	<p>Information of breeding population is patchy. Halton probably has sub-optimal breeding sites on saltmarsh at present. Wintering numbers are as important as breeding numbers. Adjacent farmland is an important winter factor (<i>Source: Halton BAP, 2003</i>)</p>
				Population of skylark breeding pairs	<p>Increase the population of skylark breeding pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx 20 breeding pairs on Halton Moss (1999) • Breeding pairs at Upton Rocks, Widnes • Singing males on land designated for industry, Widnes • Singing males on farmland, saltmarsh and post industrial habitats • Wintering populations are as important as breeding populations (<i>Source: Halton BAP, 2003</i>)

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
				Population of Song Thrush pairs	Increase the population of Song Thrush pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010.	Anecdotal evidence only suggests a large decline in Halton, with gardens and parkland as possibly crucial local habitats. <i>(Source: Halton BAP, 2003)</i>
				Population of reed bunting breeding pairs	Increase the population of reed bunting breeding pairs by 20% by 2015, based on an increase of survey data over the period 2002 - 2010.	Reed Buntings continue to breed in Halton in and around reedbeds and adjacent habitats. Information of breeding populations is patchy. The Upper Mersey Estuary and River Weaver appear to have suitable habitats. <i>(Source: Halton BAP, 2003)</i>
	15. To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates	Water and soil	Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal?	Level and % of household waste recycled	Waste Strategy 2000 set national recycling targets: To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010, and 33% of household waste by 2015.	During 2004/05, 8885.57 tonnes (13.65%) of household waste arising was sent for recycling. <i>(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)</i> During 2005/06, 8,929.48 tonnes (13.66%) of household waste arising was sent for recycling. <i>(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2006)</i> During 2006/07, 9,684.85 tonnes (14.57%) of household waste arising was sent for recycling. <i>(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007)</i>
Total annual amount of municipal waste generated and				Ensure 30% of waste is recycled or composted by 2010. <i>(Community Strategy, 2006-2011)</i>	Total municipal waste (04/05) – 65,083 tonnes Total municipal waste recovered – 8,885 (14%) Total municipal waste composted – 5,957 (9%) Total municipal waste landfilled – 50,240 (77%) <i>(Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)</i>	

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Environmental				% recycled or composted.		<p>Total municipal waste (05/06) – 65,377 tonnes Total municipal waste recovered – 8,929 (14%) Total municipal waste composted – 6,318 (10%) Total municipal waste landfilled – 50,132 (77%) (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2006)</p> <p>Total municipal waste (06/07) – 66,453 tonnes Total municipal waste recovered – 9,685 (14.6%) Total municipal waste composted – 6,931 (10.4%) Total municipal waste landfilled – 49,837 (75%) (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2007)</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
	<p>16. To improve air quality by reducing the need to travel and improving choice and use of sustainable transport modes and reducing air pollution from other sources</p>	<p>Air, Human Health, Climatic factors</p>	<p>Will it minimise the need to travel? Will it reduce car use and encourage the use of integrated and public transport? Will it improve air quality?</p>	<p>Number and total area of Air Quality Management Areas and population living in AQMAs</p>	<p>To maintain 0 AQMAs</p>	<p>The poor circulation and lack of permeability, which afflicts the area today, can be traced back to successive infrastructure projects, aimed at improving the wider transport network. Undoubtedly, these have enhanced the wider network and opened up specific sites but these improvements have often been at the expense of local permeability.</p> <p>Links across the Mersey (at this location) are restricted to the Silver Jubilee Bridge, which runs between Runcorn and Widnes South predominantly serving the wider transport network. Local links are frustrated by the congestion and speed of traffic running across the bridge resulting in poor inter-town connectivity.</p> <p>Victoria Road forms a further division, running north to south, through the centre of the area. As a gateway to Widnes south (the junction of Ashley Way West and Victoria Road), it is unfortunately restricted and narrow in character. The feeling of separation between the town centre and Widnes South is further accentuated by Ashley Way West itself, which as a main vehicular thoroughfare presents a number of challenges for pedestrians and local traffic wishing to cross it. The A562 (Ashley Way) forms the northern boundary of the Widnes South area.</p> <p>The freight line off the West Coast Main Line railway line runs parallel to the south reinforcing the divisions, which exist between Widnes town centre and Widnes South. The railway also passes over Victoria Road next to an overhead road bridge of the A568 Widnes Eastern Relief Road, which heads north through the area before turning eastwards at the railway forming yet another boundary along Victoria Road.</p> <p>The location is dominated by vehicles and road infrastructure creating an environment, where pedestrians are only likely to use the route out of necessity (most likely preferring to use the route within day light hours). The current layout means that pedestrians are less likely to feel safe or comfortable walking along Victoria Road and this creates an 'obstacle' impeding free movement between Southern Widnes and the town centre.</p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Environmental				Travel to work by mode	To reduce the number of people travelling to work by car or van by 10% by 2011 and by 20% by 2021.	<p>According to the local census 29% of households in Halton do not own a car or van although there are striking differences between wards with 38% Riverside households not having a car.</p> <p>The percentage of people in Riverside aged 16 - 74 in employment who usually:</p> <p>Work at or from home – 5.08%</p> <p>Travel to work by:</p> <p>Underground, metro, light rail, Tram or Train – 0.61%</p> <p>Bus, mini bus or coach – 7.18%</p> <p>Motorcycle, scooter or moped – 1.49%</p> <p>Driving a car or a van – 58.23%</p> <p>Passenger in a car or van – 10.44%</p> <p>Taxi – 0.99%</p> <p>Bicycle – 2.49%</p> <p>On foot – 13.04%</p> <p>Other – 0.44%</p> <p><i>(Source: 2001 Census)</i></p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
Environmental	17. To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the cultural and built environment and archaeological assets, whilst maintaining and strengthening a local distinctiveness through the enhancement of the character and appearance of the local landscape, townscape and coast	Cultural heritage and landscape	<p>Will it safeguard sites of archaeological importance?</p> <p>Will it preserve and enhance buildings which contribute to Halton's heritage?</p>	Number of Listed Buildings and Number and Area of Conservation Areas	To maintain the number of Listed Buildings and Number and Area of Conservation Areas	<p>Halton has 122 Listed Buildings 2 of which are Grade I listed, 17 are Grade II* listed and the remaining are Grade II listed. There are 3 Listed Buildings within close the SPD boundary, 1 of which is Grade II* listed (the Church of St Mary) and 2 are Grade II listed (The Wayside Pulpit to the Church of St Mary and the Former Transporter Bridge Power House).</p> <p>Halton has 10 Conservation Areas and the total area is 92. 78ha. There is 1 Conservation Area within the SPD boundary, West Bank Promenade, covering an area of approximately 2.1ha.</p> <p><i>(Source: English Heritage and Halton Borough Council)</i></p> <p>The River Mersey and Estuary will have formed a rich resource for food, transport, as a barrier crossing point and a source of energy. Consequently, it is likely to have attracted human activity during all historic periods. Buried boats, wharves and other riverine archaeological features are therefore anticipated adjacent to the River Mersey.</p>
				Number of Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal	To increase the number of Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal	<p>Currently there are 0 Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal</p> <p><i>(Source: Halton Borough Council)</i></p>
				Number of buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments 'at risk'.	To reduce the number of buildings 'at risk' to 0 by 2016.	<p>There are 2 buildings 'at risk' in Halton these are Daresbury Hall which is Grade II* Listed and the Undercroft of West Range at Norton Priory which is a scheduled monument. However, neither of these are within the SPD boundary.</p> <p><i>(Source: English Heritage, Buildings 'at risk' Register, 2007)</i></p>

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	Objective	SEA Directive/ SA Guidance	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	SPD: Baseline Data
	18. To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources	Water and soil, Climatic factors	Will it enable development to re-use brownfield land and convert existing buildings?	Proportion of housing built on previously developed land per (PDL) year	PPG3 set a target of 60% of dwellings on PDL by 2008.	<p>Historic contamination from past chemical works and landfills in the area is recognised as a potential issue for development. Between 1994 and 1998, over 180ha of derelict land were reclaimed but over 200ha – more than 3% of the borough land surface remain. The Riverside ward contains the greatest amount of PDL (59.98ha) of any ward in the borough, with a majority falling into NLID category C (17.56ha) – derelict land and buildings – land so damaged by previous industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment.</p> <p>28.12 % of new and converted dwellings were constructed on PDL in Widnes in 2005/06 (<i>Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2006</i>).</p> <p>In addition to contamination, Halton has a number of other obstacles to new development including a number of Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites.</p>
			Will it encourage prudent and efficient use of energy?			

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APPENDIX C – CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE SA SCOPING REPORT

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
Judith Nelson English Heritage	By post 14/08/07	On page 20 the West Bank Promenade conservation area is described as falling within the SPD area, however from examining Figure 3 and comparing it to the CA boundary I believe it falls outside the SPD area to the south.	The boundaries will be confirmed at the preferred options stage.
		Figure 2 and 3 are somewhat confusing with their description of areas and delineation of boundaries.	The boundaries will be confirmed at the preferred options stage.
		It is not clear what historic environment baseline information has been collect for SPD area and what are the historic environment/ cultural heritage issues for the area. Are there locally important heritage assets in addition to those described in Paragraph 7.8?	This comment is acknowledged. However, it is felt that the information relating to the SPD area is clear and there is sufficient information.
		Whilst Objective 17 is supported it is not clear how applicable or appropriate the indicator and targets are to the document subject to appraisal/assessment. For example are listed buildings at risk a relevant indicator for the documents to be appraised. It may be more appropriate in terms of a regeneration strategy to look at the re-use/enhancement of buildings and areas of historic or architectural interest.	The suggested objective and sub-objectives have not been added as it is felt that the current objectives are sufficient. Additionally, indicators are limited to those monitored by HBC.
Janet Belfield Natural England	By email 15/08/07	<u>Habitats Regulations Assessment</u> Amendments are being made to the Habitats Regulations to reflect recent clarification of the status of land-use plans as 'plans or projects' under Article 6(3) & 4 of the Habitats Directive. In general terms, this means that if a land-use plan is likely to have a significant effect, alone or in combination, on one or more European sites (SACs, SPAs) it must be subject to an 'appropriate assessment'.	Comment acknowledged. An appropriate assessment is being undertaken.
		<u>Biodiversity Duty</u> Biodiversity is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity, and has an important role to play in developing locally distinctive and sustainable communities. From 1 October 2006, all local authorities and other public authorities in England and Wales have a Duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising their functions.	Comment acknowledged.

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
Janet Belfield Natural England <i>Continued...</i>		<p><u>Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes</u></p> <p>We thank you for acknowledging Natural England's formation from its founding bodies of Countryside Agency and English Nature (section 9.1). Although in 9.3 you have referred to English Nature as now English Heritage which should be amended to 'now Natural England'.</p>	<p>This error has been corrected.</p>
		<p>We acknowledge and welcome inclusion of Habitats Directive and Birds Directive: PPS1, PPS9, PPG17, PPG20 and PPS22; and Halton's Biodiversity Action Plan. We suggest that you consider inclusion of the following documents within the list of relevant plans/policies and programmes in the scoping report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation (Natural Habitats & C) Regulations 2006 • Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. • Other relevant Biodiversity Action Plans. • Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty. (Defra, 2007) • Rising to the Challenge: A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest (NWDA, 2006) • Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning – Incorporating the natural, built and historic environment, and rural issues in plans and strategies (2005). Countryside Agency/English Nature/Environment Agency. • Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities. (English Nature now Natural England) 	<p>These documents have been included within the plans, policies and programmes section, with the exception of Planning Policy Statement 7, Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty and Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning as they are not considered applicable to the SA of the Regeneration Strategy.</p>
		<p>National and Regional State of the Countryside Reports may help and are available via links on-line at www.naturalengland.org.uk. The State of the Countryside Reports provides facts and trends about the social, economic and environmental issues encountered in England's countryside. They present evidence against 20 key indicator themes, which include a number on environment and recreation.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged, no change required.</p>

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
<p>Janet Belfield Natural England <i>Continued...</i></p>	<p>By email 15/08/07</p>	<p>Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) may also be useful; the CQC project has developed an indicator of change in countryside quality based on landscape character, in response to the 2000 Rural White Paper call for monitoring of changes in the countryside. Information on CQC is available via www.countryside-quality-counts.org.uk.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged, no change required.</p>
		<p>We welcome section 2 of Appendix 2 that sets out the relevant biodiversity data for the borough. We welcome the inclusion of the landscape character data in paragraph 2.1 but perhaps this ought to be in the landscape section, section 7, although some of its content is clearly relevant to biodiversity.</p>	<p>Change made as recommended.</p>
		<p>We would welcome expansion of the supporting text to specifically mention the hierarchy of nature conservation sites, international, national, local, etc and particular reference made to the Mersey Estuary SPA and the reasons for its designation. Data should not be limited to the borough boundary as designated sites outside Halton can be just as important, and can be affected by plans, policies, strategies and development within Halton.</p>	<p>Additional information has been included in Section 2 to address these comments.</p>
		<p>We thank you for reference to our research (former English Nature) in relation to Local Nature Reserves. We also consider that our publication 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities' may also be helpful in the provision of green space in relation to residential development.</p>	<p>This document has been reviewed and included with the plans, policies and programmes section.</p>
		<p>Indicators chosen in table 2.3 and 2.4 only cover sites and not species. We would welcome the inclusion of indicators for species here too.</p>	<p>Indicators relating to species have been included within the SAF.</p>
		<p>Section 4, Appendix 2 covers contaminated and derelict sites. Such sites can hold value for biodiversity and we would welcome recognition of that here, along with criteria, indicators and targets.</p>	<p>With the addition of indicators for specific species, it is felt that there are now sufficient criteria, indicators and targets relating to biodiversity.</p>
		<p>Within the 'Water' subsection we would welcome reference to the relationship between Halton and the Mersey Estuary SPA.</p>	<p>Text has been included to show the relationship between Halton and the Mersey Estuary SPA.</p>
		<p>Section 7, Appendix 2 covers cultural heritage and landscape. It firstly mentions green spaces and in particular green flag parks and the indicators are repeated in both this section and section 2. Section 2 contains no supporting text about green flag parks and it may be appropriate to remove the 'parks' indicators from section 2.</p>	<p>The indicator relating to green flag parks has been removed from Section 2.</p>

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
Janet Belfield Natural England	By email 15/08/07	We would appreciate inclusion of an indicator for accessible natural greenspace based on Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. These standards could also provide a target for greenspace provision.	It is felt that the indicator with regards to green flag parks is sufficient. The targets for greenspace provision based on Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards are not monitored and have therefore currently been discounted.
		This section ought to include the landscape data from section 2 as mentioned above. Figure 2.1 includes landscape designations in the key but at the printed scale it is not clear if there are any designated sites shown. If there are they ought to be referred to in this section and appropriate indicators and targets chosen to support them.	This comment is acknowledged and the change has been made.

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
		<p><u>Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework</u></p> <p>We acknowledge and welcome inclusion of a range of objectives and criteria that relate to our environmental interests, and in particular 11, 14 and 17. We note that the objectives contained in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework are the original objectives from the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal consultation from March 2006, rather than the amended objectives incorporating comments from the consultation and included in the Interim Sustainability Report of July 2006 and our most recent consultation replies. We therefore recommend that the most up-to-date objectives are used in this report incorporating changes as appropriate.</p> <p>* Objective 11 – include an indicator for accessible natural greenspace based on Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. These standards could also provide a target for greenspace provision.</p> <p>** Objective 14 – the criteria for this objective should be split to address both species and habitats, and a distinction should be made between statutory protected sites and species, and Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species. An additional criterion should be included making reference to the biodiversity value of brownfield sites. Indicators should follow this format with reference to statutory and non-statutory sites and Biodiversity Action Plans for both habitats and species, with accompanying targets as appropriate.</p>	<p>The SAF has been updated to reflect the SAF included in the Core Strategy Interim Sustainability Report of July 2006.</p> <p>It is felt that the indicator with regards to green flag parks is sufficient. In addition, the targets for greenspace provision based on Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards are not monitored and have therefore been discounted.</p> <p>Specific criteria / indicators have been included to address both species and habitats.</p> <p>It was not felt appropriate to include an additional criterion with regard to the biodiversity value of brownfield sites as this is not monitored.</p>

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
<p>Emma Williams Environment Agency</p>	<p>By email 16/08/07</p>	<p><u>Appendix 1: Assessment of Plans Policies and Programmes.</u></p> <p>In general the content and associated summary of the documents within Appendix 1 appears to be thorough and include the key policies and programmes which are required to ensure sustainable development is achieved in any regeneration.</p> <p>We would note that the Draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Halton provides an important detailed and robust assessment of the extent and nature of risk from flooding in Halton and considers the implications on spatial planning. One of the main objectives of this SFRA is "To inform policy formulation and the Sustainability Appraisal for the emerging LDF concerning land use in flood risk areas" Given that some of the area included within the boundary of this SPD is located within the flood zone the Draft SFRA should be included as one of the key documents which will have implications for the regeneration strategy and SPD.</p>	<p>This document has been included within the plans, policies and programmes section.</p>

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
		<p><u>Appendix 2: Baseline data</u></p> <p>On page 90 paragraph 2.4, we would suggest including the RAMSAR/SPA designations.</p> <p>We welcome the consideration of water issues as highlighted through the Water Framework Directive. The Environment Agency holds a significant amount of information in relation to water quality and we would advise you to consider the SEA table included with this letter which provides suggested indicators and sources of information in the identification of baseline data and in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.</p> <p>In relation to the challenges of climate change, the Environment Agency in partnership with a range of other bodies have published a SEA Climate change guide which provides advice on how climate change can be considered when assessing the sustainability of LDF documents and formation of Sustainability Appraisals. This provides useful information especially on sources of baseline information and indicators, along with possible climate change SEA objectives which may prove useful in the formation of the Sustainability Appraisal of this SPD. We therefore enclose a copy for your attention.</p>	<p>Information regarding the RAMSAR/SPA designations has been included.</p> <p>The SEA Table provided has been reviewed. Many of the indicators and targets, which are appropriate to Halton, are already included as indicators within the SAF.</p> <p>This document has been reviewed but changes are not necessary.</p>
		<p>The table on page 31 mentions that there are 61 SINC's in Halton. The 2006 Halton Annual Monitoring Report also mentions 61 SINC's, with 0% change. In the Waterfront Development Strategy for Halton Baseline report March 2005, it mentions that there are a total of 47 SINC's across the borough. We would ask that these figures are therefore checked for inaccuracies.</p>	<p>The figures have been checked and is considered to be correct within the SA Scoping Report.</p>
<p>Sam Turner North West Regional Assembly</p>	<p>By email 16/08/07</p>	<p>As the draft RSS is now someway progressed towards its adoption, it should also be given consideration when preparing the SPDs.</p> <p>As well as the Adopted and Submitted Draft RSS, the NWRA has produced a number of other documents that you may find of some assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North West Best Practice Design Guide, provides broad advice on design issues with more specific guidance on topics such as, Biodiversity, Design and 	<p>The Draft RSS has been given due consideration.</p> <p>These documents have been included within the plans, policies and programmes section.</p>

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
		<p>Security, EcoHomes, Energy Efficiency, Use of Renewable Energy, Sustainable Drainage and Modern Methods of Construction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Green Infrastructure Guide for the North West provides a detailed definition of green infrastructure, as outlined in Policy EM3 of the Submitted Draft RSS. The guide offers broad advice on how to plan and enhance green networks; • The Sustainable Energy Strategy for the region reinforces relevant policies from the draft RSS but more importantly offers important practical advice and information on taking these issues forward. • The NWRA (in association with a number of partners) have produced a Sustainability Appraisal Toolkit for use with a variety of strategies and development plans. The toolkit aims to ensure integrated plans and projects create sustainable developments within the North West. 	
<p>Steve Eccles Integration and Policy Manager, Mersey Gateway Project Team Unit, HBC</p> <p>Steve Eccles Integration and Policy Manager, Mersey Gateway Project Team Unit Halton Borough Council</p> <p><i>Continued...</i></p>	By email 14/08/07	Para. 3.1: On the Widnes side of the Bridge the road splits between the A557 and the A562, which is the road towards Liverpool.	Paragraph 3.1 has been amended to include this information.
	By email 14/08/07	Para. 3.2: The bridge is of major strategic importance to Merseyside and North Cheshire with 82% of traffic crossing the bridge making trips across the region.	Paragraph 3.2 has been amended to include this information.
		Para. 3.2: Traffic growth has been about 1.2% per annum over the last seven years, which is not double the national average.	Paragraph 3.2 has been amended to include this information.
		Para. 3.2: The bridge has four sub-standard lanes and average flows of over 80,000 vehicles per week day	Paragraph 3.2 has been amended to include this information.
		Para. 3.3: Halton Borough Council and The Mersey Crossing Group (a partnership of Halton Borough Council, all the Merseyside local authorities, Mersey Travel, Warrington Borough Council, the local Chambers of Commerce, English Partnerships, NWDA and Peel Holdings) are promoting a second integrated road crossing of the Mersey within the Borough, between Runcorn and Widnes.	Paragraph 3.3 has been amended to include this information.
		Para. 3.5: The proposed route runs from the Central Expressway in Runcorn to the Eastern bypass in Widnes and ultimately Speke Road, and is 1.5 kilometres to the east of the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge, see Figure 1.	Paragraph 3.5 has been amended to include this information.

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
		SAF and Issues Tables: There are inconsistencies between these two tables in terms of economic activity figures – these should be checked.	These have been checked, no changes necessary.
		SAF: It should be noted that in general footfall over represents trips, i.e. at minimum two footfall counts per trip.	Comment acknowledged.
		Section 8 Table 4: The last face on the first row should be blank or the box should be red.	Change has been incorporated.
Paul Byrne Government Office North West	By email 14/08/07	No comment.	N/A
Jermaine Daniels Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	By email 06/08/07	After an in-depth review of the document, we advise that the scoping report has adequately addressed the issues associated with the proposed regeneration of the action areas. With respect to the issue of compliance to the SEA regulation, we are of the view that the document is in line with the requirement of the SEA Directive as well as the criteria outlined within Government guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents'. We have the following detailed comments to make:	Comment acknowledged, no change required.
Jermaine Daniels Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Continued	By email 06/08/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the nature of both planning documents, it seems unusual for the Council to undertake a single SA to satisfy the requirements of both documents. We advise that the scoping report should include within a separate section, information clearly explaining how both documents relate to each other and how a single SA will satisfy their individual remit. 	A combined SA scoping report has been issued to avoid duplication. However, separate Sustainability Assessments will be carried out for the Regeneration Strategy and SPD.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scoping report makes reference to COMAH sites being immediately outside the boundary of the SPD and we expect that the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy and South Widnes Regeneration Area SPD should consider the potential risk associated with the regeneration proposals and COMAH sites in particular sensitive end user such as residents. As a precautionary approach we would expect any new major residential development proposals to be direct away from COMAH sites. 	Comment acknowledged, however, HBC do not monitor the proximity of residential development to COMAH sites and is therefore immeasurable.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general the overall list of issues and problems appears to be robust. 	Comment acknowledged no change necessary.

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Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments on the SA Scoping Report	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the 1 October 2006 the Environment Agency must be consulted on all application for development within flood risk areas (except minor development) and with a majority of the proposed South Widnes Regeneration Area being located in flood zones 2 and 3, it is likely that the EA will have to be consulted on proposals within this area. On this basis we suggest that the indicator measuring 'number of planning permission granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality' is included as an indicator linked to objective 13 of the SA Framework. 	<p>The indicator suggested has been added to Objective 13.</p>

APPENDIX D - TESTING THE OPTIONS

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>1) To continue reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increase the economic activity rate – will it encourage new employment that is consistent with local needs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Office and retail floor space accounts for 11.8% and 9.2% of Halton’s floorspace respectively. This is significantly below the regional (13.1% and 16.9%) and national (17% and 17.5%) respective levels. Industrial premises account for 77.1% of total floorspace usage, significantly above the regional average (66.9%) and national average (62.1%) (Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy: Issues report). The development of new office and retail space will help to address this balance.</p> <p>New office/commercial sites will be created close to the road network. A large area of existing business will be improved. A new mixed use development will be created close to business and residential sites which will provide new employment opportunities.</p> <p>In total there will be 83,246m² of B1 uses and 1,525m² of general industrial B2 uses. It is estimated that the total net additional jobs in the core area (within 10 minutes) will be 164 jobs; in the outer area of Merseyside net additional jobs will be 421 jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>There will be an improved balance between the amount of industrial floorspace and office and retail floorspace – see option 1.</p> <p>New office/commercial sites will be created close to the road network. There will be a large area of business improvement and a large site of mixed use development which will create new employment opportunities.</p> <p>In total there will be 1,235m² of shops, 79,861m² of business B1 and 1,479m² of general industrial B2 uses. It is estimated that the total net additional jobs in the core area (within 10 minutes) will be 160 jobs; in the outer area of Merseyside net additional jobs will be 410 jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>There will be an improved balance between the amount of industrial floorspace and office and retail floorspace – see option 1.</p> <p>New office/commercial sites will be created close to the road network. Three employment village sites will also be created to house relocated businesses and there will be a small business improvement area. There will be two sites for mixed use development which will create new employment opportunities.</p> <p>In total there will be 2,050m² of shops, 121,019m² of business B1 and 2,273m² of general industrial B2 uses. It is estimated that the total net additional jobs in the core area (within 10 minutes) will be 242 jobs; in the outer area of Merseyside net additional jobs will be 623 jobs.</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2) To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment – will it provide improved access to vocational training, education and skills for young people? Will it provide local employment opportunities for local people by linking in to local businesses?	?	?	?
	<p>The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre is proposed. This could provide access to adult education facilities.</p> <p>Vocational training and skills development could be provided by linking new construction taking place to apprenticeships at local colleges.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include further information on education provision in the preferred option.</p>	<p>The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre is proposed. This could provide access to adult education facilities.</p> <p>Vocational training and skills development could be provided by linking new construction taking place to apprenticeships at local colleges.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include further information on education provision in the preferred option.</p>	<p>The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre is proposed. This could provide access to adult education facilities.</p> <p>Vocational training and skills development could be provided by linking new construction taking place to apprenticeships at local colleges.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include further information on education provision in the preferred option.</p>
3) To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development – will it encourage the growth of indigenous businesses?	✓	✓	✓✓
	<p>The improvement of existing business areas and improved access which will widen the potential market and customer base will both help to encourage the stability and growth of existing businesses.</p>	<p>The improvement of existing business areas and improved access which will widen the potential market and customer base will both help to encourage the stability and growth of existing businesses. The at grade junctions will facilitate access into the business area.</p>	<p>A number of existing businesses will be relocated in Employment Villages which will be created adjacent to the existing A533. The A533 will be at grade with the sites and a new junction will be created leading to enhanced access and profile as the sites will be seen from the road. This will increase the profile and access for local businesses, widening the market and customer base.</p>
4) To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business – Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	✓	✓✓	✓✓
	<p>There will be increased accessibility through the provision of two new junctions onto the A533 leading across the Silver Jubilee Bridge. This will help businesses to be more competitive as they will be able to reach wider markets and customers.</p>	<p>There will be increased accessibility through the provision of two new junctions which will be at grade onto the A533 leading across the Silver Jubilee Bridge. This will help businesses to be more competitive as they will be able to reach wider markets and customers.</p>	<p>There will be increased accessibility through the provision of two new junctions which will be at grade onto the A533 leading across the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Employment Villages will be adjacent to the A533 and there will be a new junction to access them. This will help businesses to be more competitive as they will be able to reach wider markets and customers.</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
5) To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres (Runcorn Old Town, Halton Lea and Widnes) – will it provide an improvement to one of more of the town centres?	?	?	?
	Improvements will be made to the streets running under the new Mersey Gateway Bridge to Widnes. However it is unclear whether the option would enhance the vitality and viability of Widnes town centre.	Improvements will be made to the streets running under the new Mersey Gateway Bridge to Widnes. However it is unclear whether the option would enhance the vitality and viability of Widnes town centre.	Improvements will be made to the streets running under the new Mersey Gateway Bridge to Widnes. However it is unclear whether the option would enhance the vitality and viability of Widnes town centre.
6) To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment – will it encourage inward investment?	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
	A new Waterside Boulevard and increased greenspace is proposed which will enhance the image of the area. The development of new employment and residential sites will encourage new investment. The provision of two new junctions from the A533 will promote the area as a place to access rather than just bypass.	A new Waterside Boulevard (this will be more extensive than option 1) and increased greenspace is proposed which will enhance the image of the area. There will be public realm improvements with the development of New Sankey Square. The development of new employment and residential sites will further encourage new investment. The provision of two new junctions at grade from the A533 will promote the area as a place to access rather than just bypass.	A new Waterside Boulevard (this will be more extensive than option 1 but slightly less than option 2) and increased greenspace is proposed which will enhance the image of the area. The development of new employment and residential sites will further encourage new investment into the areas. The provision of two new junctions at grade from the A533 will promote the area as a place to access rather than just bypass.
7) To improve health and reduce health inequalities – will it improve the standard of healthcare, particularly for the elderly? Will it support healthy lifestyles?	?	?	?
	<p>There will be a number of improved green areas including improved leisure uses on Spike Island. A new Waterside Boulevard will be created. These will both provide valuable amenity space to encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The provision of new pedestrian and cycle routes will encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>However there could be potential negative impacts on health due to a large amount of the residential area being adjacent to a large industrial site and the A533 which although downgraded will still be a busy road.</p>	<p>There will be a number of improved green areas including improved leisure uses on Spike Island. A new Waterside Boulevard will be created which will be more extensive than option 1. These will both provide valuable amenity space to encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The provision of new pedestrian and cycle routes will encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>However there could be potential negative impacts on health due to a large amount of the residential area being adjacent to a large industrial site and the A533 which although downgraded will still be a busy road.</p> <p>No information is provided on healthcare</p>	<p>There will be a number of improved green areas including improved leisure uses on Spike Island. A new Waterside Boulevard will be created which will be more extensive than option 1 but slightly less than option 2. These will both provide valuable amenity space to encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The provision of new pedestrian and cycle routes will encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>The residential element is away from main roads and therefore likely to benefit from improved air quality.</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	<p>No information is provided on healthcare facilities for the new (and existing) residents.</p> <p>Recommendation: Preferred option should include a reference to the provision of or access to healthcare.</p>	<p>facilities for the new (and existing) residents.</p> <p>Recommendation: Preferred option should include a reference to the provision of or access to healthcare.</p>	<p>No information is provided on healthcare facilities for the new (and existing) residents.</p> <p>Recommendation: Preferred option should include a reference to the provision of or access to healthcare.</p>
8) To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime – will it encourage crime-sensitive design? Will it target, reduce and sustain a reduction in crime? Will it reduce the likelihood of violence and antisocial behaviour?	✓	✓	✓
	<p>The provision of new employment opportunities will help to regenerate the area. This should have knock-on effects in improving issues associated with deprivation such as crime. General improvements to the appearance of streets should help to encourage a greater feeling of wellbeing.</p> <p>The provision of a neighbourhood centre could provide activities, particularly for young people who might otherwise become engaged in anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include reference to Crime Sensitive Design in preferred option, for example following Secured by Design principles.</p>	<p>The provision of new employment opportunities will help to regenerate the area. This should have knock-on effects in improving issues associated with deprivation such as crime. General improvements to the appearance of streets should help to encourage a greater feeling of wellbeing.</p> <p>The provision of a neighbourhood centre could provide activities, particularly for young people who might otherwise become engaged in anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include reference to Crime Sensitive Design in preferred option, for example following Secured by Design principles.</p>	<p>The provision of new employment opportunities will help to regenerate the area. This should have knock-on effects in improving issues associated with deprivation such as crime. General improvements to the appearance of streets should help to encourage a greater feeling of wellbeing.</p> <p>The provision of a neighbourhood centre could provide activities, particularly for young people who might otherwise become engaged in anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include reference to Crime Sensitive Design in preferred option, for example following Secured by Design principles.</p>
9) To provide well designed, good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing – will it provide for affordable housing for local people? Will it ensure that new housing is of a high standard of design and layout? Will it provide safe, secure and decent housing?	✓/!	✓/!	✓✓/!
	<p>Approximately 184 Apartments, 68 Town Houses, 98 Family Houses will be developed. This will provide a greater variety of housing types as the property type profile in Halton is skewed towards terraced and semi-detached houses at present. The stock of flats is low and the majority are in the social housing sector. (Halton Housing Needs Study, 2006). There is a demand for new housing and</p>	<p>Approximately 79 Apartments, 99 Town Houses, 89 Family Houses will be developed. This will provide a greater variety of housing types and help to meet new housing demand – see option 1.</p> <p>However, there is no information on whether the houses will be affordable, good quality and resource efficient.</p>	<p>Approximately 185 Apartments, 161 Town Houses, 136 Family Houses will be developed. This will provide a greater variety of housing types and help to meet new housing demand – see option 1.</p> <p>The new residential sites have more potential to be desirable than options 1 or 2 as two of the sites are adjacent to the riverside and the proposed Waterside Boulevard and opposite the large expanse</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	<p>the council must significantly increase its annual dwelling completion rates to meet with regional prescriptions, at present it is estimated that there will be a shortfall of 2,235 dwellings (Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy: Issues report).</p> <p>However, there is no information on whether the houses will be affordable, good quality and resource efficient.</p> <p>Recommendation: Preferred option should set a target for the % of affordable homes provided and contain design standards to encourage resource efficiency and quality design. There is an affordability issue with a need for an additional 176 affordable housing units per annum (Halton Housing Needs Study, 2006).</p>	<p>Recommendation: Preferred option should set a target for the % of affordable homes provided and contain design standards to encourage resource efficiency and quality design. There is an affordability issue with a need for an additional 176 affordable housing units per annum (Halton Housing Needs Study, 2006)</p>	<p>of Spike Island which will be improved for leisure uses. However, these houses are more likely to be aspirational and may therefore not respond to the needs of local people.</p> <p>There is no information on whether the houses will be good quality and resource efficient.</p> <p>Recommendation: Preferred option should set a target for the % of affordable homes provided and contain design standards to encourage resource efficiency and quality design. There is an affordability issue with a need for an additional 176 affordable housing units per annum (Halton Housing Needs Study, 2006)</p>
10) To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities – Will it support transport provision and accessibility? Will it provide for local retail needs? Will it improve public access to services and amenities?	✓	✓✓	✓✓
	<p>Access will be enhanced through the development of two new junctions on to the existing A533 leading to the Silver Jubilee Bridge. A number of local streets will be improved and pedestrian and cycle routes created to improve access.</p>	<p>Access will be enhanced through the development of two new junctions at grade on to the existing A533 leading to the Silver Jubilee Bridge. A number of local streets will be improved and pedestrian and cycle routes created. It is proposed that 1,235m² of new shop space would be created.</p>	<p>Access will be enhanced through the development of two new junctions at grade on to the existing A533 leading to the Silver Jubilee Bridge. A number of local streets will be improved and pedestrian and cycle routes created. It is proposed that 2,050m² of new shop space would be created.</p>
11) To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace – Will it ensure that all people have access to public open space within a reasonable distance from where they live? Will it improve access to natural greenspace?	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
	<p>Access to greenspace will be improved and large areas of improved greenspace will be provided. Spike Island will be improved for leisure uses with pedestrian/green routes linking it with existing areas. A new Waterside Boulevard will also be created.</p>	<p>Access to greenspace will be improved and large areas of improved greenspace will be provided. Spike Island will be improved for leisure uses with pedestrian/green routes linking it with existing areas. A new Waterside Boulevard will also be created (more extensive than option 1).</p>	<p>Access to greenspace will be improved and large areas of improved greenspace will be provided. Spike Island will be improved for leisure uses with pedestrian/green routes linking it with existing areas. A new Waterside Boulevard will also be created (more extensive than option 1, slightly less than option 2).</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
12) To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities – Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?	✓ Social exclusion and deprivation will be reduced through the economic regeneration of the area with increased employment opportunities for this area which is one of the most deprived in Halton. New pedestrian and cycle routes will improve accessibility to local facilities and employment. The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre should provide a valuable community service.	✓ Social exclusion and deprivation will be reduced through the economic regeneration of the area with increased employment opportunities for this area which is one of the most deprived in Halton. New pedestrian and cycle routes will improve accessibility to local facilities. The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre should provide a valuable community service.	✓ Social exclusion and deprivation will be reduced through the economic regeneration of the area with increased employment opportunities for this area which is one of the most deprived in Halton. New pedestrian and cycle routes will improve accessibility to local facilities. The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre should provide a valuable community service.
13) To minimise the risk of flooding in relation to both new and existing development whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters – Will it improve the quality of controlled waters? Will it ensure that the area within Flood Risk Zones 2 & 3 does not increase? Will it ensure that new developments are not at risk from flooding?	x The new residential sites would be in flood zone 3 but there is no history of flooding in this area. Bowers Brook which runs through the area is culverted. The majority of development is on existing hardstanding so there will be so significant increase in runoff. The area is adjacent to the River Mersey leading to potential flood risk. However the amount of development right next to the river is limited and the provision of large areas of green space should help to mitigate potential impacts.	x The new residential sites would be in flood zone 3 but there is no history of flooding in this area. Bowers Brook which runs through the area is culverted. The majority of development is on existing hardstanding so there will be so significant increase in runoff. The area is adjacent to the River Mersey leading to potential flood risk. However the amount of development right next to the river is limited and the provision of large areas of green space should help to mitigate potential impacts.	x The new residential sites would be in flood zone 3 but there is no history of flooding in this area. Bowers Brook which runs through the area is culverted in this area. The majority of development is on existing hardstanding so there will be so significant increase in runoff.

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
14) To protect, enhance and manage diversity – Will it protect or enhance statutory protected sites and habitats of nature conservation value? Will it protect or enhance statutory protected species? Will it protect or enhance BAP habitats? Will it protect or enhance BAP species?	?	?	?
	<p>Whilst a number of greenspaces are to be improved, there is no information on protecting or enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include targets for biodiversity improvements in the preferred option.</p>	<p>Whilst a number of greenspaces are to be improved, there is no information on protecting or enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include targets for biodiversity improvements in the preferred option.</p>	<p>Whilst a number of greenspaces are to be improved, there is no information on protecting or enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include targets for biodiversity improvements in the preferred option.</p>
15) To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates – Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal?	x	x	xx
	<p>There will be an increased production of waste during the construction process.</p> <p>Recommendation: the preferred option should require implementation of Site Waste Management Plans, to maximise the reuse and recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>Reference should also be made to ensuring that there is sufficient space for recycling facilities to enable effective recycling during occupation of residential and commercial units.</p>	<p>There will be an increased production of waste during the construction process.</p> <p>Recommendation: the preferred option should require implementation of Site Waste Management Plans, to maximise the reuse and recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>Reference should also be made to ensuring that there is sufficient space for recycling facilities to enable effective recycling during occupation of residential and commercial units.</p>	<p>There will be an increased production of waste during the construction process. Due to the extent of the alterations made with this option the levels of waste generated are anticipated to be the highest.</p> <p>Recommendation: the preferred option should require implementation of Site Waste Management Plans, to maximise the reuse and recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>Reference should also be made to ensuring that there is sufficient space for recycling facilities to enable effective recycling during occupation of residential and commercial units.</p>
16) To improve air quality by reducing the need to travel and improving choice and use of sustainable transport modes and reducing air pollution from other sources – Will it minimise the need to travel? Will it reduce car use and encourage the use of integrated and public transport? Will it improve air quality?	✓	✓	✓
	<p>The provision of cycle and pedestrian routes will encourage the use of sustainable transport modes helping to reduce the use of private cars and associated air pollution. The A533 will become a bus priority zone.</p>	<p>The provision of cycle and pedestrian routes will encourage the use of sustainable transport modes helping to reduce the use of private cars and associated air pollution. The A533 will become a bus priority zone.</p>	<p>The provision of cycle and pedestrian routes will encourage the use of sustainable transport modes helping to reduce the use of private cars and associated air pollution. The A533 will become a bus priority zone.</p>

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Sustainability Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
17) To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the cultural and built environment and archaeological assets, whilst maintaining and strengthening a local distinctiveness through the enhancement of the character and appearance of the local landscape, townscape and coast – will it safeguard sites of archaeological importance? Will it preserve and enhance buildings which contribute to Halton’s heritage?	?	?	?
	<p>No information is available at this stage regarding building design.</p> <p>There is potential for archaeological remains, particularly adjacent to the river.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require the developers to assess the townscape impacts of their developments; undertake an archaeological desk study; and refer to the North West Best Practice Design Guide.</p>	<p>No information is available at this stage regarding building design.</p> <p>There is potential for archaeological remains, particularly adjacent to the river.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require the developers to assess the townscape impacts of their developments; undertake an archaeological desk study; and refer to the North West Best Practice Design Guide.</p>	<p>No information is available at this stage regarding building design.</p> <p>There is potential for archaeological remains, particularly adjacent to the river.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require the developers to assess the townscape impacts of their developments; undertake an archaeological desk study; and refer to the North West Best Practice Design Guide.</p>
18) To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources – Will it enable development to re-use brownfield land and convert existing buildings? Will it encourage prudent and efficient use of energy? Will it use water efficiently and with care? Will it encourage the development of appropriate types of renewable energy resources?	?	?	?
	<p>New development will use land efficiently through the re-use of brownfield sites. However construction of new buildings will involve energy and resource use.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require specific environmental standards to be met. For example BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes.</p>	<p>New development will use land efficiently through the re-use of brownfield sites. However construction of new buildings will involve energy and resource use.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require specific environmental standards to be met. For example BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes.</p>	<p>New development will use land efficiently through the re-use of brownfield sites. However construction of new buildings will involve energy and resource use.</p> <p>Recommendation: The preferred option should require specific environmental standards to be met. For example BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes.</p>

APPENDIX E – TESTING THE REVISED PLAN OBJECTIVES

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KEY

✓ - Compatible

✗ - Incompatible

⊖ – No Links

? – Dependent on nature of implementation measures

Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
	1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets	18 To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources
Regeneration Strategy	1 - Image and Place Making – lift perceptions of Widnes and Runcorn, ensure any new development attributable to the catalytic effect of the Bridge, makes a positive enhancement to the character of the locality in terms of design quality and resource use. Build on the strong local sense of community, and place, enhancing and promoting key assets in each of the localities (physical and community)	✓	⊖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖		

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
		1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets
2 – Accessibility and Sustainable Movement – Increase the catchment area for labour, goods and markets; Facilitate enhanced sustainable movements by pedestrians, cyclists and local vehicular travellers.	✓	①	✓	✓	✓	✓	①	①	✓	✓	①	①	①	①	✓	①	①	

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
		1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets
3 - Development and Economic Prosperity – improve the commercial and residential accommodation in the area, having particular regard to local needs, and providing good quality, affordable and resource efficient accommodation. Bring back into use land for new development. Development should use land, energy and water resources prudently, minimising the production of waste and increasing reuse, recycling and recovery of waste.	✓	⊖	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
	1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets	18 To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources
Southern Widnes	1 - Re brand Southern Widnes through the creation of high-quality gateway locations with excellent access to the regions principal conurbations and population; development of high-quality, aspirational and affordable housing and services.	✓	⊖	✓	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	✓	⊖	✓	?	⊖	?	⊖	⊖	?
	2 - Facilitating the development of resource efficient high-quality business accommodation, providing mixed-use leisure and recreational facilities, providing resource efficient and affordable housing and upgrading the standard of the public realm including access to high quality greenspace.	✓	⊖	✓	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	✓

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
	1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets	18 To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources
3 - Enable local residents to share directly in the wider investment benefits of regeneration – develop local skills and capacity; increase local employment opportunities and reduce worklessness in Southern Widnes. It is important that local employment opportunities must remain, and be further encouraged in the area.	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
4 – To provide investment to support, and develop, training facilities for local sporting provision, incorporating flood lights and changing rooms.	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	✓	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	?	⊖	⊖	?	?

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
	<p>5 – To provide an additional access route, served by public transport through the Sustainable Transport Strategy in particular, but also serving new walking and cycling routes into Southern Widnes to negate the existing bottleneck situation, improve east-west connectivity, upgrade links to Widnes Town Centre and the River Mersey and utilise the de-linking of redundant expressways to unlock new development opportunities and reduce the severance and isolation experienced by local communities.</p>	1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets
✓		⊖	✓	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	?	⊖	✓	✓	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	?	

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Objective	Economic						Social						Environmental					
	1 To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate	2 To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment	3 To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	4 To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	5 To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres	6 To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	7 To improve health and reduce health inequalities	8 To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	9 To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	10 To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	11 To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace	12 To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	13 To minimise the risk of flooding whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	14 To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	15 To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	16 To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality	17 To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets	18 To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources
6 – To improve safety (incorporating Secured by Design principles), and local physical amenities, by upgrading street lighting and the wider public realm within Southern Widnes and the links from this area to Widnes Town Centre.	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
7 – To create a new heart for Southern Widnes with the consolidation of local retail, services and improved education and health provision.	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	✓	⊖	✓	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖

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APPENDIX F – TESTING THE PREFERRED OPTIONS

In carrying out the appraisal of the policies contained within the SPD, matrices have been used to document the predicted effects of the policy against the 18 Sustainability Objectives that have been developed in the earlier stages of the SA process.

For the purpose of this assessment, significant effects are defined as are those which have been identified as very sustainable (✓✓) or very unsustainable (xx) in the assessment.

The following key indicates the symbols and abbreviations that have been used in these matrices.

Abbreviation	Description
Scale of Effect	
L	Local
R	Regional
N	National
G	Global
Permanence of Effect	
T	Temporary
P	Permanent
Timescale	
S	0 – 10 years of the plan
M	10 – 20 years of the plan
L	After the life of the plan
Likelihood of Effect	
H	High
M	Medium
L	Low
Assessment of Effect	
✓✓	Very sustainable
✓	Sustainable
–	Neutral
?	Uncertain
x	Unsustainable
xx	Very unsustainable

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SA Objective (abridged)	Nature of effect				Assessment	Justification for the Assessment and Recommendations for Mitigation
	Scale	Permanence	Timescale	Likelihood		
ECONOMIC						
To continue reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increase the economic activity rate (SA1)	L	P	S-L	H	✓	New office/commercial sites will be created close to the road network. There will be a large area of business improvement and a large site of mixed use development which will create new employment opportunities.
To improve educational attainment and opportunities for lifelong learning and employment (SA2)	?	?	?	?	?	The development of a new neighbourhood centre is proposed (Policy CC1) which the SPD states should allow for provision of a new skills and training centre (para 5.4), although this is not a specific policy requirement. Vocational training and skills could be provided by linking new construction taking place to apprenticeships at local colleges.
To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development (SA3)	L	P	S-M	H	✓	The improvement of existing business areas and improved access will widen the potential market and customer base and help to encourage the stability and growth of existing businesses. The at-grade junctions will facilitate access into the business area. New space will be provided to meet the needs of a variety of different business types and sizes with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of local small and medium sized businesses.
To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business (SA4)	L	P	S-M	H	✓✓	There will be increased accessibility through the provision of two new junctions at grade onto the A533 leading across the Silver Jubilee Bridge. This will help businesses to be more competitive as they will be able to reach wider markets and customers.
SOCIAL						
To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres (Runcorn Old Town, Halton Lea and Widnes) (SA5)	L	P	S-L	L	-	Improvements will be made to the streets running under the new Mersey Gateway Bridge to Widnes together with public transport connections to the town centre. However it is unlikely that this would significantly enhance the vitality and viability of Widnes town centre.
To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment (SA6)	L	P	S-L	H	✓✓	A new Waterside Boulevard and increased greenspace is proposed which will enhance the image of the area. The development of new employment and residential sites will further encourage new investment into the areas. The provision of two new junctions at grade from the A533 will promote the area as a place to access rather than just bypass. Viewing corridors of the Sankey Canal, Spike Island, the Mersey Estuary and the new Mersey Gateway Bridge should be improved.

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SA Objective (abridged)	Nature of effect				Assessment	Justification for the Assessment and Recommendations for Mitigation
	Scale	Permanence	Timescale	Likelihood		
To improve health and reduce health inequalities (SA7)	L	P	S-L	L	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">?</p>	<p>There will be a number of improved green areas including improved leisure uses on Spike Island. A new Waterside Boulevard will also be created. These will both provide valuable amenity space to encourage healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>The provision of new pedestrian and cycle routes will encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>However there could be potential negative impacts on health due to the location of some residential areas adjacent to a large industrial site and the A533 which although downgraded will still be a busy road.</p> <p>The new neighbourhood centre may provide health facilities to serve new and existing communities although this is currently not certain.</p>
To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime (SA8)	L	P	S-M	M	✓✓	<p>The provision of new employment opportunities will help to regenerate the area. This should have knock-on effects in improving issues associated with deprivation such as crime. General improvements to the appearance of streets should help to encourage a greater feeling of wellbeing.</p> <p>The provision of a neighbourhood centre could provide activities, particularly for young people who might otherwise become engaged in anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The SPD requires reference to be made to Secured by Design in the development of new housing.</p>
To provide well designed, good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing (SA9)	L	P	S	M	✓	<p>The new neighbourhoods will be focussed towards family and affordable housing. This will provide a greater variety of housing types as the property type profile in Halton is skewed towards terraced and semi-detached houses at present.</p> <p>Within the Southern Widnes Character area, new, high quality residential development is supported together with the ongoing programme of investment in existing residential properties.</p> <p>The SPD requires all new residential development to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 or higher. This will increase the resource efficiency of the homes. The SPD also requires development to have regard to the Council's Design for New Homes SPD and the North West Best Practice Design Guide.</p>
To improve access to basic goods, services and	L	P	S	H	✓✓	<p>The SPD aims to create a permeable movement network within Southern Widnes where walking and cycling is promoted. Access will be enhanced through the development of two new junctions at grade on to</p>

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SA Objective (abridged)	Nature of effect				Assessment	Justification for the Assessment and Recommendations for Mitigation
	Scale	Permanence	Timescale	Likelihood		
amenities (SA10)						<p>the existing A533 leading to the Silver Jubilee Bridge. A number of local streets will be improved and public transport connections, pedestrian and cycle crossings will facilitate access to Widnes Town Centre.</p> <p>The Southern Widnes residential area is currently poorly served by retail uses and the new neighbourhood centre aims to improve the convenience goods of the area as well as providing a community function.</p> <p>New retail and leisure facilities are also proposed within the Hutchinson Street area to meet the needs of the new residents.</p>
To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace (SA11)	L	P	S-L	H	✓✓	<p>Large areas of improved greenspace will be provided. Spike Island will be improved for leisure uses with pedestrian/green routes linking it with existing areas. A new Waterside Boulevard will also be created.</p> <p>The SPD requires residential development to include greenspace provision in accordance with the Council's Provision of Open Spaces SPD and UDP Policy H3.</p>
To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities (SA12)	L	P	S-M	M	✓	<p>Social exclusion and deprivation will be reduced through the economic regeneration of the area with increased employment opportunities.</p> <p>The development of a new Neighbourhood Centre should provide a valuable community facility.</p>
ENVIRONMENTAL						
To minimise the risk of flooding in relation to both new and existing development whilst protecting, improving and where necessary, restoring the quality of inland, estuarine and costal waters (SA13)	L	P	S-L	L	×	<p>The new residential sites would be in Flood Zone 3 but the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment states that there is no history of flooding in this area. Bowers Brook which runs through the area is culverted. The area is adjacent to the River Mersey leading to potential flood risk. However the amount of development right next to the river is limited and the provision of large areas of green space should help to mitigate potential impacts. In any event, the SPD requires flood risk to be assessed and, where necessary mitigated.</p> <p>The SPD requires appropriate mitigation measures to be proposed including SuDS to restrict run off to existing rates or better.</p>
To protect, enhance and manage diversity (SA 14)	L	P	S-L	M	✓	<p>The SPD policy aims to protect and enhance the Mersey estuary's habitats (Policy CC4). A number of improvements to open spaces and landscaping are proposed, and the SPD policies require these to enhance the ecological performance of the area (Policy CC8).</p> <p>Woodland planting is also required in accordance with the objectives of Mersey Forest.</p>

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SA Objective (abridged)	Nature of effect				Assessment	Justification for the Assessment and Recommendations for Mitigation
	Scale	Permanence	Timescale	Likelihood		
To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates (SA15)	L	T	S-M	H	-	<p>There will be an increased production of waste during the construction process. However, the SPD requires Site Waste Management Plans to be prepared, to maximise the reuse and recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>The SPD also aims to create flexible premises that can sustain a variety of uses over time. This should help to reduce the amount of waste in the longer term.</p> <p>The SPD also requires sufficient space to be provided for recycling facilities to enable effective recycling during occupation of residential and commercial units.</p>
To improve air quality by reducing the need to travel and improving choice and use of sustainable transport modes and reducing air pollution from other sources (SA16)	L	P	S-L	M	✓	<p>The provision of cycle and pedestrian routes will encourage the use of sustainable transport modes helping to reduce the use of private cars and associated air pollution. The A533 will become a bus priority zone and public transport links should be facilitated.</p>
To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the cultural and built environment and archaeological assets (SA17)	L	P	S-M	M	✓	<p>The SPD requires all future developments within the area to be of the highest design quality, taking into account the character of the area although this is not a specific policy. Key view corridors, including those of St Mary's Church, the Mersey Estuary, the Silver Jubilee Bridge and the new Mersey Gateway Bridge are to be protected and new development should enhance the setting of the listed Catalyst Museum.</p> <p>The SPD requires environmental constraints associated with development to be identified and mitigated, including landscape and visual impacts. An archaeological assessment is required for all planning applications affecting known or potential areas of archaeological interest. Where potential impacts are identified, appropriate measures should be proposed and agreed with the Local Planning Authority.</p>
To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources (SA18)	L	P	S-L	H	?	<p>New development will use land efficiently through the re-use of brownfield sites. Whilst construction of new buildings will involve energy and resource use the SPD requires new residential development to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 and commercial development to achieve a BREEAM rating of Very Good. This should encourage resource efficiency. Renewable energy generation is also encouraged.</p>

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SA Objective (abridged)	Nature of effect				Assessment	Justification for the Assessment and Recommendations for Mitigation
	Scale	Permanence	Timescale	Likelihood		
Conclusions	<p>The SPD policies and proposals generally perform well against the sustainability objectives, particularly the social and economic objectives through provision of new and improved employment sites, new residential neighbourhoods, provision of local retail facilities, improved greenspace and improved access. The environmental effects should largely be positive providing appropriate assessment and mitigation measures are put in place during the planning approvals process.</p> <p>The Appraisal represented above, is an assessment of the completed proposals. However, the proposals are intended to be developed in three distinct phases. Phase 1 comprises development of the infrastructure associated with the new Mersey Gateway bridge and downgrading of existing infrastructure associated with the Silver Jubilee Bridge. This Phase is unlikely to bring about any significant sustainability benefits in isolation. Phase 2 includes development around the Hutchinson Street area together with the new Neighbourhood Centre opposite Sankey Island and access improvements. This phase is likely to bring about the majority of sustainability benefits identified above. Phase 3, comprises provision of new employment sites and improvement of the existing light industrial area. This phase would result in economic benefits with associated knock-on social benefits.</p>					