



Report

Submitted to
Sefton Metropolitan Borough
Council

Submitted by
AECOM
Scott House
Alençon Link
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 7PP
United Kingdom

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan

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Prepared by: Isla Hoffmann Heap
Consultant Ecologist

Checked by: Dr James Riley
Associate Director

Approved by: Max Wade
Technical Director

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Scott House, Alençon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 7PP, United Kingdom
Telephone: 01256 310 200 Website: <http://www.aecom.com>

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 AECOM has been appointed by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (“the Council” or “Sefton Council”) to assist in undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the potential effects of the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan¹ only on the Natura 2000 network and Ramsar sites. The draft Plan was accompanied by an HRA (2015) which included consultation with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales. The responses from these bodies have been factored into the Proposed Modifications document. The draft Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in August 2015. Hearings were held in November and December 2015 and January 2016 and the Inspector issued initial findings in February 2016.
- 1.1.2 The HRA is required to evaluate the Likely Significant Effects of the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan on internationally important wildlife sites within the zone of influence, and determine if there is a relevant connecting pathway.
- 1.1.3 Since the submitted Local Plan was subject to an HRA (2015) that was able to conclude no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally designated sites provided recommendations were incorporated within the Plan document, this HRA does not need to re-examine the entire Local Plan. **This HRA document only assesses the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan** following the Inspector’s findings.
- 1.1.4 The objective of this assessment is to:
- Identify any aspects of the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan that would cause an adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, otherwise known as European sites or internationally designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites²), either in isolation or in-combination with other plans and projects; and,
 - To advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects are identified.
- 1.1.5 There are current proposals to extend the physical extent and proposed interest features of the Liverpool Bay SPA. This HRA therefore also takes the opportunity to consider whether there would be any adverse effects on the Proposed Extension to the SPA. If the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan cannot be screened out as being unlikely to lead to significant effects, then Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required in order to devise measures that can be incorporated into the Local Plan which will enable the Council in their role as ‘competent authority’ to conclude that no adverse effect on the integrity of internationally important wildlife sites will result.
- 1.1.6 The Habitats Regulations applies the precautionary principle to Natura 2000 sites (SAC and SPA). As a matter of UK Government policy, Ramsar sites³ are given equivalent status. For the purposes of this assessment candidate SACs (cSACs), proposed SPAs (pSPAs) and proposed Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are all treated as fully designated sites. In this report we use the term ‘internationally designated sites’ to refer collectively to the sites listed in this paragraph.
- 1.1.7 Throughout this document the phrase Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been used to refer to the overall process required by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended), while Appropriate Assessment (AA) is used for the specific stage of the process in which it is necessary to determine adverse effects on the integrity of internationally designated sites. The need for HRA and AA is set out within Article 6.3 of the EC Habitats Regulations 1992, and transposed into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (**Box 1**). The ultimate aim of the Regulations is to “*maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest*” (Habitats Regulations, Article 2(2)). This aim relates to habitats and species, not the internationally designated sites themselves, although the sites have a significant role in delivering favourable conservation status.

¹ A Local Plan for Sefton Proposed Modifications (Post Interim Report)

² Wetlands of International Importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1979

³ Ibid

Habitats Directive 1992

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.”

Article 6 (3)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

“A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site ... must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives ... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

Regulation 61 (1)

Box 1: The legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment

- 1.1.8 Chapter 2 of this report explains the HRA/AA process and methodology in more detail, identifying the scope of the assessment (i.e. which internationally designated sites have been considered) including the rationale for scoping out some internationally designated sites early in the process. The ‘in-combination’ scope is also explained, with a brief description of key plans and policies which have been considered. Chapter 3 summarises the findings of the HRA exercise undertaken for this report, incorporating Test of Likely Significant Effects of Proposed Modifications to sites for allocation, and Proposed Modifications to strategic policies.
- 1.1.9 Chapters 4 to 8 are divided up into one Chapter for each internationally designated site, except where multiple sites overlap in a particular geographic area (e.g. Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar sites). The details of the interest features and ecological condition of the site and environmental process essential to maintain site integrity are not detailed within this report (for reference please see the 2015 HRA of Sefton's Local Plan). Those modifications which have been screened in and require further consideration are discussed with respect to each internationally designated site, and an AA is then carried out including recommended changes to policy wording where required. The summary and conclusion of the HRA/AA is presented in Chapter 9.

1.2 Sefton Local Plan

- 1.2.1 The Sefton Local Plan is a long term planning document that will set the framework for future development in Sefton over the plan period to 2030. Once adopted, the Local Plan will be used as the basis for determining individual planning applications and for other decisions taken under the Planning Acts.
- 1.2.2 The Local Plan and its Proposed Modifications are intended to:
- Make sure that the Council provides for development to meet the needs of communities, provide a policy framework for making decisions on planning applications and set priorities for investment in employment, housing and infrastructure.
- 1.2.3 The Sefton Local Plan including Proposed Modifications seeks to deliver the following key development:
- The provision of 11,520 homes during the period of 2012-2030 (Policy MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements). This is an increase of 450 dwellings (4%) on the quantum of growth assessed in the HRA of the submitted Local Plan. Most of this is provided on identified housing allocations. This will be staged at 500 dwellings per annum from 2012 - 2017 and 694 dwellings per annum from 2017 – 2030.
 - The provision of 81.59 hectares of employment land during the Plan period (also from Policy MN1). This a reduction of 2.91 hectares (3%) of the quantum of employment land assessed in the HRA of the submitted Local Plan.
 - Supporting urban regeneration, priorities for investment and economic growth primarily through five Strategic Employment Locations spread out across Sefton.
 - significant development and restructuring in the Port and Maritime Zone including the possible expansion of the operational port area onto the Seaforth Nature Reserve (part of Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar) and increase in surrounding road capacity;

- development of shopping, leisure, culture and other services in Sefton's towns and local centres including leisure, recreation and tourism at Southport Seafront; and,
- development of green infrastructure along the Coast and leisure facilities at Crosby Marine Park and especially Southport Seafront;

1.2.4 It is these key aspects of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan that are therefore subject to HRA in this document.

2 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section sets out our approach and methodology for undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). HRA itself operates independently from the Planning Policy system, being a legal requirement of a discrete Statutory Instrument. Therefore there is no direct relationship to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the 'Tests of Soundness'.
- 2.1.2 This HRA document only assesses the proposed modifications to the Local Plan following submission to the Inspector, and the provision of the Inspector's findings, not the full Local Plan document. This HRA report will build upon that previously provided in January 2015.

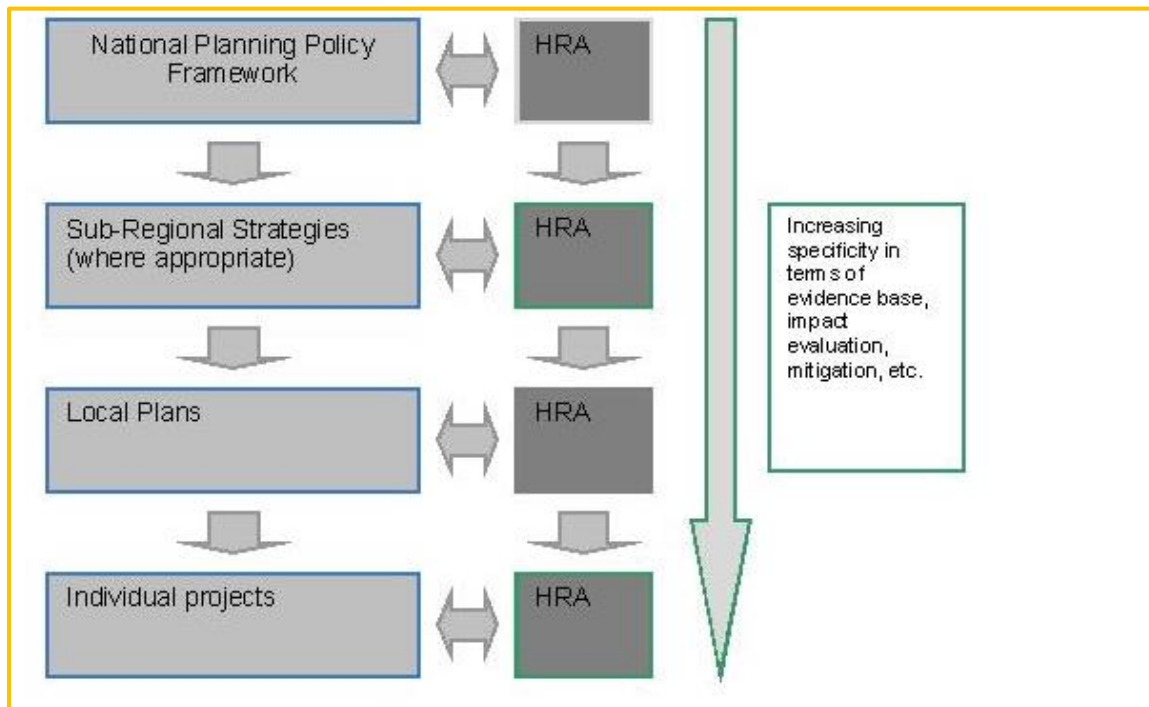
2.2 A Proportionate Assessment

- 2.2.1 Project-related HRA often requires bespoke survey work and novel data generation in order to accurately determine the significance of effects. In other words, to look beyond the risk of an effect to a justified prediction of the actual likely effect and to the development of avoidance or mitigation measures.
- 2.2.2 However, the draft DCLG guidance⁴ (described in greater detail in Chapter 2) makes it clear that when implementing HRA of land-use plans, the Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be undertaken at a level of detail that is appropriate and proportional to the level of detail provided within the plan itself:
- 2.2.3 *"The comprehensiveness of the [Appropriate] assessment work undertaken should be proportionate to the geographical scope of the option and the nature and extent of any effects identified. An AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose. It would be inappropriate and impracticable to assess the effects [of a strategic land use plan] in the degree of detail that would normally be required for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project."*
- 2.2.4 More recently, the Court of Appeal⁵ ruled that providing the Council (competent authority) was duly satisfied that proposed mitigation could be '*achieved in practice*' to satisfy that the proposed development would have no adverse effect, then this would suffice. This ruling has since been applied to a planning permission (rather than a Core Strategy)⁶. In this case the High Court ruled that for '*a multistage process, so long as there is sufficient information at any particular stage to enable the authority to be satisfied that the proposed mitigation can be achieved in practice it is not necessary for all matters concerning mitigation to be fully resolved before a decision maker is able to conclude that a development will satisfy the requirements of reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations*'.
- 2.2.5 In other words, there is a tacit acceptance that AA can be tiered and that all impacts are not necessarily appropriate for consideration to the same degree of detail at all tiers.

⁴ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

⁵ No Adastral New Town Ltd (NANT) v Suffolk Coastal District Council Court of Appeal, 17th February 2015

⁶ High Court case of R (Devon Wildlife Trust) v Teignbridge District Council, 28 July 2015



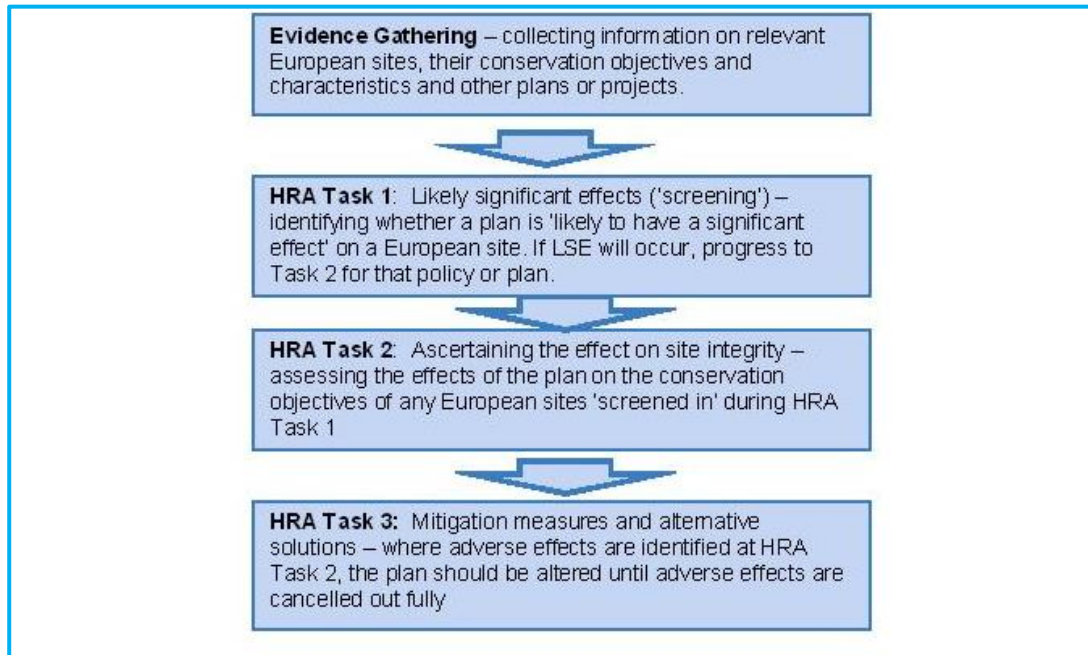
Box 2: Tiering in HRA of Land Use Plans

- 2.2.6 For a Local Plan the level of detail concerning the developments that will be delivered is usually insufficient to make a highly detailed assessment of significance of effects. For example, precise and full determination of the impacts and significant effects of a new settlement will require extensive details concerning the design of the new housing sites, including layout of greenspace and type of development to be delivered in particular locations, yet these data will not be decided until subsequent stages.
- 2.2.7 The most robust and defensible approach to the absence of fine grain detail at this level is to make use of the precautionary principle. In other words, the plan is never given the benefit of the doubt (within the limits of reasonableness); it must be assumed that a policy/measure is likely to have an impact leading to a significant adverse effect upon an internationally designated site unless it can be clearly established otherwise.

2.3 The Process of HRA

- 2.3.1 The HRA is being carried out in the continuing absence of formal central Government guidance. DCLG released a consultation paper on AA of Plans in 2006⁷. As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged from DCLG. However, Natural England has produced its own informal internal guidance and Natural Resources Wales has produced guidance for Welsh authorities on ‘the appraisal of plans under the Habitats Regulations’ as a separate guidance document aimed at complementing and supplementing the guidance/advice provided within Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009). Although there is no requirement for an HRA to follow either guidance, both have been referred to in producing this HRA.
- 2.3.2 **Box 3** below outlines the stages of HRA according to current draft DCLG guidance (which, as government guidance applicable to English authorities is considered to take precedence over other sources of guidance). The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no likely significant effects remain.

⁷ DCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper



Box 3: Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.3.3 In practice, we and other practitioners have discovered that this broad outline requires some amendment in order to feed into a developing land use plan such as a Local Plan. The four staged approach shows for simplicity a basic progression from step to step, but it is quite usual for the process to be more iterative and cyclical, with each stage being fed back to the local authority to inform further amendments to the plan which are then re-assessed for implications on internationally designated sites. The following process has been adopted for carrying out the subsequent stages of the HRA.

2.4 Task One: Test of Likely Significant Effect

2.4.1 The first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect test - essentially a high level risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:

2.4.2 *"Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?"*

2.4.3 In evaluating significance, AECOM have relied on professional judgment as well as stakeholder consultation. The level of detail concerning developments that will be permitted under land use plans is rarely sufficient to make a detailed quantification of effects. Therefore, we have again taken a precautionary approach (in the absence of more precise data) assuming as the default position that if an adverse effect cannot be confidently ruled out, avoidance or mitigation measures must be provided. This is in line with draft DCLG guidance that the level of detail of the assessment, whilst meeting the relevant requirements of the Habitats Regulations, should be 'appropriate' to the level of plan or project that it addresses (see **Box 3** for a summary of this 'tiering' of assessment).

2.5 Scope of the HRA

2.5.1 The scope of the HRA is as shown in

2.5.2 **Table 1.** The location of these internationally designated sites is illustrated in Appendix A, Figure A1. Figures A2.1, A2.2, and A2.3 show the site allocations in relation to internationally designated sites and Sefton. All baseline data relating to these internationally designated sites presented in subsequent Chapters of this Report is taken from Joint Nature Conservancy Council websites (JNCC) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Physical scope of the HRA

Internationally Designated Site	Reason for Inclusion
Sites within Sefton; Potential for significant effects	
Sefton Coast SAC	Located within Sefton; potential pathways exist through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational pressure, disturbance to qualifying species, reduction in water quality, air quality, coastal squeeze, and loss of habitat/supporting habitat outside the SAC boundary.
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	Located within Sefton; potential pathways exist through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreational pressure, disturbance to qualifying species, coastal squeeze, loss of supporting habitat outside of the SPA and Ramsar boundary, reduction in water quality, deterioration in air quality, and direct loss of habitat through mineral extraction.
Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site	A small part of the site at Seaforth Nature Reserve is located within Sefton borough (immediately south of Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site and Sefton Coast SAC). The rest of this site is located approximately 1km from Sefton at its closest point (around New Brighton to the south of the River Mersey). Potential pathways exist through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct habitat loss through expansion of the Port at Seaforth, mineral extraction, reduction in water quality, reduction in air quality, increase in recreational pressure, loss or damage to benthic habitat through dredging, coastal squeeze, and disturbance to qualifying bird species.
Potential for 'in combination' effects with other plans and projects	
Liverpool Bay SPA/and propose extension	Located immediately adjacent to Sefton at low tide mark. Potential pathways exist through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of water quality through sewage effluent discharges, dredging and disturbance of sediments/benthic habitats following port expansion, in-combination disturbance of birds through increase in ship movements and recreational pressure
Manchester Mosses SAC	Located immediately adjacent to the M62 which forms a major route from eastern Merseyside (north of the river) and Greater Manchester. Other Merseyside HRAs have considered this site for its cumulative 'in combination' deterioration in local air quality where they may contribute (through the delivery of new housing over the same period) an increase in the use of the M62 and associated atmospheric nitrogen deposition which currently threatens the integrity of this internationally designated site. Whilst Sefton is not located adjacent to the M62, it is conceivable that people from Sefton would use this route on the way to Manchester.

2.5.3 The initial evidence gathering stage also evaluated whether pathways existed to the following internationally designated sites listed in **Table 2**, but, based on the information identified it was concluded that they could be removed from further consideration (the pathways are explained in greater detail in Chapter 3 of the 2015 HRA for Sefton's Local Plan).

Table 2: Internationally Designated Sites considered at initial Evidence Gathering Stage, but scoped out of HRA/AA

European Site	Pathway identified at initial Evidence Gathering Stage and reason for scoping out
Mersey Estuary SPA & Ramsar site	Located approximately 7.5km south of Sefton. Whilst respondents to the England Leisure Day Visits Survey indicated that they typically travelled 25.5km to visit the coast for the day it is unlikely that visitors from Sefton will make a material contribution to visitor pressure given

	that several other estuaries providing a similar (if not a better) recreational experience are much closer and more easily accessible from Sefton and are more likely to draw visitors from Sefton.
Martin Mere SPA & Ramsar	Martin Mere is approximately 5 km inland of Sefton. It is specifically geared towards attracting visitors and during discussion with Natural England over the St. Helens Core Strategy HRA there was a general view that recreation was sufficiently well managed on this site that recreational pressure was not an issue.
Morecambe Bay SAC SPA & Ramsar site	Located 16.3 km north of the Sefton borough boundary. Having considered this site at the initial evidence gathering stage, for completeness our view is that it is unlikely that Sefton will contribute significantly to visitor pressure since other estuaries which provide a similar experience are closer to, and much easier to get to, from Sefton.
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	Located 28.5km south of the Sefton borough boundary. Whilst the River Dee is a current source of potable water supply for Merseyside, alongside other areas within the Integrated Resource Zone, the United Utilities Water Resource Management Plan (published March 2015) ⁸ does not identify abstraction from the Dee or any other internationally designated sites as part of United Utilities' intended future supply strategy, beyond the current licensed volumes. The Water Resource Management Plan has been subject to HRA. Since no increased abstraction from internationally designated sites will be required in order to service new development in Merseyside (or elsewhere within the Integrated Supply Zone), there will be no likely significant effects on the internationally designated site. Risk of abstraction at inappropriate times of the year (such as periods of low flow) will be prevented by the Environment Agency's licensing regime and Review of Consents process
The Dee Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar	Located 1.6km west of the Sefton borough boundary across the River Mersey. Identified as a source of potable water supply for Merseyside (see above for River Dee and Bala Lake SAC).
River Eden SAC	Haweswater Lake (to which the River is hydrologically connected) is likely to form part of the future water supply for Merseyside and other areas within the Integrated Resource Zone (see above for River Dee and Bala Lake SAC). However, the HRA of the United Utilities Water Resource Management Plan for the period covering the Sefton Local Plan timescale concludes that if anything the WRMP will have a beneficial effect on the SAC by reducing abstraction pressure on the site.

2.5.4 Full details, including features for designation and conservation objectives, can be found in the 2015 HRA for Sefton's Local Plan, except where the internationally designated sites have changed.

Liverpool Bay SPA / Bae Lerwpl SPA with Marine Component and Proposed Extension to the SPA

2.5.5 Since the 2015 HRA, the designation for Liverpool Bay SPA features and extent have changed. The bay stretches from Anglesey in Wales to the Lancashire coast and was classified for its non-breeding aggregations of red-throated diver *Gavia stellata* and common scoter *Melanitta nigra*. For the most part the Proposed Extension to the SPA would extend the SPA further out to sea. However, the Proposed Extension to the SPA would also bring the physical area covered by the SPA up the River Mersey to the entrance to Birkenhead Docks. The Proposed Extension would afford protection to little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, and cover important foraging areas for little tern *Sterna albifrons* (colony at Gronant) and common tern *Sterna hirundo* (colony at Seaforth). The Proposed Extension would also add, red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*, and cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* as named features of the assemblage for which the SPA is designated.

2.6 The 'In Combination' Scope

2.6.1 It is a requirement of the Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the internationally designated site(s) in question. In practice, 'in combination assessment' is of greatest importance when a Local Plan would otherwise be screened out because the individual contribution is inconsequential. It is neither practical nor necessary to assess the 'in

⁸ <http://corporate.unitedutilities.com/waterresourcesplan.aspx> [accessed March 2016]

combination' effects of the Local Plan within the context of all other plans and projects within the region. The principal other plans and projects that we are considering are:

Projects

- Burbo Bank offshore windfarm comprises 25 turbines and is situated on the Burbo Flats in Liverpool Bay at the entrance to the River Mersey, approximately 6.4km (4.0 miles) from the Sefton coastline. The proposed Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm development consists of an area of 40 km² 8.5 km from Crosby beach. Following HRA and AA, the Secretary of State was satisfied of no likely significant effects in combination upon internationally designated sites and the application was granted planning permission in September 2014. At the time of writing (April 2016), a Marine Planning Licence Application is currently under consideration for additional dredging around the turbine bases. It is considered unlikely that this dredging will interact in combination with the Plan, resulting in likely significant effects;
- Mersey Ports Masterplan (Consultation draft; June 2011), including the Port expansion into Seaforth Nature Reserve and the Seaforth River Terminal (a deepwater container port expansion in Sefton is currently under construction and due for completion imminently), new opportunities for renewable energy, development of single and multi-user port centric warehousing and of new processing facilities for imported commodities. potentially leading to the Liverpool SuperPort – An integrated port, airport, intermodal terminal, freight and commercial network based upon the Port of Liverpool, the Manchester Ship Canal, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (Liverpool City Region);
- Peel Waters: Wirral and Liverpool Waters – This project is the development of currently run down dockland areas both on the Wirral and Liverpool side of the River Mersey. This includes the construction of houses, retail and commercial developments. The construction of these two developments will have a direct impact on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA due to loss of habitat, barrier impacts for birds in flight and significant disturbance issues during construction;
- Sandon Dock Waste Water Treatment Works outfall extension - to reduce adverse effects on estuary marshes the work to extend the outfall will take place on the opposite bank to the Egremont Shore section of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA site (containing Mersey Narrows SSSI) but may still have an impact on the designated features of the SPA through the construction of the extended pipe. There may be issues relating to changes in sedimentation patterns altering the position of sand banks;
- Power from the Mersey – project to generate renewable power from the tidal processes in the River Mersey/Mersey Estuary. This project has been indefinitely postponed;
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport expansion;
- Energy from Waste Plants at Runcorn (Halton Borough Council) and Ince Marshes (Cheshire West & Chester);
- Frodsham Windfarm – 20 turbines to be constructed on a stretch of land between the Manchester Ship Canal and the M56 (Cheshire West & Chester);
- Thornton to Switch Island Link Road (Sefton Council) (completed 2015);
- Crosby Water Centre, Seaforth Terminal and possible visitor centres at Formby/Marshside (Sefton Council);
- Mersey Heartlands Growth Point Programme of Delivery (Wirral and Liverpool);
- Hydrodec Oil Re-Refinery, Eastham – plans to build an oil re-refinery at a new port facility in Eastham; and,
- Alexandra Dock Biomass Project.

Plans

- Horizon Nuclear Power (proposed nuclear power site at Wylfa Newydd Project on Anglesey);
- The Wales Spatial Plan (updated 2008);
- North West England & North Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP 22 Great Ormes Head to Scotland) (2011), incorporating: Great Ormes Head to Formby Point Shoreline Management Plan, and Formby Point to River Wyre Shoreline Management Plan;
- Liverpool Core Strategy Submission draft (2012) The Liverpool Core Strategy is now being incorporated into a Local Plan and will not be taken forward as a stand-alone document ;
- Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy. Adopted January 2016;

- Halton Local Plan Core Strategy. Adopted April 2013;
- Wirral Local Plan Core Strategy – emerging. A revised proposed submission draft is expected to be published for public comment in 2016;
- St. Helens Local Plan Core Strategy Adopted 2012;
- Flintshire Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2011) and Flintshire Local Development Plan (emerging);
- Denbighshire Local Development Plan (adopted 2013);
- Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (adopted 2005) and the Emerging Wrexham Local Plan;
- Conway Local Development Plan 2013;
- Joint Merseyside & Halton Waste Local Plan Adopted 2013;
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan updated 2015;
- West Lancashire Local Plan Adopted 2013;
- Emerging Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan 2014;
- Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted 2014);
- Part 1 North West River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (updated 2015) ;
- Alt / Crossens Catchment Flood Management Plan (adopted 2009); and,
- United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan 2015.

2.6.2 For the purposes of this assessment, we have determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key plans and projects that are likely to result in ‘in-combination’ effects with the Sefton Local Plan relate to the additional housing and commercial/industrial allocations proposed for other Merseyside and West Lancashire authorities over the lifetime of the Local Plan (see **Table 3**). In addition, due to the potential scale of impact, other plans/plans relating to Port Expansion at Seaforth Nature Reserve are also considered significant.

Table 3: Housing to be delivered within other Merseyside authorities under most recent published proposals (housing numbers are subject to change)

Local Authority	Total housing under most recent published proposals
Knowsley	8,100 new dwellings between 2010 and 2028 ⁹
Halton	9,930 between 2010 and 2028 ¹⁰
St Helens	13,680 between 2003 and 2027 ¹¹
Wirral	12,500 between 2003 and 2027 ¹²
Liverpool	40,950 between 2011 and 2028 ¹³

2.6.3 It should be noted that, while the broad potential impacts of these other projects and plans will be considered, we do not propose carrying out full HRA on each of these plans – we will however draw upon existing HRA that have been carried out for surrounding regions and plans.

Mersey Ports Masterplan and Port Expansion at Seaforth

2.6.4 The Port of Liverpool and The Manchester Ship Canal, known collectively as Mersey Ports, form an international gateway recognised by the Government as a key component of UK global trading links. This Mersey Ports Master Plan provides a framework for setting out the ports’ aspirations, including for the medium and long term, assisting in the consideration of related projects and planning applications. The 44 miles of the combined Port of Liverpool and The Manchester Ship Canal will

⁹Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy Adopted January 2016

¹⁰ Halton Core Strategy Local Plan Adopted April 2013

¹¹ St Helens Local Plan Core Strategy Adopted October 2012

¹² Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy for Wirral (December 2012). A revised proposed submission draft is expected to be published for public comment in 2016

¹³ Submission Draft Liverpool Core Strategy (2012). The Liverpool Core Strategy is now being incorporated into a Local Plan and will not be taken forward as a stand-alone document

incorporate over 10 rail-linked terminals and with 10 motorways within 10 miles of operational port assets¹⁴:

- 2.6.5 In addition developing greater warehousing, processing and operating facilities, there are a number of key strategic business drivers within the period of the Mersey Port Master Plan, including:
- The planned Seaforth River Terminal (Liverpool2) a deep-water container port expansion, which is under construction;
 - The development of a number of multi-modal inland ports upon The Manchester Ship Canal – Port Wirral, Port Bridgewater, Port Ince, Port Warrington and Port Salford;
 - The wide diversity of Port operations both now and into the future; and
 - Entry into new sectors – including biomass energy, offshore wind, waste to energy and recycling.
- 2.6.6 The ‘Royal Seaforth’ area within the Master Plan comprises the deep water of active Royal Seaforth Dock. An adjoining site (now known as Liverpool2) comprises the only part of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar Site in Sefton. This area was originally reclaimed from the River Mersey for future port expansion as part of the construction of Royal Seaforth Dock in the late 1960s, but developed into the internationally designated site over the past 50 years or so.
- 2.6.7 There are two distinctive but closely related initiatives within Royal Seaforth: Firstly, the development of an in-river container terminal able to accommodate the increasing-sized container vessels; Secondly, the consideration as to the future use of the land forming Seaforth Nature Reserve for Port-related purposes.
- 2.6.8 The in-river terminal was consented under a Harbour Revision Order in May 2007, and is under construction. The approval was subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and HRA and there are a number of legal agreements in place relating to the mitigation of impacts arising from the development.
- 2.6.9 To allow for the Port of Liverpool’s future commercial growth, the whole of the Liverpool2 area is being promoted for development for port related use within the Mersey Ports Master Plan. The development to support the anticipated growth leads to the loss of habitats and features of interest to nature conservation and would result in an adverse effect on integrity of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site. Consequently, in order to develop Liverpool2, the Port needed to satisfy a number of tests of the Habitats Regulations, namely that there are no alternative solutions, that the development is needed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and that appropriate compensatory habitats could be provided.

¹⁴ Peel Ports (2011) Mersey Ports Master plan Consultation Draft (July 2011) available from <http://www.merseydocks.co.uk/masterplan/documents.htm> [Accessed March 2016]. No updated document appears to be available.

3 HRA – Initial Test of Likely Significant Effects

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following Chapters of this report set out the HRA Test of Likely Significant Effects of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan only. Where modifications do not change the outcome of the 2015 HRA, these are not detailed further. Where previous recommendations identified within the 2015 HRA have not been incorporated, these recommendations have been re-iterated. This chapter documents an initial sift of the Proposed Modifications (documented in tabular format in Appendices B and C), which are then discussed in more detail in subsequent chapters.

3.2 Site Allocations Subject to the Test of Likely Significant Effects

3.2.1 The HRA Test of Likely Significant Effects table of Proposed Modifications to Sefton Site Allocations is given in **Appendix B**. That appendix should be consulted prior to reading the following text, since it contains many details that are only summarised below. Site Allocations identified with Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan are made up of the following site uses:

- Housing allocations
- Employment/ mixed use
- Strategic employment locations
- Safeguarded land

3.2.2 The Proposed Modifications document identifies changes to the following site allocations:

Housing/ Employment and Mixed Use

- MN2.1: Bartons Close, Southport
- MN2.2: Land at Bankfield Lane, Southport
- MN2.4: Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown
- MN2.6: Land adjacent to Dobbies Garden Centre, Benthams Way, Southport
- MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale
- MN2.9: Former St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale
- MN2.10: Land at Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale
- MN2.11: Land south of Moor Lane, Ainsdale
- MN2.12: Land north of Brackenway, Formby
- MN2.13: Land at West Lane, Formby
- MN2.14: Former Holy Trinity School, Lonsdale Road, Formby
- MN2.17: Land at Altcar Lane, Formby
- MN2.18: Power House phase 2, Hoggs Hill Lane, Formby
- MN2.19: Land at Andrew's Close, Formby
- MN2.22: Land at Hall Road West, Crosby
- MN2.23: Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton
- MN2.25: Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton
- MN2.26: Land south of Runnell's Lane, Thornton
- MN2.28: Land north of Kenyons Lane, Lydiate
- MN2.30: Land east of Waddicar Lane, Melling
- MN2.31: Wadacre Farm, Chapel Lane, Melling
- MN2.32: Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling

- MN2.33: Land at Wango Lane, Aintree
- MN2.34: Aintree Curve Site, Ridgewood Way, Netherton
- MN2.36: Former St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton
- MN2.37: Land at Pendle Drive, Netherton
- MN2.38: Land at the former Bootle High School, Browns Lane, Netherton
- MN2.41: Former St Wilfrid's School, Orrell Road, Bootle
- MN2.42: Klondyke Phases 2 and 3, Bootle
- MN2.44: Former St Joan of Arc School, Rimrose Road, Bootle
- MN2.46: Land East of Maghull New housing site allocation

Strategic Employment Locations

- MN2.49: Land to the South of Formby Industrial Estate

Safeguarded Land

- MN8.1: Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate
- MN8.2: Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull

Regeneration Opportunity Sites

- 501 – 509 Hawthorne Road, Bootle
- Former Gasworks Site, Marsh Lane, Bootle

The Proposed Modifications Document Provides the Following New Residential Site Allocation:

- MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby

The Proposed Modifications Document does not include the following strategic employment location:

- 3.2.3 Site allocation MN2.49: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate has been removed at the recommendation of the Inspector.
- 3.2.4 The modifications to the sites listed above are subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects in **Appendix B** both alone and in combination with other projects or plans.

3.3 Brief Summary of Initial Test of Likely Significant Effects of Site Allocations

- 3.3.1 **Appendix B** identifies that the majority of modifications are to the site area or the number of dwellings provided within a site. As such, these modifications do not result in new or exacerbated likely significant effects alone (i.e. have been screened out) and the screening outcomes identified for these sites within the 2015 HRA are still valid. A single site allocation was deleted. This was MN2.49: Land to the South of Formby Industrial Estate. It should be noted that even with the reduction in employment provision, in-combination implications resulting from employment based development previously identified within Sefton are still valid.
- 3.3.2 A single new site allocation identified within **Appendix B** has potential to provide impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites. This is: MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby.

MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby

- 3.3.3 This is a new residential site allocation located about 190m from the Sefton Coast SAC and Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site and approximately 1km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA. Potential impact pathways present include:
- Recreational pressure alone (and in-combination);
 - Other forms of disturbance;
 - Coastal squeeze; and,
 - Loss of supporting habitat.

- 3.3.4 Appendix 1 of the Modifications document sets out the need for a project specific HRA for this site allocation, thus allowing this site to be screened out.

In the 2015 HRA, recommendations were included identifying the need for project specific HRA for site allocations that could not be screened out. This requirement has been included within Appendix 1 of the Modifications document. Specifically, Appendix 1 of the Modifications document identifies the need for project specific HRA for the following sites which can now be screened out:

- MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale
- MN2.9: Former St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale
- MN2.10: Land at Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale
- MN2.13: Land at West Lane, Formby
- MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby
- MN2.17: Land at Altcar Lane, Formby
- MN2.18: Power House phase 2, Hoggs Hill Lane, Formby
- MN2.19: Land at Andrew's Close, Formby
- MN2.23: Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton
- MN2.24; Land at Holgate, Thornton
- MN2.28: Land north of Kenyon's Lane, Lydiate
- MN2.30: Land East of Waddicar Lane, Melling
- MN2.31: Wadacre Farm, Chapel Lane, Melling
- MN2.32: Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling
- MN2.33: Land at Wango Lane, Aintree
- MN2.41: Former St Wilfrid's School, Orrell Road, Bootle

3.4 Policies Subject to the Test of Likely Significant Effects

- 3.4.1 The HRA Test of Likely Significant Effects table of Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan policies is detailed in **Appendix C**. Not all policies were modified; unmodified policies were fully assessed in the 2015 Submission stage HRA and therefore do not need to be discussed afresh in this document. The following policies were subject to modifications, and as such have been re-assessed:

- SD2: Principles of Development
- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations
- MN3: Strategic Mixed Use Allocation - Land east of Maghull
- MN4: Land north of Formby Industrial Estate
- MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate (see paragraph 3.4.4 below)
- MN6A: Land At Moss Lane, Churchtown
- MN7: Sefton's Green Belt
- MN8: Safeguarded Land
- ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone
- ED2: Development in Town Centres, District Centres, Local Centres and Local Shopping Parades (and other locations)
- ED3: Existing Employment Area
- ED4: Mixed Use Areas
- ED5: Tourism
- ED6: Regeneration Areas
- ED7: Southport Central Area
- ED8: Southport Seafront
- ED9: Crosby Centre

- HC1: Affordable and Special Needs Housing
- HC2: Housing Type, Mix and Choice
- HC3: Residential development and development in Primarily Residential Areas
- HC5: Planning for Gypsies and Travellers
- HC7: Education and care institution sites in the urban area
- IN1: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
- IN2: Transport
- EQ1: Planning for a healthy Sefton
- EQ2: Design
- EQ3: Accessibility
- EQ5: Air quality
- EQ8: Managing flood risk and surface water
- EQ9: Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees in development
- EQ10: Food and Drink
- NH1: Natural Assets¹⁵
- NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species
- NH3: Development in the Nature Improvement Area
- NH4: The Sefton Coast and Development
- NH5: Protection of public open space, Countryside Recreation Areas and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public
- NH6: Urban golf courses
- NH8: Minerals
- NH9: Demolition or substantial harm to Designated Heritage Assets
- NH10: Works affecting Listed Buildings
- NH11: Development affecting Conservation Areas
- NH12: Development affecting Registered Parks and Gardens
- NH13: Development Affecting archaeology and Scheduled Monuments and Non-designated Archaeology
- NH14: Development affecting non-designated Heritage Assets

3.4.2 The following policies are entirely new to the Proposed Modifications:

- MN6A: Land At Moss Lane, Churchtown
- ED8A: Marine Park, Southport
- ED8B: Aintree Racecourse
- HN9A: Heritage Assets
- PIM1: Planning Enforcement

3.4.3 There were substantial changes to the following policies, although these changes did not always change the 2015 HRA screening outcome:

- ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone
- ED5: Tourism
- IN2: Transport
- NH2: Protection And Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species
- NH8: Minerals

3.4.4 In addition, the following policy has been deleted at the recommendation of the Inspector:

- MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate

¹⁵ Note change in policy name from Environmental Assets to Natural Assets.

- 3.4.5 It is the policies identified above (i.e. within paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.4.2, and 3.4.3) that have been subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects (**Appendix C**), both alone and in combination with other projects or plans. For completeness, unmodified policies are included in Appendix C but are not subject to assessment.
- 3.4.6 Where Proposed Modifications to policies have been 'screened in' within **Appendix C** an AA is carried out. This AA is presented in the subsequent chapters of the report with respect to each internationally designated site (Chapters 4-8) along with any recommendations that have not been incorporated since the 2015 HRA.
- 3.4.7 As before, it is stressed that the Test of Likely Significant Effects undertaken in **Appendix C** is only of the Proposed Modifications, and not of the entire policy or Plan. The implications of each policy as a whole for internationally designated sites were fully considered in the 2015 HRA and recommendations were made for inclusion in the plan as necessary. This does not therefore need discussing in the current HRA report, except where outstanding recommendations exist. The primary issue for investigation in this report is whether the modifications to the policy change the previous conclusion or trigger new issues.

3.5 Brief Summary of Initial Test of Likely Significant Effects of Policies

- 3.5.1 **Appendix C** identifies that the majority of modifications to policies are minor text changes or do not result in new impact pathways beyond those previously identified within the 2015 HRA. The screening outcomes identified for these policies in the 2015 HRA are therefore still valid. The following paragraphs summarise policies that contain major modifications to policy or modifications that alter the HRA outcome. These are new policies or modifications that now mean that the policy can be screened out. There were no modifications that resulted in a previously innocuous policy being 'screened in'. The previous AA from 2015 is updated in the following chapters to take account of these proposed modifications and any outstanding recommendations.

MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements

- 3.5.2 Proposed Modifications to this policy provide for a 4% increase in housing numbers, thus resulting in an increased impact upon internationally designated sites as a result of increased recreational pressure. This impact pathway is not new for this policy. However, the scale of impact from residential provision within Sefton is likely to be slightly larger. **This new quantum of housing is subject to more detailed analysis in subsequent chapters.** Proposed Modifications to this policy also see a 3% reduction in employment land provision, notably through the removal of a strategic employment site MN2.49 and consequent deletion of policy MN5: Land south of Formby Industrial Estate. The deletion of this employment site does not provide for any new HRA implications. The 3% reduction in employment provision from the 2015 HRA is positive. MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations
- 3.5.3 Proposed Modifications to this policy provide for the inclusion of site allocation MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby which has potential to result in likely significant effects. See **Appendix B** for screening of this proposed modification. It is also noted that the increase of housing and employment provision identified in Policy MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements is detailed within this policy. **The increased quantum in housing provision is subject to more detailed analysis within subsequent chapters.**

MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate

- 3.5.4 This policy has been deleted. The deletion of this employment site does not provide for any new HRA implications. A reduction in employment provision from the 2015 HRA is positive.

MN6A: Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown

- 3.5.5 This is a new policy relating to an existing site allocation MN2.4: Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown. This site was previously screened in as the site is located within an area of sensitivity for non-breeding SPA bird features including pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where the Lancashire Bird Atlas identifies significant densities of both species. These bird species may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. The new policy text relating to the existing site allocation provides for development management; it does not provide any new impact pathways not already identified within the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA. In addition, supporting text to the policy identifies the explicit need for a site specific HRA. This Policy **can be screened out.**

ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone

- 3.5.6 This policy does have potential to result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites, since part of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA is located within The Port and Maritime Zone identified within this policy. However, modifications to this policy provided in point 1f and 2c of the policy provide explicit protection for internationally designated sites, enabling impact pathways for this policy to be **screened out**.

ED5: Tourism

- 3.5.7 In the 2015 Submission HRA this policy was screened in and was then subjected to AA. Ultimately, a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity of any internationally designated sites was reached. This policy provides protection for sites of '*international nature conservation importance*'. The proposed modifications primarily pertain to '*other tourism development*', providing for sustainable tourism development. By definition, sustainable tourism would not result in adverse effects on integrity of any internationally designated sites. Ultimately the conclusion remains the same and this policy would not result in adverse effects on the integrity of internationally designated sites and can be **screened out**.

ED8A: Marine Park, Southport

- 3.5.8 This is a new policy for the Marine Park, Southport (previously included within policy ED8: Southport Seafront. Due to its proximity to designated sites there are impact pathways. However, Policy ED8A includes clear text to ensure the integrity or internationally designated sites remains unaffected and this policy can be **screened out**.

ED8B: Aintree Racecourse

- 3.5.9 This is a new development management policy for a pre-existing site allocation (ED5: Tourism). There are no new impact pathways identified by the modifications, and this policy can be **screened out**.

HC5: Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

- 3.5.10 In the 2015 HRA this policy was screened in. Proposed Modification policy text has been amended to provide clear protection for internationally designated sites. Additionally, supporting text provides the need for site specific HRA for sites HC5.3 and HC5.4. As such, this policy can be **screened out**.

HC7: Education and Care Institutions in the Urban Area

- 3.5.11 The 2015 HRA screened in this policy. However, this was only on the basis that ten housing site allocations are located at former school premises. Three of these have been screened in. these are MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, MN2.9, and MN2.41. However, these sites are not designated under policy HC7 but rather under the remit of policy MN2. The inclusion of these sites was the only reason why policy HC7 was screened in in the 2015 HRA. Therefore Policy HC7 can be screened out.

IN2: Transport

- 3.5.12 In the 2015 Submission HRA this policy was screened in and subjected to AA. Ultimately, a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity of any internationally designated sites was reached provided recommendations were included within supporting text to the policy.
- 3.5.13 Modifications to this policy describe initiatives to reconnect the Port of Liverpool (Southern Zone) between Alexandra Dock and Sandon Dock to the rail network, and proposals by Peel Ports to extend the existing rail lines within the Port of Liverpool at Seaforth to directly serve the new Liverpool Container Terminal (Liverpool2). Depending on the details of their delivery these initiatives have potential to result in loss of supporting habitat, disturbance of species during construction and operational phases; however point 7 of the modifications confirm that this must be in accordance with Policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species, thus providing explicit protection for the internationally designated sites. Further to this, supporting text of the policy provides for the need for HRA '*for development proposals that are likely to result in an increase of more than 1% in nitrogen inputs into the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)*' thus providing suitable protection against adverse effects resulting from changes in air quality upon the integrity of internationally designated sites This policy can now be **screened out**.

HN9A: Heritage Assets

- 3.5.14 This is a new policy within the Proposed Modifications document. It provides protection for heritage assets. There are no impact pathways present and this policy can be **screened out**.

NH8: Minerals

3.5.15 Previously this policy was screened out. Proposed modification text provides for shale gas exploitation, which could potentially contain impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites. Modifications to this policy provide for a clear need for HRA where required regarding shale gas exploitation. Supporting text to this policy provides reference to policy NH2: Protection and enhancement of nature conservation sites, priority habitats and species, and also identifies that need for sufficient information to enable the Council to undertake a fully informed Habitats Regulations Assessment. The modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy **remains screened out**.

PIM1: Planning Enforcement

- 3.5.16 This is a new policy providing detail for the Council's approach to planning enforcement. There are no impact pathways present and this policy was **screened out**.
- 3.5.17 Subsequent chapters of the document expand on this summary analysis, relating the assessment to each European site and impact pathway.

4 Sefton Coast SAC

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Details of the reasons for designation, historic trends, current pressures, and details of the key potential pressures from Sefton upon the Sefton Coast SAC are not repeated within this document, but are contained within the 2015 HRA.

4.2 Role of Other Plans and Projects

Projects

- 4.2.1 The Mersey Ports Masterplan (Consultation draft; July 2011) includes the potential development of the Seaforth Nature Reserve and construction of the Seaforth River Terminal (now known as Liverpool 2 and constituting a deep water container port expansion in Sefton now nearing completion), new opportunities for renewable energy, development of single and multi-user port centric warehousing and of new processing facilities for imported commodities, potentially leading to the Liverpool SuperPort – An integrated port, airport, intermodal terminal, freight and commercial network based upon the Port of Liverpool, the Manchester Ship Canal, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (Liverpool City Region).

Plans

- 4.2.2 North West England & North Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 – possible impacts due to the maintenance or enhancement of flood defences could lead to coastal squeeze, changes in sediment release (if previously undefended areas become defended) and direct loss of habitat to flood defence footprint.
- 4.2.3 Core Strategies / Local Plans for Liverpool, West Lancashire, Knowsley, Wirral and St Helens, the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point Programme of Delivery (Wirral and Liverpool) and Liverpool and Wirral Waters Development masterplans – possible water quality, air quality and as a result of delivery of dwellings and associated commercial development over the next 20 years; and
- 4.2.4 Merseyside & Halton Joint Waste Local Plan – possible impacts due to water quality, air quality and wildfowl disturbance or chick predation. However, since this Local Plan was itself subject a recent HRA and was found to be sound, it has addressed its own contribution to any ‘in combination’ effect that may otherwise arise.
- 4.2.5 The following section is an analysis of those policies and site allocations that have been subject to modifications and could not be immediately screened out.

4.3 Recreational Trampling

- 4.3.1 The AA of the submitted Local Plan confirmed that the delivery of 11,070 net dwellings between 2012 and 2030 would result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the Sefton Coast SAC if it was not accompanied by measures to appropriately manage any increase in recreational activity. The delivery of approximately 11,520 net dwellings across Sefton (i.e. a further 450 net dwellings over the period to 2030, or a 4% increase) as provided within Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document to 2030 clearly therefore has potential to lead to slightly increased demand for recreational opportunities within Sefton beyond those identified in the HRA of the submitted Local Plan and thus poses a slightly increased risk to the SAC.
- 4.3.2 Research carried out in 2008, presented in ‘Marketing Sefton’s natural coast – Evaluating the impact’¹⁶ and other studies¹⁷ have estimated that half of the recreational users are ‘local residents’ (i.e. residents of Sefton), with 17% deriving from other Merseyside areas. With respect to reasons for

¹⁶ Sefton Council (2010) included in Sefton’s Dynamic Coast Proceedings of the conference on coastal geomorphology, biogeography and management 2008

¹⁷ England’s North West Research Service for Economic Development and Tourism (May 2009) Sefton’s Natural Coast Local Users of the Coast (Version 2)

visiting the coast, the main reasons cited by over half of the respondents were dog walking, walking, fresh air and visiting the coast. Nature based attractions including visiting the squirrels, bird watching and fishing accounted for approximately 20% of the visitors in both studies. The majority of visitors were focused on the Formby and Crosby coastline.

- 4.3.3 Sand dunes are vulnerable to recreational trampling in that excessive physical disturbance can retard or set back the dune development process and lead to a reduction in habitat and species diversity. However, at the same time some recreational trampling is beneficial in that it ensures that the dune vegetation does not all succeed to the same late stage of development and thereby actually helps to retain habitat and species diversity.
- 4.3.4 The following policies subject to proposed modifications have the potential to result in an increase in recreational pressure on the Sefton Coast SAC through the provision of housing and/or recreational facilities within close proximity to Sefton Coast:
- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
 - MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations
- 4.3.5 New housing allocation MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby has the potential, even when considered alone, to increase recreational pressure on Sefton Coast SAC due to its proximity to the SAC. To address this, Appendix 1 of the Plan details the following:

'MN2.14A Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby

Development of this site must:

- *ensure that sufficient information is provided with the planning application to enable the Council to make a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Any planning application at this site should seek to avoid increased recreational pressure upon the SAC and address any likely significant effects upon these habitats as a result of the individual project alone;*
 - *secure the long term management of the adjacent woodland Local Wildlife Site between the site and Formby Point Caravan Park, to minimise impact on the adjacent internationally important nature sites;*
 - *provide for full public access into the area of woodland between the site and Formby Point Caravan Park in a manner which minimises impact on the adjacent internationally important nature sites;*
 - *extend the existing Formby no. 52 Bridleway through the woodland area from Lifeboat Road to Alexandra Road;*
 - *provide a new 200 space public car park in the northern part of the allocation; and*
 - *provide a new public toilet block adjacent to the car park and secure its long term management'*
- 4.3.6 Development criteria identified in Appendix 1 of the proposed modifications document for site allocation MN2.14A Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby provide suitable protection against increases in recreational pressure impacting upon the designated sites, thus enabling impact pathways stemming from this site being screened out.
- 4.3.7 **Appendix B** identified that the new allocated site MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby is located approximately 190m from the Sefton Coast SAC and Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site and approximately 1km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, and as such could result in a likely significant effect upon the SAC alone (rather than purely in combination with other housing in Sefton) due to the site's proximity. However modifications to Appendix 1 of the Proposed Modifications document as outlined in paragraph 4.3.6 ensures that this site can be screened out.
- 4.3.8 In addition to new allocation M2.14A, the 2015 HRA of the submission Local Plan identified that residential site allocations MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, MN2.12: Land north of Brackenway, Formby, and MN2.13: Land at West Lane, Formby all have the potential to lead to increased recreational pressure upon the internationally designated sites alone due to their close proximity to a designated site and / or size of development (i.e. not just in-combination with other housing allocations). It was recommended that these site allocations should be required to provide a project specific HRA. Amendments to the supporting text to Policy MN6 (site specific policy for: Land north of Brackenway, Formby - MN2.12) identify the need for a site specific HRA, to ensure that no likely significant effects result, enabling this site allocation to be screened out. It is noted that MN2.12: Land north of Brackenway, Formby is large enough that appropriate site specific solutions could be sought within the allocated site. It is understood that this site allocation is located on an existing Local Wildlife Site (LWS) that is contiguous with the SSSI and SAC. The LWS condition has deteriorated

due to poor land management over a period of time. However, the qualifying features of the LWS are still present. As such the developer's housing area was reduced to secure and retain appropriate management for the remainder of the LWS. The LWS is located adjacent to the SSSI and SAC and will be publically accessible. It is anticipated that constructive management of the LWS should act to reduce recreational pressure on the SAC.

- 4.3.9 Appendix 1 of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document contains details of these site specific requirements. MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, and MN2.13: Land at West Lane, Formby are included within Appendix 1. Modifications to this Appendix include the requirement for site specific HRA for these two site allocations, enabling them to be screened out.
- 4.3.10 In addition to development site-specific requirements, the remaining housing allocations were found to have potential to lead to increased recreational pressure upon the internationally designated sites in-combination.
- 4.3.11 The 2015 HRA detailed the existing infrastructure in place to help manage recreational impacts upon the SAC. It identified that although the existing framework has been working adequately, the scope for improvements in addressing recreational pressures should be considered. It was therefore concluded as a precaution that the existing management strategy may be placed under greater pressure as a result of the increased population of Sefton, without a renewed or increased commitment of time and resources. This will continue to apply with a net increase of 450 proposed dwellings. The Council, with its partners in the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, is currently updating –the Coast Management Plan, incorporating Beach Management and a review of t Conservation Strategy for the Sefton Coast, This will ensure increased recreational pressure resulting from any policies within the Local Plan do not have an adverse effect upon the internationally designated sites in-combination. At the time of writing (April 2016), work on the integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan is underway. It is expected that this will be adopted in approximately 12 months. This will address the increase in recreational pressure from the proposed population increase in Sefton.
- 4.3.12 The Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership continues to consider the needs of balancing visitor requirements with protection of the environment through the development of 'gateways' at key access points¹⁸, and this will be reflected in the integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan. At these sites the need for investment in and maintenance of car-parks, paths, toilets, lifeguards and rangers, staff accommodation, catering facilities and information is recognised by the Council. This is a key reason for the requirements set out in Appendix 1 of the Local Plan regarding the proposed new site allocation MN2.14A Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby, set out in paragraph 4.3.9 above. A general mechanism already exists to control the impacts of increased visitors to the SAC, provided it can be adequately resourced to deliver the increased management likely to be required. This provision is provided in modifications to supporting text for policy NH4: The Sefton Coast and Development: *'The Council is committed to managing visitor pressure on the Sefton Coast, through mechanisms such as the Sefton Coast Partnership, Coast management plan and beach management plan'* ensuring the overall provision of housing within Sefton does not result in an in-combination impact upon the SAC or any other internationally designated site. It is understood that the Council intend this as the mechanism to ensure no likely significant effect upon the internationally designated sites as a result of increased housing provisions as set out within the Local Plan. The modest increase in net new dwellings to 2030 addressed by the proposed changes is sufficiently small that there is no reason to conclude this could not be addressed by the same mechanism.
- 4.3.13 The following provide a policy basis for avoidance or mitigation of adverse effects that may arise through recreational pressure on the coast:

SD2: Principles of Development Principles of Sustainable Development

'The Local Plan has been developed in accordance with, and will apply, the following principles:

... making sure there are no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally important nature sites or supporting habitats'

ED5: Tourism

'Tourism development will be supported in the following locations, subject to there being no adverse effects on the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance ...'

¹⁸ <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/pdf/Audience%20Plan%20web%20document%20PDF.pdf>

ED8: Southport Seafront

'2. Development that would ... harm the integrity of adjacent internationally important nature sites, will not be permitted.'

ED8A: Marine Park, Southport

'5. Development that would adversely affect the integrity of adjacent internationally important nature sites will not be permitted.'

HC5: Planning for Gypsies and Travellers

'The development of the site should not result in unacceptable harm to the local environment, including to the integrity of internationally important nature sites.'

EQ9: Public open space

4.3.14 Supporting text:

'10.68 It is recognised that some housing developments (particularly developments of less than 150 dwellings) may not provide site-specific solutions to offset the impact of recreational pressure on the internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast. However, Sefton Council's management of its parks and playing field assets generally encourages use of sites away from the Coast. The Council's management of its Countryside Recreation Area assets, its role within the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership and the management activities of other partners, continue to manage access to, and visitor pressure on, coastal sites. Policy EQ9 and notably the retention, provision and enhancement of public open space with good access to housing development sites in Sefton - in most cases away from the Sefton Coast - also makes an important contribution to managing recreation pressure on the internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast. This is important in helping Sefton to meet its commitments under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended.'

NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species.

'Development which may result in a likely significant effect on an internationally important site must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to enable the Council to make a Habitats Regulations Assessment.'

'Development which may adversely affect the integrity of internationally important sites will only be permitted where there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, and where suitable compensatory provision has been made. This also applies to sites and habitats outside the designated boundaries that support species listed as being important in the designations of the internationally important sites.'

NH4: The Sefton Coast and Development

'Development must not: ... Adversely affect the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance, taking into account appropriate mitigation, or as a last resort, compensation. Development which may have an adverse effect on internationally important nature sites will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there are both no alternatives and imperative reasons of overriding public interest and where compensatory provision has been made.'

4.4 Coastal Squeeze

- 4.4.1 None of the policies or site allocations modified or added to the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document change the outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA regarding impacts of coastal squeeze upon the SAC.

4.5 Air Quality

- 4.5.1 Modifications to the following policies have the potential to result in a likely significant effect as a result in a reduction in air quality:
- ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone
 - IN2: Transport
 - MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements

4.5.2 Air Quality effects arising from port operations and the associated increase in road capacity have potential to result in likely significant effects. The modifications to Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone provide explicit protection for internationally designated sites enabling this policy to be screened out via the following text:

'f) For development which is outside the Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.'

4.5.3 Paragraph 11.23 of the Proposed Modifications document (the pre-ambule to policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species) includes the following text: *'Habitats Regulations Assessments for development proposals that are likely to result in an increase of more than 1% in nitrogen inputs into the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)'. This provides suitable protection for internationally designated sites from increases in air pollution resulting from transport schemes, housing and employment provision identified within the modifications document, thus ensuring this impact pathway can be screened out from further consideration. Further to this, modifications to Policy MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements provides for a 4% increase in dwelling provision. This is a small percentage increase in dwellings and the above text provides protection for internationally designated sites as a result of this increase in dwellings.*

4.5.4 The following policies provide a basis for avoidance or mitigation of adverse effects that may arise through reduced air quality:

NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species

4.5.5 See paragraph 4.3.12

EQ4: Pollution and Hazards

'1. Development proposals should demonstrate that environmental risks have been evaluated and appropriate measures have been taken to minimise the risks of adverse impacts which include amenity, damage to health and wellbeing, property and the natural environment from:

- Pollution of the land, water including surface water and groundwater. and the air*
- Hazardous substances*
- Noise/vibration, dust, odour or artificial light pollution.'*

IN2: Transport

4.5.6 There is a strong focus on improving public transport, park and ride facilities and improving walking and cycling routes. Identification that Transport Assessments are required for proposals likely to significantly increase pollution; provision made to seek developer contribution for necessary mitigation *'to make sure trunk road network runs safely and efficiently'* which would also reduce pollution. The main modification to this policy is that the Council supports *'initiatives to reconnect the Port of Liverpool (Southern Zone) between Alexandra Dock and Sandon Dock to the rail network'* and *'proposals by Peel Ports to extend the existing rail lines within the Port of Liverpool at Seaforth to directly serve the new Liverpool Container Terminal (L2)'*, *'Subject to the compliance with Policy ED1 and NH2'*, providing suitable protection for internationally designated sites from these developments.

4.5.7 Based on this information it is concluded that the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan does provide a system of measures to minimise the contribution to any increase in nitrogen deposition within Sefton Coast SAC. Further to this, within the pre-ambule of policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species states that: *'for development proposals that are likely to result in an increase of more than 1% in nitrogen inputs into the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Such proposals are likely to include those in or within 200 metres (m) of the SAC, and those which could increase traffic flows on roads within 200m of the SAC by over 1,000 vehicle movements per day or 200 heavy duty vehicle movements per day (in terms of annual average daily traffic flows). This might include housing developments of 200 or more homes, office developments of 7,000 m² or more, industrial estates of 15,000 m² or more, warehousing of 35,000 m² or more, hotels with 300 or more bedrooms and leisure facilities or exhibition centres of 9,000 m² or more'* thus providing suitable protection for internationally designated sites.

4.6 Mineral Extraction

4.6.1 Depending on the location of mineral aggregate expansion, there is potential that minerals development could result in a direct loss of habitat. The policy does not identify specific locations for mineral extraction, nor does it explicitly state that it would not take place within an internationally designated site boundary. Modifications to policy NH8: Minerals provide for a clear need for HRA where required regarding shale gas exploitation, thus ensuring that this type of development will not impact upon the integrity of any internationally designated site. As such this impact pathway can remain screened out.

4.6.2 Policy NH8: Minerals provides protection for internationally designated sites as follows: that: *'The developer must demonstrate the proposed location for the development is suitable, taking into account factors such as environmental, geological and technical issues'*. Additionally supporting text of this policy provides the following protection for internationally designated sites:

'11.66 The following constraints are likely to affect any proposed mineral (including hydrocarbon) applications in Sefton: ...

- International and national environmental designations, notably internationally important nature sites...'*

'11.67 Applications for the exploration, appraisal and production of minerals may require an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment in relation to internationally important nature sites. Applicants should liaise at the earliest possible opportunity with the Council to determine the requirements for these assessments to enable the Minerals Planning Authority to comply with their statutory and regulatory requirements.'

'11.72 All proposals for minerals, aggregates, oil or gas, or hydraulic fracturing of shale gas exploration, extraction, storage, processing and distribution should be accompanied by:...

- Sufficient information to enable Sefton Council as Competent Authority to make a Habitats Regulations Assessment, in line with the requirements of NH2 Protection and enhancement of nature sites, priority habitats and species...'*

4.7 Conclusion: Sefton Coast SAC

4.7.1 This HRA/AA has concluded that the Sefton Local Plan would include an adequate policy framework to enable the delivery of measures to adequately protect the Sefton Coast SAC.

5 Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar Site

5.1.1 Details of the reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures, and details of the key potential pressures from Sefton are not repeated within this document, but are contained in the 2015 HRA.

5.2 Role of Other Plans and Projects

5.2.1 Due to the overlap in geographical area of the internationally designated sites, the same projects and plans (as discussed in the Chapter 4) could act in combination. In addition, the following plans and projects are considered relevant to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar:

- Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study;
- Gwynt Y Môr Offshore Windfarm Project;
- Burbo Bank offshore windfarm extension;
- Frodsham Windfarm;
- Other Merseyside/Lancashire Local Plans supporting renewable energy. There is a possible impact on waterfowl flightpaths between the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and other internationally designated sites depending upon the degree of wind power and potentially solar power involved and the location of turbines, including a roost at Simonswood Moss.

5.2.2 The following section is an analysis of those policies and site allocations that have been subject to modifications and could not be immediately screened out.

5.3 Loss of Supporting Habitat

5.3.1 Policies and proposed site allocations amended or added by the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document have the potential to result in loss of supporting habitat for qualifying bird species and natterjack toads of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

5.3.2 Appendix B identifies a single new site MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby. This site is located about 190m from the Sefton Coast SAC and Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site and approximately 1km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA. Whilst the site's close location to the designated sites has potential to result in habitat loss of designated features, from review of aerial photography and mapping the site is not considered suitable to support designated bird features or natterjack toads.

5.3.3 As previously noted in the 2015 HRA, the following policies that have been subject to Proposed Modifications have the potential to result in loss of supporting habitat within Sefton, as they contain previously existing site allocations that could result in loss of supporting habitat:

- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations

Existing Mitigation and Recommended Changes to Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan:

5.3.4 Policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species of the Local Plan includes protection against loss of supporting habitat as follows:

'Development which may result in a likely significant effect on an internationally important site must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to enable the Council to make a Habitats Regulations assessment. Adverse effects should be avoided, or where this is not possible they should be mitigated, to make sure that the integrity of internationally important sites is protected. Development which may adversely affect the integrity of internationally important sites will only be permitted where there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, and where suitable compensatory provision has been made. This also applies to sites and habitats outside the designated boundaries that support species listed as being important in the designations of the internationally important sites.'

- 5.3.5 If supporting habitat were to be lost to any development, then the applicant would need to determine (a) how significant it was (for example, whether it was regularly used by more than 1% of the population of qualifying bird species) and if necessary (b) whether it would be possible to avoid the impact. If this is not possible then (c) the applicant should seek to provide mitigation within the site. If this is not possible (d) and over-riding imperative reasons of public interest (*IROPI*) exists, then compensatory habitat may be used to replace it in allocation reasonably close to the Estuary and to facilitate the delivery of functional habitat before development took place, in accordance with policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species. In addition:
- 5.3.6 Appendix One of the 2015 submission HRA identified sites located within land parcels that could lead to the loss of supporting habitat. Project level details are not available at the Plan level to be able to definitively confirm whether any of these sites do contain supporting habitat of importance to the SPA or Ramsar site. Therefore, to ensure appropriate protection of the integrity of the SPA / Ramsar site bird populations and the amphibian populations of the Ramsar site, the following was recommended:
- Appropriate species surveys (non-breeding birds and natterjack toad) to determine presence / likely absence of target species where identified.
- 5.3.7 Relating to this, the 2015 HRA, made the following development site-specific recommendations for site allocations MN2.23: Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton; MN2.24: Land at Holgate, Thornton; and, MN2.32: Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling:
- MN2.23: Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton. A survey to determine habitat type and land use should be conducted to ascertain suitability for SPA bird species. If required non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their continued presence. If required the site should be subject to a project specific HRA.
 - MN2.24: Land at Holgate, Thornton. A survey to determine habitat type and land use should be conducted to ascertain suitability for SPA bird species. If required non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their continued presence. If required the site should be subject to a project specific HRA.
 - MN2.32: Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling. The site is bounded to the south by the M57 from which it is screened by a belt of trees, visual disturbance is unlikely. Acoustic disturbance from the M57 to pink-footed goose and other non-breeding SPA bird features is possible. The presence of pink-footed goose and other non-breeding SPA bird features cannot be screened out. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence / likely absence. If required the site should be subject to a project specific HRA.
- 5.3.8 These recommendations for the need for site specific HRA for the above three site allocations have been incorporated into Appendix 1 of the Proposed Modifications Local Plan document, thus providing suitable protection against likely significant effects.
- 5.3.9 Further modifications to Policy MN6 (MN2.12: Land north of Brackenway, Formby) and MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby also identify the requirement for site specific HRA, thus ensuring that these sites do not result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites.
- 5.3.10 The LPA is committed to preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide more detail on Natural Assets and includes the issue of ensuring the provision of functionally linked compensatory habitat for the loss of supporting habitat for pink-footed geese and other bird features of the SPA and Ramsar sites. This includes a strategic approach to providing alternative feeding habitat for pink-footed geese populations associated with the Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and other non-breeding SPA bird features. The SPD will detail:
- How habitat provision and site management could be delivered in order to maintain and enhance feeding habitat for pink-footed geese and other non-breeding SPA bird features, for example in, or offsite from allocations which are Green Belt sites and are supporting habitat for pink-footed goose and other non-breeding SPA bird features:
 - How to deliver alternative feeding areas: Firstly applicants will consider options to secure mitigation areas on land in the control of the landowner or developer and land should be secured to provide feeding habitat for pink-footed geese and other non-breeding SPA bird features through amending farming practices (including no shooting within mitigation areas and amending crop types), arable revision and/or supplementary feeding.
 - If mitigation area(s) cannot be secured within the ownership of the development/landowner then land within the LCR Nature Improvement Area (NIA) Focus Area should be considered as follows:
 - Use of the NIA Focus Areas to provide improved management and mitigation – usually by the developer or landowner leasing land to manage or managing it in agreement or partnership with

the landowner using an agreed legal or financial mechanism. Benefit of a joint approach across the LCR to help meet development needs and HRA compliance land should be secured to provide feeding habitat for pink-footed geese and other non-breeding SPA bird features through:

- Amending farming practices (including no shooting within mitigation area and amending crop types); and,
- Arable revision and/or supplementary feeding.

5.3.11 It is noted that the LPA will work with Natural England on the scope and preparation of the SPD. Meetings and discussion with Natural England have been held, and they were consulted as part of the general consultation on the scope of the SPD which took place in late spring 2015. In the HRA Report on the Publication Draft Local Plan (2015) it was recommended that amendments to the supporting text of Policy NH2 Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species reflect the aforementioned commitment of the LPA in preparing an SPD to provide detail to ensure the provision of functionally linked compensatory habitat for the loss of supporting habitat for pink-footed geese and other bird features of the SPA and Ramsar sites. This reference to the SPD has been included within the supporting text of Policy NH2 Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species in paragraphs 11.26B, 11.26C and 11.27 of the Proposed Modifications document. The SPD is scheduled for consultation in summer 2016 and will be adopted alongside the Sefton Local Plan in early 2017.

5.4 Recreational Disturbance

5.4.1 Although the coast that lies adjacent to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site draws tourists from across the North West due to the proximity of Blackpool and its tourists. These tourist activities are focused upon the Ribble Estuary which is the furthest part of the SPA and Ramsar site from Sefton. With regard to visitors from Merseyside the southern part of the site (i.e. that largely contiguous with the Sefton Coast SAC) is of greater relevance.

5.4.2 The southern part of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar largely falls within the same geographical area as Sefton Coast SAC. As such, the recreational pressures described for Sefton Coast SAC (in Chapter above) are largely applicable to this site. Two key differences are that recreational pressures in the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site relate more to the bird interest, and some species for which the site is designated (e.g. nesting terns) may be subject to different recreational disturbance as they use slightly different habitats than those for which the SAC was designated (i.e. sandflats and intertidal mudflats rather than coastal dunes). Furthermore, since most of the interest of the SPA is in its non-breeding birds, the risk of recreational disturbance may be lower since there will be less recreational activity in winter. Having said this, species (such as common turn and ruff) are designated as breeding features. Natterjack toads are qualifying Ramsar species, and would be more sensitive to disturbance during the spring/summer months when toadlets leave breeding ponds (the breeding ponds are generally fenced off/protected but toadlets leaving these ponds would be more subject to disturbance).

5.4.3 Both the key species and the habitats that support SPA and Ramsar birds and natterjack toad are susceptible to recreational pressure arising both from the land (particularly dog walking) and from waterborne recreation.

5.4.4 The same policies/ allocated sites described for Sefton Coast SAC in the above Chapter are considered to have the potential to result in an increase in recreational pressure and disturbance to qualifying bird species of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

5.4.5 Mechanisms proposed for Sefton Coast SAC (in the above chapter) are also applicable to this section. Supporting text for policy NH4: The Sefton Coast and Development includes the following text: *'The Council is committed to managing visitor pressure on the Sefton Coast, through mechanisms such as the Sefton Coast Partnership, Coast management plan and beach management plan'* thus providing this commitment to ensure the overall provision of housing within Sefton does not result in an in-combination impact upon internationally designated sites. This inclusion provides suitable protection of internationally designated sites to ensure no likely significant effects result from the Plan. As such, this impact pathway can be screened out from this site.

5.5 Coastal Squeeze

5.5.1 None of the modified policies or site allocations of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document change the outcome of the 2015 HRA regarding impacts of coastal squeeze upon the SPA and Ramsar site.

5.6 Air Quality

- 5.6.1 As discussed for Sefton Coast SAC, the site is well below the critical level for SO₂, but is exceeding its critical load for nitrogen deposition. Road transport, air transport and shipping are currently responsible for 16% of nitrogen deposition in the SPA (with livestock, imported emissions and 'other' accounting for approximately 75% of nitrogen deposition).
- 5.6.2 The Site Relevant Critical Load for each bird for which the SPA was designated also seems to indicate that they are not considered likely to be affected by high sulphur deposition. It should also be noted that APIS (Air Pollution Information System¹⁹) concludes the effects may be positive for most birds because nitrogen enrichment potentially means more prey species. The only SPA species for which nitrogen deposition is identified on APIS as being potentially negative are black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and curlew *Numenius arquata* (if nitrogen deposition increases the sward height of their grassland foraging grounds); however, sward height is much more strongly influenced by other factors than atmospheric nitrogen deposition such as cut height & frequency, conventional fertilization and grazing.
- 5.6.3 Policies that may result in a further increase in atmospheric nitrogen deposition have been described for Sefton Coast SAC in the previous Chapter. Due to the overlap in geographical area these are also applicable to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- 5.6.4 Existing policies that provide a basis for avoidance and/or mitigation of adverse effects arising through reduced air quality have been described for Sefton Coast SAC in the previous Chapter. Due to the overlap in geographical area this is also applicable to Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

5.7 Water Quality Deterioration

- 5.7.1 Deterioration in water quality is a key environmental pressure being experienced by the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar, namely through heavy metal pollution from industry and sediment disturbance, pollution via rivers from agricultural effluent, and pollution via rivers and drains by both treated sewerage and untreated runoff containing inorganic chemicals and organic compounds from everyday domestic products described in the Impact Pathways Chapter in the 2015 HRA.
- 5.7.2 A net increase in effluent being discharged into the internationally designated site will inevitably mean a higher nutrient loading. The implications of additional discharge which is within existing consented volumes will have already effectively been taken into account in the Environment Agency's Review of Consents (RoC) process, since the RoC is always based on consented volumes irrespective of whether the actual volume is lower. However, any increases beyond existing consented volumes (even if the works have sufficient capacity) may have implications for the internationally designated site.
- 5.7.3 Potentially significant effects on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar could arise from:
- Waste water discharge (domestic and industrial) and surface water runoff; and
 - Shipping, port/dock expansion and associated navigational dredging/ship wash.
- 5.7.4 Policies with modifications that have the potential to result in a reduction in water quality are:
- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
 - MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations
- 5.7.5 It is worth considering at this point that the majority of water quality pressures being experienced by the SPA and Ramsar are likely to arise from the River Ribble, the River Alt, and the River Mersey. With this in mind policies contained within Local Plans and/or Core Strategies of neighbouring boroughs may result in in-combination deterioration in water quality. Given the fairly small change in net housing (4%) and employment within the Proposed Modifications document, the measures already identified for inclusion in the plan will address impacts arising from the increased scale of development.
- 5.7.6 Avoiding an adverse effect from wastewater discharge is largely in the hands of the water companies (through their investment in future sewage treatment infrastructure) and the Environment Agency (through their role in consenting effluent discharges); however Local Authorities can contribute to an improvement in water quality, particularly through surface water runoff.

¹⁹ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [accessed March 2016]

5.7.7 Policy EQ8: Managing Flood Risk and Surface Water seeks to enhance water quality through supporting sustainable urban drainage systems. Furthermore this policy says that:

'3) In addition to the national requirements, site-specific Flood Risk Assessments will also be required for all development on sites of 0.5 hectares or more in Critical Drainage Areas as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Where reasonably practicable, development must incorporate sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water flooding run-off within the site so that:

- a. *Surface water run-off rates and volumes are reduced by 20% (compared to the pre-existing rates) for sites covered by buildings or impermeable hard surfaces, and for greenfield sites do not exceed greenfield rates.*
- b. *Surface water discharge is targeted, using a sequential approach and proposals to for the attenuation discharge of surface water into anything other than the ground must demonstrate why the other sequentially preferable alternatives cannot be implemented;*
 - i. *Into the ground (infiltration)*
 - ii. *Into a watercourse or surface water body,*
 - iii. *Into a surface water sewer, or*
 - iv. *Into a combined sewer.*
- c. *Above ground, natural drainage features rather than engineered or underground systems are used.'*

5.7.8 However, Local Authorities can also contribute through ensuring that sufficient wastewater treatment infrastructure is in place prior to development being delivered through the Local Plan. In the case of Sefton, this is alluded to in the following policies:

- Policy EQ4: Pollution and Hazards includes:

'1. Development proposals should demonstrate that environmental risks have been evaluated and appropriate measures have been taken to minimise the risks of harm or damage to people, property and the natural environment (including internationally important nature sites) from:

- *Pollution of the land, water including surface water and groundwater. and the air*
- *Hazardous substances*
- *Noise/vibration, dust, odour or artificial light pollution.*

2. Development will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- *Appropriate measures are incorporated into proposals to reduce pollution to air, water and soil;*
- *There would be no unacceptable risk to the users of the site, occupiers of neighbouring land or the environment from the presence of hazardous substances. Proposals for sensitive uses close to existing sources of pollution must demonstrate, that there will be no detrimental impact on the amenity of existing or future occupiers;*
- *The impact of noise/vibration and lighting will not be significant or can be reduced to an acceptable level.*

3. Development must lead to no deterioration of, and where practicable improve, water quality; and must protect and enhance Sefton's waterbodies and water environment. '

- Policy NH4: The Sefton Coast and Development includes:

'Development must not:

- a. *Increase the risk of tidal flooding or coastal erosion through their impact on coastal processes*
- b. *Impair the capacity of the coast to form a natural sea defence or adjust to changes in conditions without risk to life or property*
- c. *Adversely affect water quality including the quality of the dune aquifer and bathing water quality*
- d. *Adversely affect the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance, taking into account appropriate mitigation, or as a last resort, compensation. Development which may have an adverse effect on internationally important nature sites will only be permitted*

where it can be demonstrated that there are both no alternatives and imperative reasons of overriding public interest and where compensatory provision has been made.'

5.7.9 Additionally the pre-ambles to Policy IN1: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions ensures the protection of internationally important sites with regards to water quality within the following paragraphs:

'9.6 Additional and improved infrastructure will be provided through the development process, so that development proposals will be supported by the timely provision of an appropriate level of infrastructure prior to development. This may be provided on site by the developer, and will be required by planning agreement or through the CIL.

'9.11 Where appropriate, planning conditions or phased legal agreements will be sought to enhance and provide infrastructure to support new developments prior to development being completed, including physical and environmental infrastructure such as water supply and wastewater treatment.'

'9.12 The timely provision of an appropriate level of infrastructure means that in some instances Development must only take place once any necessary new wastewater treatment infrastructure (including retrofit schemes) is in place. This is both to service the development and to avoid an adverse effect on internationally important nature sites. These instances will be determined through cooperation with other organisations, notably the Environment Agency and United Utilities which are responsible for deciding what wastewater-treatment infrastructure may be required.'

5.7.10 Given these safeguards it is considered that likely significant effects due to wastewater impacts will not occur.

5.7.11 It should be made clear that this need will be determined and delivered through interaction with other authorities (United Utilities, the Environment Agency etc.). The Council would not be expected to be the decision-making body that determines the relevant water-treatment infrastructure (if any) that is required to protect internationally designated sites (such decisions would be made by the Environment Agency and statutory water company) but they would be involved in ensuring the strategic delivery of housing over the plan period was appropriately phased to match the delivery of this infrastructure.

5.7.12 Development of ports and docks has the potential to cause disturbance to sediment and mobilisation of contamination in addition to direct pollution. Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone states that general development within the Port and Maritime Zone will only be permitted if: *'it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.'*

5.7.13 With specific regard to the expansion of the Port onto Seaforth Nature Reserve (which would result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the internationally designated site), the policy states that:

'The expansion of the operational port area onto all or part of the Seaforth Nature Reserve will not be permitted unless the proposals:

- a. *Demonstrate both that there are:*
 - i. *No alternative sites available; and*
 - ii. *'Imperative reasons of overriding public interest' as to why the development should be permitted in this location; and subsequently:*
- b. *Provide suitable compensatory habitat and necessary mitigation for an appropriate period to end once monitoring confirms that the compensatory habitat is performing a function identical to that of Seaforth Nature Reserve; and*
- c. *Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area and other internationally important nature sites.'*

5.7.14 It is considered that the Local Plan would contain sufficient safeguards in place to prevent a significant deterioration in water quality affecting the qualifying features of the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

5.8 Habitat Loss through Mineral Extraction

5.8.1 This is described for Sefton Coast SAC in the previous Chapter, and due to overlap of geographical area is applicable to Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

5.9 Conclusion: Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar

- 5.9.1 This HRA/AA has concluded that the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan would include an adequate policy framework to enable the delivery of measures to adequately protect the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

6 Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar Site

6.1.1 Details of the reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures, and details of the key potential pressures from Sefton are not repeated within this document, but are contained in the 2015 HRA.

6.2 Role of Other Plans and Projects

6.2.1 See Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (Chapter 5) for other plans and projects that have the potential to act in combination with this SPA and Ramsar site. This is due to the proximity of the internationally designated sites to each other and similarity in pathways arising from the Local Plan to internationally designated sites.

6.2.2 In particular the Mersey Ports Masterplan (described in detail in section 2.6) has the potential to result in significant effects on this internationally designated site.

6.2.3 The following section is an analysis of those policies and site allocations that have been subject to modifications and could not be immediately screened out.

6.3 Direct Habitat Loss

6.3.1 In order to extend the Port of Liverpool (supported in principle by policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone, and IN2: Transport), Seaforth Nature Reserve would be wholly or partially lost to direct land take. This would result in a direct loss of habitat within the SPA and Ramsar boundary.

6.3.2 Depending on location, mineral extraction (Policy NH8: Minerals) could also result in direct habitat loss. This has been discussed with respect to Sefton Coast SAC and is applicable to Liverpool Bay SPA and the Proposed Extension.

6.3.3 Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone states that general development within the Port and Maritime Zone will be permitted only if:

6.3.4 *'it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.'*

6.3.5 With specific regard to the expansion of the Port onto Seaforth Nature Reserve (which would result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the internationally designated site), the policy states that:

'The expansion of the operational port area onto all or part of the Seaforth Nature Reserve will not be permitted unless the proposals:

a. *Demonstrate both that there are:*

i. *No alternative sites available; and*

ii. *'Imperative reasons of overriding public interest' as to why the development should be permitted in this location; and subsequently:*

b. *Provide suitable compensatory habitat and necessary mitigation for an appropriate period to end once monitoring confirms that the compensatory habitat is performing a function identical to that of Seaforth Nature Reserve; and*

c. *Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area and other internationally important nature sites.*

6.3.6 It is considered that references in Policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species are sufficient to ensure that the SPA and Ramsar site is protected, thus screening out this impact pathway upon this site.

6.4 Seaforth Nature Reserve

6.4.1 As noted above, Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone contains reference to development within Seaforth Nature Reserve (located within Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site). This would result in the loss of land within internationally designated sites. Natural England suggested changes to this policy and which have been incorporated into Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone within the Proposed Modification document.

6.4.2 Modifications to the policy provide for full protection of internationally protected sites both within the Port and maritime Zone and the surrounding areas as follows:

'...1.f) For development which is outside the Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites...'

'...2.c) Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas or and other internationally important nature sites...'

6.4.3 Additional changes have been made to paragraph 7.16 of the Plan with reference to the Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone to reflect the above as follows:

'7.16 The Seaforth Nature Reserve is part of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area. As such is internationally important for nature conservation and is part of the Natura 2000 network of international nature sites. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended, the Council has a duty to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of sites of international nature importance. This includes sites within or outside Sefton, such as Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area. As development at Seaforth will result in direct land take in relation to the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, along with other effects identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan, adverse impacts cannot be ruled out at the Plan stage. As a result it will be necessary to consider alternatives and imperative reasons of overriding public interest before considering compensation measures (Regulations 62 and 66 of the Habitats Regulations, respectively). Accordingly the policy, especially section 2, is clear that planning permission will not be granted for port related development at Seaforth Nature Reserve unless the necessary requirements of the Habitats Regulations can be met. Any compensatory habitat will have to have the same functions as would be lost at Seaforth Nature Reserve. An agreement will need to be in place, before development commences, to protect the adjacent internationally important sites at Crosby, and beyond, including the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Ribble & Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, other parts of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site and Liverpool Bay SPA. This may include specific monitoring and/or mitigation or compensation. More information is set out in the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan.'

6.4.4 This provides suitable protection against impacting upon the integrity of the site. As such this impact pathway can be screened out upon this site.

6.5 Recreational Disturbance

6.5.1 Ultimately this section has not changed since the 2015 HRA. Modifications provide for a 4% increase in residential provision which could result in an increase in recreational pressure. The majority of the internationally designated site is located to the south of the Mersey Estuary (in Wirral)/ It is therefore unlikely to capture a large proportion of Sefton residents for regular recreational activities. The Seaforth Nature Reserve site within the SPA and Ramsar designation is located within the southern extent of Sefton. While Seaforth Nature Reserve is an important part of the SPA and Ramsar site ecologically, it is not a significant location for visitors²⁰. Entry is strictly controlled by Port Police and although it does attract a number of bird watchers these are subject to a permit system for entry in to the Port of Liverpool. Due to the restricted access to Seaforth, the modifications to Sefton Local Plan document is unlikely to result in disturbance to qualifying species as a result of increased recreation.

²⁰ <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/Liverpool/places/342393/>

6.6 Water Quality Deterioration

6.6.1 The Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar includes the mouth of the Mersey Estuary (principally Egremont Foreshore on the west bank, and Seaforth on the east bank) as well as the North Wirral Foreshore itself. Egremont Foreshore and Seaforth are separated by approximately 2km, but are considered to be an integral site on the basis of the constant interchange of bird populations. These areas of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar are susceptible to changes in water quality in the Mersey Estuary arising from:

- Waste water discharge (domestic and industrial) and surface water runoff; and
- Shipping, port/dock expansion and associated navigational dredging/ship wash.

6.6.2 Policies with modifications that have the potential to result in a reduction in water quality are:

- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations

6.6.3 Modifications to these policies provide for a 4% increases in housing provision and a small decrease in employment areas provided. With this in mind policies contained within Local Plans and/or Core Strategies of neighbouring boroughs may result in in-combination deterioration in water quality. Given the fairly small change in net housing (4%), the measures already identified for inclusion in the plan will address impacts arising from the increased scale of development.

6.7 Air Quality

6.7.1 The expansion of the Port at Seaforth Nature Reserve is likely to increase sulphur dioxide emissions in the vicinity of the SPA and Ramsar site. In addition, development of the road infrastructure to increase adjacent road capacity may result in an increase in nitrogen deposition. Modified policies that may result in an increase in atmospheric sulphur and nitrogen deposition are:

- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations

6.7.2 Given the fairly small change in net housing (4%) and reduction in employment areas, the measures already identified for inclusion in the plan will address impacts arising from the increased scale of development.

6.7.3 Based on this information it is concluded that the Proposed Modification to Sefton Local Plan document is unlikely to result in significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar due to deterioration in air quality. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

6.7.4 Existing policies provide a basis for avoidance and/or mitigation of adverse effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site, arising through reduced air quality.

6.8 Conclusion: Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar

6.8.1 The HRA has concluded that the policy wording the Sefton Local Plan includes an adequate policy framework to enable the delivery of measures to ensure that the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site is protected.

7 Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension to SPA

7.1.1 Details of the reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures, and details of the key potential pressures from Sefton are not repeated within this document, but are contained within the 2015 HRA. Since the 2015 HRA, this site has been subject to consultation for the expansion of the site. Details of the Proposed Extension of the SPA are included in paragraph 2.5.5.

7.2 Role of Other Plans and Projects

7.2.1 Other plans and policies listed for Sefton Coast SAC, and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar are applicable to Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension. This is due to overlap of pathways and geographical proximity of the designated sites. In addition, due to the extensive size of Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension the following are applicable:

7.2.2 Projects:

- Offshore wind farms: With respect to offshore windfarm projects. The Environmental Statement for the Gwynt y Môr array (November 2005) conclude that there would be no significant effects on birds, as most are found inshore of the proposed wind farm, or marine mammals. The effect of electromagnetic fields generated by subsea cables on the behaviour of fish was considered to be potentially significant due to the current lack of knowledge. Six of the currently proposed offshore wind farm sites are located in Liverpool Bay, off the coast of North Wales and west coast of England. An assessment of the cumulative impacts on humans, biology and physical environment has been carried out. In terms of biological impacts, the overall cumulative impact from the proposed wind farms on birds is considered to be negative with the cumulative effects of all wind farms to be high, particularly to the Common Scoter and the Red Throated Diver and possible impacts on waterfowl flight paths within Liverpool Bay;
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport expansion – potential impacts due to increased sulphur and nitrogen deposition from aircraft, loss of supporting foraging/high-tide roost habitat and possible disturbance of waterfowl from noise;
- Proposed incinerators at Runcorn and Ince Marshes – possible air quality impacts through nitrogen and sulphur deposition;
- Burbo Bank and Extension – Burbo Bank offshore windfarm comprises 25 turbines and is situated on the Burbo Flats in Liverpool Bay at the entrance to the River Mersey, approximately 6.4km (4.0 miles). The proposed Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm development consists of an area of 40 km² 8.5 km from Crosby beach. Significant work has been done to identify the potential impact of these projects on qualifying bird species. This is discussed in Chapter 2;
- Potential nuclear power development at Wylfa in Anglesey as set out in National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation EN6. The Appraisal of Sustainability site report²¹ has identified that significant strategic effects on Liverpool Bay SPA cannot be ruled out as a result of the high-level HRA undertaken for the NPS through some or all of through potential impacts on water resources and quality, habitat (and species) loss and fragmentation/ coastal squeeze, disturbance (noise, light and visual), and air quality;
- Alexandra Dock Biomass Project – this project is currently at the pre-application stage. As coping report was undertake in 2012 and did not contain reference to Liverpool Bay Proposed Extension to the SPA as the Proposed Extension was not formally identified until July 2015. The proposed site is located within close proximity of the Proposed Extension to Liverpool Bay SPA and the area identified for 'cooling water infrastructure' is partially located within the Proposed Extension to the SPA. This project has the potential to result in likely significant effects resulting from disturbance during construction activities to birds to which the Proposed Extension to the SPA is designated, and has potential to impact on foraging opportunities. It is assumed that this will need to be investigated further within the project specific HRA as part of the planning application. As this project is still at the pre-application stage, it is not appropriate to fully assess the impact of this project in-combination with the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document.

²¹ Appraisal of Sustainability: site report for Wylfa, October 2010

7.2.3 Plans:

- Local Plans for Flintshire, Denbighshire, Halton, Conwy, Wrexham, Cheshire West and Chester, Knowsley, Liverpool, Wirral and St Helens, the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point Programme of Delivery (Wirral and Liverpool) and Liverpool and Wirral Waters Development masterplans – possible water quality, air quality and wildfowl disturbance impacts as a result of delivery of new houses and associated commercial development over the next 20 years.

7.2.4 The following section is an analysis of those policies and site allocations that have been subject to modifications and could not be immediately screened out.

7.3 Recreational Disturbance

7.3.1 The following policies containing modifications have potential to result in likely significant effects upon the SPA and Proposed Extension:

- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations

7.3.2 Modifications to these policies provide for a 4% increase in dwellings and a small reduction in employment land. This small increase in dwellings has potential to result in likely significant effects upon the SPA and Proposed Extension. Existing mechanisms already identified in the 2015 HRA and committed to in modifications to supporting text of the Plan, provide suitable protection against impacting upon the integrity of an internationally designated site. As such, the Proposed Modifications can be screened out.

7.4 Disturbance Due to Port Expansion

7.4.1 As described above with respect to recreational disturbance, qualifying bird species are highly sensitive to noise and visual disturbance and can be disturbed by boat movements. Proposals to expand the Port at Seaforth, and associated rise in boat movements could increase this vulnerability and pressure.

7.4.2 Modifications to the Sefton Local Plan incorporate additional text that provides explicit protection for Liverpool Bay SPA and other internationally important nature sites as a result of development within the Port and Maritime Zone as follows: Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone states that general development within the Port and Maritime Zone will be permitted only if:

7.4.3 *'it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.'*

7.4.4 With specific regard to the expansion of the Port onto Seaforth Nature Reserve (which would result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the internationally designated site), the policy states that:

'The expansion of the operational port area onto all or part of the Seaforth Nature Reserve will not be permitted unless the proposals:

- d. *Demonstrate both that there are:*
 - iii. *No alternative sites available; and*
 - iv. *'Imperative reasons of overriding public interest' as to why the development should be permitted in this location; and subsequently:*
- e. *Provide suitable compensatory habitat and necessary mitigation for an appropriate period to end once monitoring confirms that the compensatory habitat is performing a function identical to that of Seaforth Nature Reserve; and*
- f. *Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area and other internationally important nature sites'.*

7.4.5 The above protection is in addition to the explicit protection for Seaforth Nature Reserve which is noted as supporting habitat for designated features. This provides sufficient protection to ensure the integrity of internationally designated sites will not be negatively affected by port development.

7.5 Water Quality Deterioration

7.5.1 Liverpool Bay SPA extends over the mouth of the Mersey Estuary and the Proposed Extension to the SPA extends from the mouth of the estuary up the River Mersey to the entrance to Birkenhead Docks. It is therefore susceptible to changes in water quality within Mersey Estuary arising from:

- Waste water discharge (domestic and industrial) and surface water runoff; and
- Shipping, port/dock expansion and associated navigational dredging/ship wash.

7.5.2 The Natural England Draft Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operation²² provide more detail on the risk that the pollutants pose to the qualifying features of interest at the Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension.

7.5.3 Policies with modifications that have the potential to result in a reduction in water quality are:

- MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements
- MN2: Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations

7.5.4 The policies that have been identified that may result in a reduction in water quality at Sefton Coast SAC in Chapter 4 and Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar in Chapter 5 through increased pressure on the Sewage Treatment Works (STW) are also applicable to Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension due to the hydraulic connections.

7.5.5 Modifications to these policies provide for a 4% increases in housing provision and a small decrease in employment areas provided. With this in mind policies contained within Local Plans and/or Core Strategies of neighbouring boroughs may result in in-combination deterioration in water quality. Given the fairly small change in net housing (4%), the measures already identified for inclusion in the plan will address impacts arising from the increased scale of development.

7.5.6 Development of ports and docks has the potential to disturb substrates/ circulate synthetic chemical pollutants and heavy metals all of which could result in potential harm to benthic communities, aquatic invertebrates and habitats required by qualifying bird species. Furthermore greater shipping freight has the potential for pollution through fuel emissions/ accidental spillage (described above in relation to waste water discharge/run-off above). It is therefore considered likely that a reduction in water quality arising from emerging Local Plan policies could affect the integrity of the internationally designated sites. Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone providing for this level of development is not a new policy and has been previously assessed. Modifications to the policy provide for full protection of internationally designated sites as follows:

'...1.f) For development which is outside the Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites...'

'...2.c) Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas or and other internationally important nature sites...' thus ensuring no likely significant effects result.

7.6 Disturbance

7.6.1 Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension to the SPA is located within 30m of the proposed expansion area of the Seaforth Port at Seaforth Nature Reserve. As such, there is potential for physical disturbance from an increase in port activities in close proximity to the SPA. Disturbances include, noise and vibration disturbances from increases in shipping and shore-based port operations. This has potential to not only disturb individual birds, but also their prey species such as fish and molluscs. Visual disturbance from port activities also has potential to displace bird species for which the SPA is designated. However, it is also noted that port activities can result in beneficial effects upon bird species. For example, the wake and disturbance due to ship movements bring fish to the surface, where they are more easily caught and consumed by fish-feeding birds. It is this that has partly led to the recognition of the value of this estuary area of the Proposed Extension. Modifications to Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone as detailed in paragraph 7.5.6 provide suitable protection for internationally designated sites, ensure no likely significant effects will result.

²²Ibid

7.7 Conclusion: Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension.

- 7.7.1 The HRA has concluded that, the policy wording of the Sefton Local Plan provides adequate policy framework to enable the delivery of measures to ensure that the Liverpool Bay SPA and Proposed Extension to the SPA is protected.

8 Manchester Mosses (SAC)

- 8.1.1 Details of the reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures, and details of the key potential pressures from Sefton are not repeated within this document, but are contained in the 2015 HRA.
- 8.1.2 **Figure A1** shows the location of Manchester Mosses SAC, located over 20km to the east from Sefton's western boundary.
- 8.1.3 From the environmental requirements that have been identified it can be determined that development in Sefton could theoretically interfere with the environmental requirements and processes on the SAC in the following manner:
- Cumulative 'in combination' deterioration in local air quality (when considered alongside other authorities alongside the M62 that will be delivering new housing over the same period) and thus increased nitrogen deposition since the M62 is one of the major routes from eastern Merseyside (north of the river) and Greater Manchester.

8.2 Reduction in Air Quality

- 8.2.1 The following modified policies have potential to result in an increase in vehicle movements in the Merseyside Region.
- ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone
 - IN2: Transport
 - MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements.
- 8.2.2 Air Quality effects arising from port operations and the associated increase in road capacity have potential to result in likely significant effects. The modifications to Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone provide explicit protection for internationally designated sites enabling this policy to be screened out via the following text:
- 'f) For development which is outside the Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.'*
- 8.2.3 Paragraph 11.23 of the Propose Modifications document (the pre-ambule to policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species) includes the following text: '*Habitats Regulations Assessments for development proposals that are likely to result in an increase of more than 1% in nitrogen inputs into the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)*' thus providing suitable protection for internationally designated sites from increases in air pollution, resulting from transport schemes, housing and employment provision identified within the modifications document, thus ensuring this impact pathway can be screened out from further consideration. Modifications to Policy MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements provides for a 4% increase in dwelling provision. This is a small percentage increase in dwellings and the above text provides protection for internationally designated sites as a result of this increase in dwellings.

8.3 Conclusion

- 8.3.1 The provision of modifications to Policy ED1: The Port and Maritime Zone, and the pre-ambule to NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species demonstrates that the Local Plan already includes appropriate measures to minimise its contribution to vehicle movements on the M62 and therefore contains an adequate policy framework to enable Sefton to reduce its atmospheric nitrogen deposition on Manchester Mosses SAC from Local Plan development to a level that is effectively inconsequential.

9 Summary and Conclusion

9.1.1 This HRA has identified aspects of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan including Strategic Site Allocations that have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on internationally designated sites. Where necessary, recommendations have been carried over from the 2015 HRA to change policy wording in order to mitigate these effects, in order for the Sefton Local Plan to be compliant with the Habitats Regulations.

9.2 Site Allocations

- 9.2.1 One site allocation introduced within the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document was 'screened in' through the Test of Likely Significant Effects Table for Site Allocations in **Appendix B**. This was new site allocation MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby. This site provides for 60 new dwellings and is located about 190m from the Sefton Coast SAC and Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site and approximately 1km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA. Site MN2.14A will need to be covered by a site-specific HRA accompanying the planning application. Recent amendments to Appendix 1 set out this requirement. In addition, all other sites previously identified as requiring site-specific HRA and non-breeding bird surveys are now identified within Appendix 1 of the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan document.
- 9.2.2 Sites within sensitive areas for SPA and Ramsar birds will require a non-breeding bird survey during autumn, winter and spring to support any planning application and the provision of replacement habitat if the site is established to regularly support over 1% of the SPA and Ramsar population of that species.
- 9.2.3 The development site should be surveyed by an experienced ornithologist twice per month from September to March²³. The two visits each month should be carried at different tidal states (as these are known to influence non-breeding bird movement) and/or at different times of day, if time of day is considered likely to be relevant. More than one survey season may be required if the data from any portion of the survey period is not considered representative (e.g. because the level of disturbance being experienced at time of survey is atypical), if bird numbers fluctuate greatly from visit to visit which would indicate that a larger dataset is required to determine typical levels of usage or if the species is known to vary considerably year-on-year in their level of use of high tide roost sites. At each visit the date, time of day, species present and number of birds of each species should be recorded. Additional information which would be useful includes weather conditions, any records of disturbing activities and whether these are typical of the site, and details of feeding or roosting behaviour. Depending on the site, vantage point observations may also be of value to identify directions of flock flight to and from the parcel being surveyed.
- 9.2.4 Analysis of the data would need to determine the total number of non-breeding SPA bird features and the total number of each species of non-breeding bird in order to determine whether on any survey visit numbers exceeded 1% of the SPA population. Data analysis should also consider how often the 1% threshold is exceeded. If the threshold is only exceeded on a single occasion then it may not be appropriate to conclude that the site is important for the SPA. It is considered by the authors of this document that if however numbers exceeding 1% of the SPA population are recorded on multiple (for example, 3 or more) visits in a single season than regular use of that field by significant numbers of waterfowl can be reasonably assumed.
- 9.2.5 Sites with sensitivities of Ramsar or SAC amphibian features (natterjack toad and great crested newt) should be surveyed in accordance with best practice to determine the presence/ likely absence of these species to inform the requirement of avoidance and mitigation measures.

²³ Natural England Technical Guidance Note TIN008: 'Assessing ornithological impacts associated with wind farm developments: surveying recommendations' provides further background on appropriate survey method requirements. While this guidance was specifically written for wind turbine projects and some aspects (e.g. vantage point surveys) are not necessarily relevant to other types of non-breeding bird survey, the guidance also provides advice on conventional non-breeding bird survey.

9.3 Detailed Policies

9.3.1 Two modified policies have been screened in within the Test of Likely Significant Effects Screening Table in **Appendix C** (therefore requiring further consideration in the Local Plan) due to potential pathways being identified to internationally designated sites. These were subject to AA. The modified policies are as follows:

- MN1: Housing and employment requirement
- MN2: Housing, employment and mixed use allocations

9.3.2 The Local Plan incorporating modifications contains text which largely serves as a basis to protect the integrity of internationally designated sites.

9.3.3 Where necessary recommended changes previously identified within the 2015 HRA have been carried forward to ensure the integrity of internationally designated sites is not eroded.

9.4 Conclusion

9.4.1 This HRA has concluded that the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan, coupled with the un-amended policies, would constitute a sufficient policy framework to enable the required amount of development to occur within Sefton whilst adequately protecting internationally designated sites. This would mean that the Proposed Modifications to Sefton Local Plan are compliant with the Habitats Regulations and will not result in a likely significant effect either alone or in combination.

Appendix A. – Figures

A.1 Location of Internationally Designated Site

A.2 Location of Site Allocations

Appendix B. – Initial Screening of Proposed Modifications to Site Allocations

The majority of site allocations identified within this table were subject to HRA during the previous iteration of the Local Plan in January 2015. This table is the screening only of the Proposed Modifications text (often identified as a change in site size or housing provision). Changes are identified by struck out text and its replacement. Other changes are mentioned in column five. The colour coding in Column 4 therefore relates specifically to the implications of the Proposed Modification. If a modification to a site allocation is screened out (green), it does not require further consideration. Those modifications shaded orange have been screened in for further consideration and are discussed further within the main body of this document. If the screening of the proposed modification has been screened out (coloured green), this does not mean that the original site allocation itself can necessarily be screened out, unless plainly stated. Please refer to the January 2015 HRA for further screening details of each site allocation.

Table 4: Initial Screening of Site Allocations Identified within Sefton’s Proposed Modifications Document, prior to further discussion in the main body of the report

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
<u>Housing Allocations</u> ²⁴				
MN2.1	Bartons Close, Southport	To exclude land within flood zone 3	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed change in the site allocation does not result in any new impact pathways or change the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously this site was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.2	Land at Bankfield Lane, Southport	An increase in proposed number of dwellings from 220 to 300.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed change in the site allocation does not result in any new impact pathways or change the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously this site was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects. This site is located approximately 1.5km from the SPA and Ramsar site and 5km from the SAC. The proposed increase in housing from 220 to 300 has potential to result only in an in-combination impact as a result of increased recreational pressure.
MN2.4	Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown	A reduction in area from 19.1ha to 18.3ha. See policy MN2 Point 4 (adjacent to areas of ‘Proposed Open Space’. These areas will be developed for new open space alongside the housing allocation). Part of site to be	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed change in the site allocation does not result in any new impact pathways or change the outcome of the previous HRA and the site itself remains screened in.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion. Previously this site was screened in as the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where the Lancashire Bird Atlas identifies densities of both whooper swan and pink-

²⁴ All housing site allocations have the potential to result in a cumulative impact upon levels of recreational pressure upon European designated sites.

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
		designated Proposed Open Space See policy MN6A		footed goose. These bird species may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat to non-breeding SPA bird features.
MN2.6	Land adjacent to Dobbies Garden Centre, Benthams Way, Southport	A reduction in area from 8.7ha to 6.1ha and a reduction in the provision in housing quantity from 215 dwellings to 174 dwellings. See policy MN2 Point 4 (adjacent to areas of 'Proposed Open Space'. These areas will be developed for new open space alongside the housing allocation). Area of FZ 2 & 3 removed from allocation and designated as Proposed Open Space	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed change in the site allocation does not result in any new impact pathways or change the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously this site allocation was screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.8	Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale	A reduction on the provision of houses from 243 dwellings to 120 dwellings. See policy MN2 Point 4A (will include an Ecological Improvement Area to be developed as a nature reserve alongside the housing allocation). Part of site designated Ecological improvement area.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The Proposed Modifications provide for a reduction in housing provision (from 243 to less than half this number; to 120 houses), and that part of the site is to be designated as an Ecological Improvement Area. Modifications to Appendix 1 include the need for a site specific HRA enabling this site to be screened out .	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in. It is located immediately adjacent to SAC and Ramsar site, with direct public access to the SAC and Ramsar sites available. There is potential for increased recreational pressure to affect the SAC habitats. Very low numbers of bird species (such as oystercatcher and gulls) for which SPA and Ramsar are designated have been recorded within the site. These features could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site. The site is also located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose, although the Lancashire Bird Atlas does not indicate any records of SPA birds using this area. No non-breeding season bird surveys are required due to the low number of birds known to use the site. Natterjack toads for which the Ramsar is designated may be present and could be adversely affected.
MN2.9	Former St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale	A small increase in the site area from 1.3ha to 1.4ha	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Proposed Modification of this policy is for a small	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which the

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
			increase in size of this site from 1.3 to 1.4ha in size. Modifications to Appendix 1 include the need for a site specific HRA enabling this site to be screened out .	SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. Further to this, the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan. Aerial photographs indicated the site is currently amenity grassland. MEAS confirmed that the disused school site is currently surrounded by 2m high close boarded wooden fencing. As such the site itself is not suitable to support pink-footed goose and / or whooper swan. However, the Lancashire Bird Atlas identifies that the parcel lies adjacent to a high density of records of wintering whooper swan which is particularly concentrated on farmland to the east of urban Sefton. There is potential to impact these populations and other non-breeding SPA bird features during the construction phase via noise and vibration disturbance and via visual disturbance. Any applicant will need to include provisions to mitigate these impacts during the construction phase.
MN2.10	Land at Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale	An increase in site area from 2.0ha to 2.6 ha to include former Rehab Centre An increase in the housing provision from 49 dwellings to 83 dwellings.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Proposed Modifications of this policy is for an increase in the site area from 2.0 to 2.6ha and an increase in housing provision from 49 to 83 dwellings. This site is located 1.2km from the SAC and Ramsar site. Only cumulative impact from increases in recreational pressure is present when all development sites are considered together. Modifications to Appendix 1 include the need for a site specific HRA enabling this site to be screened out .	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which the SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. Further to this, the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan. Aerial photographs indicated the site is currently amenity grassland. MEAS confirmed that the disused school site is currently surrounded by 2m high close boarded wooden fencing. As such the site itself is not suitable to support pink-footed goose and / or whooper swan. However, the Lancashire Bird Atlas identifies that the parcel lies adjacent to a high density of records of wintering whooper swan which is particularly concentrated on farmland to the east of urban Sefton. There is potential to impact these populations and other non-breeding SPA bird features during the construction phase via noise and vibration disturbance and via visual

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
MN2.11	Land south of Moor Lane, Ainsdale	An increase in the site area from 2.6ha to 3.2ha to comply with recommendations of Inspector following examination Initial Findings	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The Proposed Modification of an increase in area of the site from 2.6 to 3.2ha does not change the previous outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA.</p>	<p>disturbance. Any applicant will need to include provisions to mitigate these impacts during the construction phase.</p> <p>Previously screened out, this site is located 1km from the SAC and SPA and Ramsar and is a relatively small scale development. Whilst it may contribute cumulatively to recreational pressure it is unlikely to result in significant recreational pressure on a stand-alone basis.</p> <p>The site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and where records of the species exist according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photograph indicates current land use is horse pasture, which is confirmed by survey on behalf of the proponents conducted in 2013. This land is located on the fringe of the urban area. It has been confirmed by MEAS that no pink-footed goose or other non-breeding birds for which the SPA and Ramsar site is designated use the site. In addition the site is located suitable far enough away from and screened from arable fields that could be used by pink-footed goose and other –non-breeding bird populations. There are no likely significant effects upon the internationally designated sites.</p>
MN2.12	Land north of Brackenway, Formby	A small decrease in the site area from 13.8ha to 13.7ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The Proposed Modification of a small decrease in area of the site from 13.8 to 13.7ha does not change the previous outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA and the site itself remains screened in.</p>	<p>Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>Previously this site was screened in. Located 500m east of SAC (and 1km south of SPA and Ramsar) so potentially yes, given the scale of development and proximity to the SAC. Victoria Road provides access to the coast over the railway (i.e. alone and in-combination)</p> <p>Located approx. 1km from SPA and Ramsar site. Bird species for which SPA and Ramsar site are designated, and natterjack toads for which the Ramsar is designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat.</p> <p>In addition, the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and where records of the species</p>

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				exist according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photograph indicates current land use is arable/ grazing. It is understood that MEAS conducted a site visit and found the area is heavily grazed/poached by horses and not used by geese and swans or other non-breeding SPA bird features suggesting the site to be suboptimal. The very closely grazed nature of the site is confirmed in survey reports submitted on behalf of the proponent in 2014.
MN2.13	Land at West Lane, Formby	A decrease in the site area from 2.3ha to 1.9ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The Proposed Modification of a small decrease in area of the site from 2.3 to 1.9ha. Modifications to Appendix 1 include the need for a site specific HRA enabling this site to be screened out</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in. The site is located approx. 80 metres from the SAC site, 900 metres from the Ramsar site, approximately 2km from the SPA, and approximately 1 hectare (quantum of dwellings not specified). There is potential for this site to impact upon the SAC habitats as a result of increased recreational pressure (alone and in-combination).
MN2.14	Former Holy Trinity School, Lonsdale Road, Formby	<p>A small increase in the site area from 0.9ha to 1.0ha.</p> <p>Site allocated specifically for older persons housing / accommodation (reserved for residents aged 55 and over).</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed change in the site allocation provides for a small increase in site size (from 0.9 to 1.0ha), and for the site to be reserved for residents of the age of 55 and over. These modifications do not result in any new impact pathways or change the outcome of the previous HRA.</p>	Previously this site was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.14A	Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby	A new site allocation of 3.3ha and for 60 dwellings.	<p>HRA implications from Proposed Modifications</p> <p>This is a new residential site allocation located about 190m from the Sefton Coast SAC and Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site and approximately 1km from the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA.</p> <p><u>Recreational pressure:</u> Located 190m east of the SAC and Ramsar site (1km from the SPA) so yes given the quantum of housing and proximity to the SAC and Ramsar site. Alexandra Road, Lifeboat Road and footpaths adjacent to and/or in close proximity to the site provide direct access to the SAC and Ramsar and SPA.</p> <p><u>Other forms of disturbance:</u> The site is surrounded</p>	This column is not applicable as MN2.14A is a new site allocation and has not previously been assessed.

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
			<p>by trees and some of the site appears to be subject to levels of disturbance due to existing buildings/business, as such it is unlikely that the site supports populations of bird species for which the SPA and Ramsar site are designated.</p> <p><u>Coastal squeeze:</u> Too far from the coast for this to be a realistic impact pathway.</p> <p><u>Loss of supporting habitat:</u> The site is surrounded by trees and due to the distance involved, is unlikely to result in disturbance of avian designated features, or be used as supporting habitat by natterjack toads. In addition there are no records of great crested newt within 250m of the site, and this impact pathway can be screened out.</p> <p>Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	
MN2.17	Land at Altcar Lane, Formby	A small decrease in the site size from 0.8ha to 0.7ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The Proposed Modification of a small decrease in area of the site from 0.8 to 0.9ha. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this policy was screened in. The site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where records of the species exist according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas; The site is located adjacent to the west of the AA565. The land parcel extends up to approximately 850m from this busy road. There is direct access to this land parcel from the internationally designated sites without birds overflying disturbed areas (busy road and urban landscape). Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their presence.
MN2.18	Power House phase 2, Hoggs Hill Lane, Formby	<p>A small decrease in the site area from 0.6ha to 0.4ha and a reduction in the housing provision from 20 dwellings to 12 dwellings.</p> <p>Site boundary amended to exclude area of Flood Zone 3</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for a reduction in site size and number of dwellings to be provided. Whilst less land will be taken, and the site will contribute less to a cumulative impact of recreational pressure. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in due to Aerial photography indicating that existing land use is grassland with occasional scattered scrub and is considered suitable to support bird species of the SPA. In addition, the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where records of the species exist according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				photographs indicate that habitat on site is grassland with occasional scattered scrub making the site suitable to support bird features of the SPA. Although located on the fringe of an urban area, there is direct access to this land parcel from the internationally designated sites without birds overflying disturbed areas (busy road and urban landscape). Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their presence.
MN2.19	Land at Andrew's Close, Formby	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA/Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where records of the species exist according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicated site is currently agricultural land (confirmed by surveys on behalf of the proponent in 2013) so may be suitable for both species. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their presence.
MN2.22	Land at Hall Road West, Crosby	A small increase in site area of the site from 0.8 to 1.1ha	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The Proposed Modification of a small increase in area of the site from 0.8 to 1.1ha does not change the previous outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA.	The site was previously screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.23	Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton	A small increase in area of the site from 3.2 to 3.9ha.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The Proposed Modification of a small increase in area of the site from 3.2 to 3.9ha. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. This site was previously screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar site are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition, the site is located

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				<p>within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose. The Presence of pink-footed goose is further supported by Thornton to Switch Island Link Wintering Bird Surveys and the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is agriculture which is suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their presence. Following construction of the Link Road, pink-footed goose have been noted to be present again in large numbers with regular use confirmed.</p> <p>A survey to determine habitat type and land use should be conducted to ascertain suitability for SPA bird species. If required a non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their continued presence.</p>
MN2.24	Land at Holgate	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	<p>Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out.</p> <p>This site was previously screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA/Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose. The Presence of pink-footed goose is further supported by Thornton to Switch Island Link Wintering Bird Surveys and the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is agriculture which is suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm their presence.</p>
MN2.25	Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton	A small decrease in site area, from 10.3 to 10.2 ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for a small decrease in site area, from 10.3 to 10.2 ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA</p>	<p>Previously this site was screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.</p>
MN2.26	Land south of Runnell's Lane, Thornton	A small increase in site area, from 5.2 to 5.3 ha	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for a small increase in site area, from 5.2 to 5.3 ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.</p>	<p>Previously this site was screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.</p>

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
MN2.28	Land north of Kenyons Lane, Lydiate	An increase in site size from 9.7 to 10.1ha	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for an increase in site size from 9.7 to 10.1ha. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar site are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. Further to this, the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose although with no records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use agriculture (confirmed by surveys commissioned by the proponent in 2013) which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features.
MN2.30	Land east of Waddicar Lane, Melling	An increase in site size from 5.7 to 6.0ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for an increase in site size from 5.7 to 6.0ha. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and adjacent to a broad area with records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is agriculture which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..
MN2.31	Wadacre Farm, Melling	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.</p>	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and adjacent to a broad area with records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is agriculture which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..
MN2.32	Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located close to an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and within an area with records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. The site is bounded to the south by the M57 from which it is screened by a belt of trees, so visual disturbance is unlikely. Acoustic disturbance from the M57 to pink-footed goose is possible. The presence of pink-footed goose cannot be screened out. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is agriculture which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..
MN2.33	Land at Wango Lane, Aintree)	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and within an area with records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use is rough

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				grassland with scattered scrub which may be suitable habitat. This site is a narrow strip adjoining urban development to the south. There is potential for increased disturbance to pink-footed goose, so there presence cannot be screened out. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features.
MN2.34	Aintree Curve Site, Ridgewood Way, Netherton	An increase in the quantum, of housing from 100 to 109 dwellings.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for an increase in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 100 dwellings to 109 dwellings. Whilst this small increase in dwellings does have potential to result in a small increases in recreational pressure, this is only considered cumulatively. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.	This site was previously screened out. It is located in an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and with some records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. However, aerial photographs indicate this land parcel is overgrown and scrubbed up. It would therefore constitute unsuitable habitat. No realistic pathway has been identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures has been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.36	Former St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton	A decrease in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 65 dwellings to 53 dwellings.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for a decrease in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 65 dwellings to 53 dwellings. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously this site allocation was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.37	Land at Pendle Drive, Netherton	A decrease in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 52 dwellings to 29 dwellings.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for a decrease in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 52 dwellings to 29 dwellings. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously this site allocation was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.38	Land at the former Bootle High School, Browns Lane, Netherton	An increase in site size from 1.4 to 1.7ha.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for an increase in site size from 1.4 to 1.7ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.	Previously screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.41	Former St. Wilfrid's School, Bootle	None to policy – amendment to Appendix 1 relating to this site allocation.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Modifications to Appendix 1 include for the need for a site specific HRA, enabling this site to be screened out.	Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. New modifications enable this site allocation to be screened out. Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				<p>the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat.</p> <p>In addition the site is located on the edge of an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose although not in an area with a concentration of records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. This does not screen out the presence of pink-footed goose or other birds from the SPA/ Ramsar site. Site is open short grassland according to aerial photography so it would constitute suitable habitat. Nonbreeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..</p>
MN2.42	Klondyke Phases 2 and 3, Bootle	A small increase in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 140 dwellings to 142 dwellings, and a decrease in the site size from 4.2 to 3.6ha.	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications are for a small increase in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 140 dwellings to 142 dwellings, and a decrease in the site size from 4.2 to 3.6ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.</p>	Previously this site allocation was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.
MN2.44	Former St Joan of Arc School, Rimrose Road, Bootle	A small increase in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 48 dwellings to 51 dwellings. T	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for a small increase in the quantum of housing provided within the site from 48 dwellings to 51 dwellings. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA.</p>	Previously this site allocation was screened out, due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects. The site is located in an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose although not in an area with a concentration of records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Site is open short grassland according to aerial photography but it is adjacent to a very busy road and within a highly urban context. As such it is considered unlikely to be of significance.
MN2.46	Land East of Maghull	Amend site boundary to allow for proposed new motorway slip road and accommodation works, thus resulting in a slightly reduced site size (reduced from 86.0ha to 85.8ha)	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modification is for a small decrease in site area from 86.0 to 85.8ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA and the site itself remains screened in.</p>	<p>Site allocation poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>Previously this site allocation was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition, the site</p>

Site Ref	Location	Proposed Modification	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further Detail Relating to 2015 HRA Process
				is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose, although the Lancashire Bird Atlas indicates that the main concentrations of the species in Sefton are further north-west. Aerial photographs and reports submitted by the proponent for surveys undertaken in 2010 indicate current land use is agriculture which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..
<u>Strategic Employment Locations</u>				
MN2.49	Land to the South of Formby Industrial Estate	REMOVED - To comply with recommendations of Inspector following examination Initial Findings. Policy MN5 also deleted as associated with MN2.49	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. This site allocation (and policy MN5) has been deleted.	None
<u>Safeguarded land (MN8)</u>				
MN8.1	Land at Lamshear Lane, Lydiate	An increase in site area from 33.0 to 33.9ha.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for an increase in site area from 33.0 to 33.9ha. Modifications to the supporting text of Policy MN8: Safeguarded Land identifies the need for a site specific HRA to support this site allocation. A such, this site allocation can now be screened out .	Previously this site was screened in as bird species for which SPA and Ramsar are designated may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. In addition, the site is located partly within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose, although with no records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas. Aerial photographs indicate current land use agriculture (confirmed by 2011 survey commissioned by proponent) which is likely to be suitable habitat. Non-breeding season bird surveys would be required to confirm presence of non-breeding SPA bird features..
MN8.2	Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull	A decrease in site area from 18.5 to 15.1ha.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modification is for a decrease in site area from 18.5 to 15.1ha. This modification does not alter the outcome of the previous HRA and remains screened out.	Previously this site was screened out due to no realistic pathway being identified. Whilst in-combination recreational pressures have been identified, this is associated with the overall quantum of development in Sefton rather than site-specific effects.

Appendix C. Initial Screening of Proposed Modifications to Policies of Sefton's Local Plan

The majority of policies identified within this table were subject to HRA during the previous iteration of the Local Plan in January 2015. This table is the screening only of the Proposed Modifications text (often identified as a change in policy wording or quantum of provision). Changes are identified by struck out text and its replacement. The colour coding in Column 3 therefore relates specifically to the implications of the Proposed Modification. If a modification to a policy is screened out (green), it does not require further consideration. Those modifications shaded orange have been screened in for further consideration and are discussed further within the main body of this document. If the screening of the proposed modification has been screened out (coloured green), this does not mean that the original policy itself can necessarily be screened out, unless plainly stated. Please refer to the January 2015 HRA for further screening details of each policy.

Table 5: Sefton Local Plan Policy Initial Test of Likely Significant Effects (TOLSE) , prior to further discussion in the main body of the report

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
Sustainable Development			
SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	1. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. 2. Where there are no policies relevant to the proposed development, or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision, the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or • Specific policies in the Framework indicate that development should be restricted. 	This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.	None
SD2: Principles of Development Principles of Sustainable Development	The Local Plan has been developed in accordance with, and will apply the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support urban regeneration and priorities for investment in Sefton. • To help meet the housing needs of Sefton's changing population for market and affordable housing; homes for families, the elderly, people with other special housing needs and others. 	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Main modifications to this policy relates to sustainable development and flood risk, and design. The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA	This is a control policy and sets out the principles for development within Sefton. It provides a level of protection, ensuring 'no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally important nature sites and supporting habitats' There are no impact pathways

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote economic growth, tourism and jobs creation and support new and existing businesses. To meet the diverse needs for homes, jobs, services and facilities, as close to where they arise as possible. To help Sefton's town and local centres to diversify and thrive To make the most of the value of the Port to the local economy and jobs, while making sure that the impact on the environment and local communities is mitigated. To make sure that new developments include the essential infrastructure, services and facilities that they require. To improve access to services, facilities and jobs. To protect and enhance Sefton's natural and heritage assets and their settings, including requiring relevant assessments, and making sure there are no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally important nature sites or supporting habitats To achieve high quality design and a healthy an environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle To respond to the challenge of climate change, encouraging best use of resources and assets To ensure that all new development addresses flood risk mitigation and explores all methods for mitigating surface water run-off. Wherever possible, developers should include an element of betterment within their proposals to reduce further the risk of flooding in the area To work with partners and make the most of Sefton's place within the Liverpool City Region <p>Development proposals will be assessed taking into account these principles.</p>	<p>and this policy remains screened out.</p>	
<p>Meeting Sefton's Needs</p>			
<p>MN1: Housing and Employment Requirements</p>	<p><u>Housing Requirement</u> 1. During the period 2012 – 2030 provision will be made for the development of a minimum of 11,070520 new homes in Sefton. The housing requirement will met at the following average annual rates: 2012-2017: 500 dwellings per annum 2017-2030: 660694 dwellings per annum</p> <p>2. The housing requirement will be met from the following sources: a) The Housing and Mixed Use Allocations identified in Policy MN3; b) Sites with planning permission for housing development; c) Other sites identified in the SHLAA; d) Unanticipated or 'windfall' sites.</p>	<p>New HRA implications identified from the Proposed Modifications</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy provide for an increase in the number of new homes in Sefton, and a reduction in the area of employment land. It also refers to Sefton working in partnership with other local planning authorities when undertaking SHELMA. The provision of an increase in new homes has potential to result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>This policy sets out provision for the number of new net dwellings and the area of new employment land required.</p> <p>Previously the following impact pathways were identified, alone or in-combination, and these impact pathways remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance and recreational pressure

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process																				
	<p><u>Employment Requirement</u></p> <p>3. During the period 2012 – 2030 provision will be made for a total of 84.581.59 ha of employment land</p> <p>4. New employment development will be provided on the following types of land:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Employment Locations (identified in MN2) Employment Allocations (identified in MN2) Land within Primary Industrial Existing Employment Areas (identified in ED3) Sites with planning permission for employment development Other suitable sites in Sefton <p>5. Sefton is working jointly with the other Liverpool City Region local planning authorities and the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership to undertake the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) to establish, objectively, the level of long-term growth in housing and employment needs appropriate in Sefton. In the event that it is demonstrated that further housing or employment provision is required in Sefton, an immediate review or partial review of the Sefton Local Plan will be brought forward to address these matters. The review will commence following the adoption of the Sefton Local Plan. It will take into account the findings of the SHELMA, and will be submitted within two years from the date of the Local Plan adoption.</p>	<p>The proposed modifications to this policy have the potential to impact upon the integrity of internationally designated sites via a 4% increase in housing numbers; this does not change the overall conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and this policy remains screened in.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment atmospheric pollution: local water resources; water quality coastal squeeze; and, loss of supporting habitat. 																				
<p>MN2:</p> <p>Housing, Employment, and Mixed Use Allocations</p>	<p><u>Housing Allocations</u></p> <p>1. The following sites are allocated for housing development:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="445 1082 1153 1433"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Ref.</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Area [ha.]</th> <th>Indicative Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MN2.1</td> <td>Bartons Close, Southport</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.2</td> <td>Land at Bankfield Lane, Southport</td> <td>9.0</td> <td>220300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.3</td> <td>Former Phillips Factory, Balmoral Drive, Southport</td> <td>6.0</td> <td>158</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.4</td> <td>Land at Moss Lane – Churchtown South</td> <td>19.418.3</td> <td>450</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Ref.	Location	Area [ha.]	Indicative Capacity	MN2.1	Bartons Close, Southport	1.0	36	MN2.2	Land at Bankfield Lane, Southport	9.0	220 300	MN2.3	Former Phillips Factory, Balmoral Drive, Southport	6.0	158	MN2.4	Land at Moss Lane – Churchtown South	19.4 18.3	450	<p>New HRA implications identified from the Proposed Modifications</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy largely result in changes in size of site allocation or quantum of housing provided within previously assessed site allocations. These changes do not result in new HRA implications.</p> <p>The inclusion of site allocation MN2.14A: Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby, has potential to result in likely significant effects. See Appendix B for screening of this proposed modification.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>This policy sets out strategic site allocations for housing, employment and mixed use.</p> <p>As previously identified, sites detailed within this policy may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance and recreational pressure Mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment atmospheric pollution: local
Site Ref.	Location	Area [ha.]	Indicative Capacity																				
MN2.1	Bartons Close, Southport	1.0	36																				
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MN2.3	Former Phillips Factory, Balmoral Drive, Southport	6.0	158																				
MN2.4	Land at Moss Lane – Churchtown South	19.4 18.3	450																				

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies				Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	MN2.5	Land at Crowland Street, Southport	25.8	678	The proposed modifications do not provide for any new impact pathways not previously identified. This does not change the overall outcome of the previous HRA and this policy remains screened in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water resources; • water quality • coastal squeeze; and, • loss of supporting habitat. <p>See Appendix B for TOLSE of strategic site allocations. (It is noted that Appendix B is not exhaustive as sites not subject to modifications are not included within this screening table. If required, please see Appendix 1 of the 2015 HRA for details of un-modified site allocations).</p>
	MN2.6	Land at Broome Road, Southport	8.7 6.1	245 174		
	MN2.7	Land at Lynton Road, Southport	1.5	25		
	MN2.8	Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale	9.2	243 120		
	MN2.9	Former St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale	1.34	40		
	MN2.10	Meadows ATC, Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale	2.06	49 83		
	MN2.11	Land south of Moor Lane, Ainsdale	2.6 3.2	75 69		
	MN2.12	Land north of Brackenway, Formby	13.87	286		
	MN2.13	Land at West Lane, Formby	1.9 2.3	40		
	MN2.14	Former Holy Trinity School, Lonsdale Road, Formby ^A	0.9 1.0	50		
	MN2.14A	Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby	3.3	60		
	MN2.15	Formby Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby	1.6	15		
	MN2.16	Land at Liverpool Road, Formby	14.2	319		
	MN2.17	Land at Altcar Lane, Formby	0.7 8	29		
	MN2.18	Power House phase 2, Hoggs Hill Lane, Formby	0.64	20 12		
	MN2.19	Land at Andrew's Close, Formby	3.3	87		
	MN2.20	Land at Elmcroft Lane,	6.5	120		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies				Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
		Hightown				
	MN2.21	Land at Sandy Lane, Hightown	0.7	10		
	MN2.22	Land at Hall Road West, Crosby	1.1 0.8	14		
	MN2.23	Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton	3.9 3.2	85		
	MN2.24	Land at Holgate, Thornton	8.4	221		
	MN2.25	Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton	10.3 2	265		
	MN2.26	Land south of Runnell's Lane, Thornton	5.3 2	137		
	MN2.27	Land at Turnbridge Lane, Maghull	1.6	40		
	MN2.28	Land north of Kenyons Lane, Lydiate	9.7 10.1	295		
	MN2.29	Former Prison Site, Park Lane, Maghull	13.6	370		
	MN2.30	Land east of Waddicar Lane, Melling	6.0 5.7	178		
	MN2.31	Wadacre Farm, Chapel Lane, Melling	5.5	135		
	MN2.32	Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling	0.6	18		
	MN2.33	Land at Wango Lane, Aintree	1.8	25		
	MN2.34	Aintree Curve Site, Ridgewood Way, Netherton	3.1 2	400 109		
	MN2.35	Former Z Block Sites, Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton	3.5	100		
	MN2.36	Former St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton	1.9 8	65 53		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies				Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process		
	MN2.37	Land at Pendle Drive, Netherton	1.4	52 29				
	MN2.38	Land at the former Bootle High School, Browns Lane, Netherton	1.7 4	63				
	MN2.39	Former Daleacre School, Daleacre Drive, Netherton	1.0	37				
	MN2.40	Former Rawson Road Primary School, Rawson Road, Bootle	1.0	20				
	MN2.41	Former St Wilfrid's School, Orrell Road, Bootle	6.6	160				
	MN2.42	Klondyke Phases 2 and 3, Bootle	4.2 3.6	140 142				
	MN2.43	Peoples site, Linacre Lane, Bootle	2.9	110				
	MN2.44	Former St Joan of Arc School, Rimrose Road, Bootle	1.3	48 51				
	MN2.45	Former St Mary's Primary School playing fields, Waverley Street, Bootle	1.6	72				
	MN2.46	Land East of Maghull	86.0 85.8	1400				
	TOTALS:		314.3 314.5	7309 7290				
	<p>^A Site allocated specifically for older persons housing / accommodation (reserved for residents aged 55 and over).</p> <p>2. Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown (site MN2.4), Land north of Brackenway, Formby (site MN2.12) and Land East of Maghull (site MN2.46) are subject to site specific policies (Policies MN6A, MN6 and MN3 respectively). In addition, a number of sites listed above are subject to site-specific requirements as set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p>3 2. Complementary appropriate facilities for new residents, such as medical services, small scale convenience shops and</p>							

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>community facilities, where needed as part of a comprehensive development, will also be permitted on these sites.</p> <p>4. Sites MN2.2, MN2.4, MN2.6, and MN2.19 are adjacent to areas of 'Proposed Open Space'. These areas will be developed for new open space alongside the housing allocation.</p> <p>4A. Site MN2.8 Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale will include an Ecological Improvement Area to be developed as a nature reserve alongside the housing allocation.</p> <p><u>Strategic Employment Locations</u></p> <p>5. The following Strategic Employment Locations are allocated for new B1 office and light industrial, B2 general industrial, and B8 storage and distribution uses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> MN2.46 Land East of Maghull 20 ha net MN2.47 Dunnings Bridge Road Corridor, Netherton (Senate Business Park, Atlantic Business Park, and the Former Peerless Refinery Site) - 26.8 ha MN2.48 Land to the North of Formby Industrial Estate – 8ha (net) MN2.49: Land to the South of Formby Industrial Estate – 7 ha (net) <p>6. Other uses will only be permitted on these sites where they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> necessary to cross subsidise the provision of B1, B2 and B8 uses on the majority of the site; or small scale and intended primarily to serve other businesses operating on the Business Park. <p>7. Land North of the Formby Industrial Estate (site MN2.48) and Land South of the Formby Industrial Estate (site MN2.49) are subject to a separate site specific policies (Policy MN4 and MN5).</p> <p>8. Southport Business Park is also allocated as a Strategic Employment Location for new office and light industrial uses (B1): MN2.50: Southport Business Park– 13.1 ha (net)</p> <p>Other uses will only be permitted on this site where they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main car dealerships, gymnasias, veterinary, or healthcare uses in the north east quadrant of the site fronting onto Town Lane (Kew); or small scale and intended primarily to serve other businesses operating on the Business Park. <p>9. The Strategic Employment Locations must provide high quality business parks. New development on these sites should maximise</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process																		
	<p>job outputs (including job opportunities for local people), incorporate high quality design and layout, and be compatible with adjacent uses.</p> <p><u>Employment Allocations</u></p> <p>10. The following sites within Primarily Industrial Existing Employment Areas (defined in Policy ED3 and shown on the Policy Map) are allocated for new office and light industrial (B1), general industrial (B2), and storage and distribution (B8) uses:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 491 1153 794"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Ref.</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Area [ha.]</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MN2.51</td> <td>Switch Car Site, Wakefield Road, Netherton</td> <td>4.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.52</td> <td>Land at Farriers Way, Netherton</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.53</td> <td>Former Lanstar Site, Hawthorne Road, Bootle</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN2.54</td> <td>Land at Linacre Bridge, Linacre Lane, Bootle</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL</td> <td>7.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Ref.	Location	Area [ha.]	MN2.51	Switch Car Site, Wakefield Road, Netherton	4.7	MN2.52	Land at Farriers Way, Netherton	0.5	MN2.53	Former Lanstar Site, Hawthorne Road, Bootle	1.0	MN2.54	Land at Linacre Bridge, Linacre Lane, Bootle	1.0	TOTAL		7.2		
Site Ref.	Location	Area [ha.]																			
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MN2.54	Land at Linacre Bridge, Linacre Lane, Bootle	1.0																			
TOTAL		7.2																			
<p>MN3:</p> <p>Strategic Mixed Use Allocation - Land east of Maghull</p>	<p>1. Land East of Maghull (shown on the Policy Map) is identified as a Strategic Mixed Use Allocation. The development of this site will create a comprehensive high quality, well-designed sustainable urban extension containing integrated, distinctive, safe and secure residential neighbourhoods, a Business Park and improvements to local infrastructure.</p> <p>1A. Proposals for development within Land East of Maghull will only be granted planning permission where they are consistent with a single detailed master plan for the whole site which is approved by the Council. The master plan should accord with this policy and any associated Supplementary Planning Document and may be submitted prior to or with the first application. Planning permissions will be linked to any necessary legal agreements for the improvement, provision, management and maintenance of infrastructure, services and facilities, open spaces and other matters necessary to make the development acceptable and which facilitate comprehensive delivery of all phases of development within the site in accordance with the master plan.</p> <p>1B. Proposals for development within this site must demonstrate a comprehensive approach to infrastructure provision (including provision of an appropriate proportion of financial and/or 'in kind'</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications of this policy are large and varied. However, they do not provide for any impact pathways not previously identified. Modifications to the supporting text of this policy identifies the need for a site specific HRA along with appropriate species surveys to enable the Council to make a fully informed Habitats Regulations Assessment. This enables this policy to be screened out.</p>	<p>This policy was previously screened in as it sets out the policy for development within Land east of Maghull to include employment and residential development. This includes strategic site allocation MN2.46.</p> <p>Impact pathways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance and recreational pressure • Mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment • atmospheric pollution: local • water resources; • water quality • loss of supporting habitat. <p>See Appendix B for TOLSE of strategic site allocations. (It is noted that Appendix B is not exhaustive as sites not subject to modifications are not included within this screening table. If</p>																		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>contributions towards strategic and/or local infrastructure required to enable the comprehensive development of the site). All residential applications within the site must contribute proportionally (on a per dwelling basis) to the following improvements:</p> <p>a) the expansion of Summerhill Primary School to become a two form entry school</p> <p>b) the provision of a main park within the site</p> <p>c) new slip roads at junction 1 of the M58 motorway</p> <p>d) subsidy of a bus service through the site for a period of 5 years</p> <p>2. No applications for residential or employment development will be permitted until a Supplementary Planning Document relating to this site has been adopted by the Council.</p> <p>3. The development of the site must provide:</p> <p>a) A minimum of 1400 dwellings, including a range of housing types and tenures to meet identified housing needs. This will include the provision of affordable / special needs housing (policy HC1), and provision at least 2 dedicated older persons housing schemes (reserved for residents of 55 and over) each comprising at least 25 dwellings for older persons housing (policy HC2)</p> <p>b) A 20 hectare (net) serviced Business Park for office and light industrial (class B1), general industrial, (B2), and storage and distribution (B8) uses. The Business Park will to be located adjacent to the site's northern and eastern boundary as set out in the broad location identified in figure 6.1.</p> <p>c) Small-scale retail and commercial development to ensure the convenience shopping and other needs of new residents are met. This should be no more than 2,000 sq m (gross) in total</p> <p>d) A new 'main park' through the site located either side of Whinney Brook. This must incorporate an equipped play area, new habitat creation, and provision for outdoor sports</p> <p>e) A landscaping network including tree planting, buffer zones between employment and housing areas and to the M58 motorway and railway, the strategic paths and cycle routes network</p> <p>f) A layout that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a bus route across the site from School Lane / Maghull Lane in the north to Poverty Lane in the south; • a distributor road(s) that encourages residential traffic from the southern part of the site to access / egress via School Lane / Maghull Lane. The distributor road(s) will run from School Lane / Maghull Lane through the site and will cross Whinney Brook; and 		<p>required, please see Appendix 1 of the 2015 HRA for details of un-modified site allocations). Modifications to the supporting text of this policy now enable this policy to be screened out.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate separation of commercial and residential traffic g) Walking and cycling routes within and beyond the site linking new and existing residential areas and business park to the railway stations, bus services, local shops, open space, and schools. This will include improving existing rights of way within the site, including upgrading the existing Maghull no. 11 footpath to a pedestrian / cycle way h) Effective management of flood risk within the site, including use of sustainable drainage systems. The development of the site will result in the reduction of flood risk onsite and to the adjacent railway line. No residential development will be located in Flood Zones 2 or 3 following any watercourse realignment, and i) The long-term management and maintenance of public open space, landscaping, and sustainable urban drainage systems, to be agreed by the Council. <p>4. The following phasing requirements will be applied to ensure that the required infrastructure is provided alongside new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maghull North station must be operational before the practical completion of the 500th dwelling b) The southbound on slip and northbound off slip at Junction 1 of the M58 motorway must be constructed before the practical completion of the 500th dwelling c) No more than 250 dwellings will be served from Poverty Lane and no more than 250 dwellings will be served from School Lane / Maghull Lane, prior to the completion of the internal bus route / distributor road d) The access into the business park from School Lane / Maghull Lane must be constructed to an appropriate standard, servicing into the business park provided, and the landscaping framework to the business park implemented before the practical completion of the 500th dwelling e) The proposed Business Park must not be occupied until the new slip roads are completed at Junction 1 of the M58 f) The local shopping provision must be constructed and made available for occupancy before the practical completion of the 750th dwelling, and g) The main park and outdoor sports provision will be provided in a phased manner 		
MN4: Land north of Formby Industrial Estate	<p>1. Land north of Formby Industrial Estate is allocated as a 'Strategic Employment Location' (as shown on the Policy Map) subject to the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The site is developed for the uses specified in Policy 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This proposed modification does not contain</p>	<p>This policy was previously screened out. It sets out policy for the development of this parcel of land for employment reasons.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>MN2. Subject to a full financial appraisal, the development of a limited number of other uses on part of the site may be acceptable where they are necessary to cross subsidise the delivery of office and light industry (B1), general industrial (B2) and storage and distribution (B8) uses.</p> <p>b) Replacement habitat, including for water voles, will be provided before development commences;</p> <p>c) The site accessed via a dedicated signal controlled junction off the Formby Bypass;</p> <p>d) Improved connections will be provided to the wider highway network, including enhanced provision for walking, cycling and public transport;</p> <p>e) Flood risk is managed effectively and appropriately within the site, including through the use of flood storage area and sustainable drainage systems; and</p> <p>a) Provision of a landscaping framework including replacement water vole habitat, appropriate tree planting, and a buffer alongside Downholland Brook.</p> <p>2. These requirements will be achieved through the use of planning conditions, Section 106 and other legal agreements.</p>	<p>potential impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites.</p>	<p>This policy refers to a strategic allocation for employment use MN2.48 which was screened out as MEAS confirmed that this is not used as 'supporting habitat'.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate</p>	<p>This policy has been deleted</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This policy has been deleted as the site allocation it refers to has also been deleted.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>MN6: Land at Brackenway, Formby</p>	<p>1. Land at Brackenway, Formby, is allocated for housing (as shown on the Policy Map). Development of this site must:</p> <p>a) Include a flood risk mitigation scheme that:</p> <p>i) ensures that new dwellings are not at risk from either fluvial flooding in a 1 in 1000 year event, or flooding from any other source; and</p> <p>ii) ensures that there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere caused by the development; and</p> <p>iii) significantly reduces the existing surface water flood risk to properties on Hawksworth Drive by directing flood flows away from Eight Acre Brook to new flood storage areas adjacent to the Formby Bypass; and</p> <p>iv) is accompanied by a maintenance plan / arrangement that ensures the flood risk mitigation scheme and existing watercourses within the site are maintained in perpetuity.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications provide for minor changes to this policy. Proposed modifications do not contain potential impact pathways linking to European designated sites. However, the proposed modification regarding the supporting text of this policy (paragraph 6.62A) requires a site specific HRA to accompany any planning application for this site thus enabling this site policy to be screened out.</p>	<p>This policy was previously screened in. It sets out policy for the development of this parcel of land for residential reasons.</p> <p>This policy refers to strategic Residential Allocation MN2.12: Land north of Brackenway, Formby which was screened in as this site has potential to be used as supporting habitat to features of the internationally designated sites such as natterjack toad, recreational pressure alone and for potential water quality issues.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to the supporting text enable this policy to be</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>b) Retain and manage 7.9 ha of grassland and wetland habitats outside of the residential allocation as a buffer zone to the adjacent nature reserve, including additional species enhancement measures. In addition, main water courses within the site (including Wham Dyke) must be maintained and enhanced with watercourse buffer habitats.</p> <p>c) Include a signal controlled junction onto the Formby Bypass and a through route to a secondary means of access via Paradise Lane.</p> <p>2. These requirements will be achieved through the use of planning conditions, Section 106 and other legal agreements.</p>		screened out.
<p>MN6A Land At Moss Lane, Churchtown</p>	<p>1. Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown, is allocated for housing (as shown on the Policy Map). Development of this site must:</p> <p>a) Provide for the widening of Moss Lane between the Roe Lane/Mill Lane roundabout and the main vehicular access point into the site, to a minimum width of 6 metres with 2m wide footway on the southern side of Moss Lane. This can be achieved within the existing highway and site boundary.</p> <p>b) Provide a financial contribution to subsidise the extension of a bus service into the site for at least 5 years.</p> <p>c) Provide a loop road arrangement or suitable turning facility within the northern half of the site for the use of bus services.</p> <p>d) Provide a layout that provides for mitigation from the operation of the adjacent golf course</p> <p>e) Retain the existing woodland that abuts Moss Lane to the north, and provide for its long term management. The development must also make provision for footpaths through and public access to the woodland area.</p> <p>f) Preserve the setting of the adjacent North Meols Conservation Area, and secure a transition to open countryside, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a 15 metre deep screen of trees along the Moss Lane frontage, between no. 83 Moss Lane and the western edge of Pool House Farm, whilst allowing for a safe vehicular point of access into the development. Existing mature trees around Pool House Farm should be retained and supplemented with additional planting. • Maintaining the open character of the north east corner of the site, identified as Proposed Open Space on the Policy Map. <p>g) Incorporate any necessary flood risk mitigation; and</p> <p>h) Provide habitat creation and management, appropriate tree planting, and a landscaped buffer alongside the Three Pools Waterway.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This is a new policy for existing site allocation MN2.4. The text of this policy does not provide any additional impact pathways that were not identified in the previous iteration of the Plan HRA. However, the proposed modification regarding the supporting text of this policy (paragraph 6.64H) requires a site specific HRA to accompany any planning application for this site thus enabling this site policy to be screened out.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>In the previous iteration of the 2015 HRA, site allocation MN2.4 was detailed. This site was screened in as the site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and whooper swan and where the Lancashire Bird Atlas identifies densities of both whooper swan and pink-footed goose. These bird species may be present and could be adversely affected/displaced if/when using the site which would be of importance for the SPA and Ramsar population if non-breeding season bird surveys confirmed that this parcel constituted a significant area of supporting habitat. The change to site allocations MN2.4 (the reduction in site size) and the addition that this site is adjacent to a 'Proposed Open Space' do not change the outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA. However, detail within the supporting text enable this policy to now be screened out.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process						
<p>MN7: Sefton's Green Belt</p>	<p>2. These requirements will be achieved through the use of planning conditions, Section 106 and other legal agreements.</p> <p><u>Extent of Green Belt</u> 1. The extent of Green Belt in Sefton is defined on the Policy Map.</p> <p><u>Development in Green Belt</u> 2. The construction of new buildings, some changes of use, and other development is generally regarded as inappropriate development in Green Belt, subject to the exceptions set out in national planning policy. Inappropriate development in Green Belt will not be approved except in very special circumstances.</p> <p><u>Extensions to buildings and replacement buildings</u> 3. National Green Belt policy requirements relating to the extension or replacement of existing buildings will be interpreted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions to existing buildings: In general, proposals to extend the original building by more than one third (by volume) either individually or cumulatively with other extensions are considered 'disproportionate' and therefore inappropriate in Green Belt. • Replacement buildings: Replacement buildings that are more than 15% larger (by volume) of the existing building(s) are considered inappropriate in Green Belt. <p><u>Low carbon, renewable and decentralised energy Infrastructure</u> 4. Proposals for low carbon, renewable and decentralised energy infrastructure within the Green Belt will need to demonstrate that the wider benefits of the development constitute very special circumstances which outweigh any harm to the Green Belt.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Modifications to this policy remove text relating to energy infrastructure. There are no impact pathways present and this policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>Previously this policy was screened in as it sets out the policy for Sefton's Green belt. It does not identify any new development. It does not provide any exact locations, or quantum of development.</p> <p>However development within the green belt has potential to result in the following impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of supporting habitat (birds) • disturbance to qualifying species <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and this policy remains screened in.</p>						
<p>MN8: Safeguarded Land</p>	<p>1. The following areas are identified as safeguarded land and are identified on the Policy Map:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 1254 1155 1358"> <tr> <td>MN8.1</td> <td>Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate</td> <td>33.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MN8.2</td> <td>Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull</td> <td>48.5 15.1</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Development on Safeguarded Land will only be permitted where the proposal is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • necessary for the operation of the existing use(s); or 	MN8.1	Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate	33.9	MN8.2	Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull	48.5 15.1	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications detail small changes in extent of safeguarded land. There are no impact pathways present. Changes to supporting text of this policy provides for the explicit need for HRA to support site MN8.1: Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate. As such this policy can be screened out.</p>	<p>This sets out the policy for development within Safeguarded Land.</p> <p>The type of development is likely to be residential.</p> <p>Sites MN8.1 identified within this policy may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in combination effect, an increase in recreational
MN8.1	Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate	33.9							
MN8.2	Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull	48.5 15.1							

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a temporary use that would retain the open nature of the land and would not prejudice the long term ability to redevelop the site to meet future development needs. <p>3. In all other instances, the development of Safeguarded Land will only be permitted following the adoption of a replacement Local Plan which allocates the development of any of these areas.</p>		<p>pressure disturbance on internationally designated sites; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of supporting habitat (birds). <p>See Appendix B for TOLSE of strategic site allocations. (It is noted that Appendix B is not exhaustive as sites not subject to modifications are not included within this screening table. If required, please see Appendix 1 of the 2015 HRA for details of un-modified site allocations).</p> <p>The proposed modifications to the supporting text of this policy identifies the need for a site specific HRA to support site MN8.1; Land at Lambshear Lane, Lydiate. This policy can now be screened out.</p>
Economic Development and Regeneration			
<p>ED1:</p> <p>The Port and Maritime Zone</p>	<p>1. Development and re-structuring will be permitted in the Port and Maritime Zone (as shown on the Policy Map) including the expansion of the operational port area to the A565 (Derby Road, Rimrose Road and Crosby Road South), provided that the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The development is a port-related activity and does not prevent the comprehensive redevelopment of the area for such purposes; Buildings are suitably designed so that they integrate into and respect the surrounding natural, built and historic environment; Appropriate landscaping and/or screening and other forms of mitigation are provided to minimise the impact of the development on sites which abut the landward edge of the Port and Maritime Zone; The development is designed to encourage walking and cycling, and has incorporated, where possible, water and rail as alternatives to road transport; and Appropriate mitigation is included that ensures that impacts resulting from noise, dust, smells or other forms of pollution on the amenity of other occupiers 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Changes to this policy provide protection for internationally designated sites from development outside of Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone, and where development will expand into Seaforth Nature reserve.</p> <p>Point 1f and 2c of this policy within the Proposed Modifications document provides explicit protection for internationally designated sites.</p> <p>As such this policy can now be screened out.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened in as it sets out the policy for development within The Port and Maritime Zone.</p> <p>Impact pathways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance to: breeding birds and non-breeding birds Other activities causing disturbance Atmospheric pollution; Local air pollution; Diffuse air pollution; Water quality; Port development, shipping and dredging; Coastal squeeze; and, Loss of supporting habitat <p>Part of the SPA is located within The Port and Maritime Zone identified within this policy.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>within the area and on adjacent communities are mitigated and minimised.</p> <p>f) For development which is outside the Seaforth Nature Reserve, but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, it can be demonstrated that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites. It can be demonstrated that there is no significant risk of any impact upon the important ecological interests of Seaforth Nature Reserve.</p> <p>2. The expansion of the operational port area onto all or part of the Seaforth Nature Reserve will not be permitted unless the proposals:</p> <p>a) Demonstrate both that there are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. No alternative sites available; and ii. 'Imperative reasons of overriding public interest' as to why the development should be permitted in this location; and subsequently: <p>b) Provide suitable compensatory habitat and necessary mitigation for an appropriate period to end once monitoring confirms that the compensatory habitat is performing a function identical to that of Seaforth Nature Reserve; and</p> <p>c) Demonstrate that there are no likely significant effects on the Mersey narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area and other internationally important nature sites .</p> <p>3. Improvements to access will be required to support the expansion of the Port. This may require a new road and /or substantial improvements to the surrounding highway network beyond the Port area, as well as other modes of transport, specifically rail.</p> <p>4. . Planning conditions and / or legal agreements will be used to ensure appropriate compensation, mitigation, infrastructure and appropriate local economic, environment and community benefits are secured and provided both within and beyond Sefton.</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process						
<p>ED2:</p> <p>Development in Town Centres, District Centres, Local Centres and Local Shopping Parades (and other locations)</p>	<p>1. Retail, leisure and other main town centre uses will be directed towards the Borough's existing centres in accordance with the following hierarchy:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="450 325 1151 496"> <tr> <td>Town Centres:</td> <td>Bootle and Southport</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District Centres:</td> <td>Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Waterloo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Centres:</td> <td>Ainsdale, Birkdale, Churchtown, Netherton and Old Roan</td> </tr> </table> <p>Planning permission will only be granted for development which is appropriate to the role and function of each centre.</p> <p>Sequential Test</p> <p>2. Where proposed outside of the defined town, district and local centres, All retail, leisure and other town centre uses will be subject to a sequential approach to development. This will require applications for town centre uses to be located firstly in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Shopping Area (retail uses only), then • Town centres, district and local centres (in accordance with the hierarchy in part 1), then • edge of centre locations, and • only if suitable sites are not available should out of centre sites be considered. <p>When considering planning applications in out of centre locations, preference should be given to accessible sites and existing retail parks² (as shown on the Policy Map) that are well connected to a defined centre in accordance with part 1 of the policy.</p> <p>In addition, all proposed retail, leisure and other town centre uses should demonstrate that it would not prejudice the delivery of planned investment within any existing defined centre; and that no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any existing centre will arise from the proposed development.</p> <p>Impact Test</p> <p>3. For retail, leisure and other town centre office use proposals ed outside of existing defined centres, impact assessments will be required to accompany planning applications at the locations identified below based on the following floorspace thresholds at the following locations set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside of the Primary Shopping Areas (for retail) or Town Centres (Leisure and office uses) of Bootle and Southport, an impact assessment will be required for development which proposes more than 500m² gross 	Town Centres:	Bootle and Southport	District Centres:	Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Waterloo	Local Centres:	Ainsdale, Birkdale, Churchtown, Netherton and Old Roan	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy do not result in new impact pathways that could result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites and this policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>Previously this policy was screened in as it sets out the policy for development within Town Centres, District Centres, Local Centres and Local Shopping Parades. This policy does not specify exact locations, type or quantity of development.</p> <p>Any development outside of Town Centres could result in the following impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of supporting habitat; <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and this policy remains screened in.</p>
Town Centres:	Bootle and Southport								
District Centres:	Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Waterloo								
Local Centres:	Ainsdale, Birkdale, Churchtown, Netherton and Old Roan								

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>floorspace or more;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 800 metres of the boundaries of the district centres, an impact assessment will be required for development which proposes more than 300m² gross floorspace; and • within 800 metres of the boundaries of the local centres, an impact assessment will be required for development which proposes more than 200m² gross floorspace. <p>Where more than one impact threshold applies, the lower impact threshold will take precedence. Where appropriate impacts on the vitality and viability of designated retail centres in neighbouring local authorities will also be required to be assessed. All proposed retail, leisure and offices uses which exceed the above local impact threshold test (part 3) should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that they would not have a significant adverse impact on the delivery of existing, committed, and planned public and private investment within any existing defined centres, and • that no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any existing centres will arise from the proposed development, including to local consumer choice and trade in defined centres and the wider area, up to five years from the time the application is made. For major schemes where the full impact will not be realised in five years, the impact should also be assessed up to ten years from when the application is made. <p>Subject to the above, impact assessments may also be required in other circumstances, including where a change of use or variation of conditions from one form of retail development to another is proposed and could materially affect local shopping patterns.</p> <p>4. Within the Primary Shopping Areas (see figure ED2.1) as shown on the Policy Map proposals for non retail uses, compatible with a town centre location, will be permitted providing that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the overall retail function of the Centre would not be undermined; (ii) the use would make a positive contribution to the overall vitality and viability of the Centre; and (iii) it would not result in an unacceptable cluster of non-retail uses. <p>Within the primary retail frontages identified in the Policies Map, it is expected that 70% of units should fall within the A1 (retail) Use Class.</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>Where planning applications for non-retail use are proposed within primary retail frontages which would result in more than 30% of units being in non-retail uses, applicants will be required to demonstrate that the nit is a long term vacancy (normally a minimum of 1 continuous year) and that reasonable attempts have been made to sell or let the premises for A1 use.</p> <p>Applications within primary and secondary frontages at the town and district centres which would result in the loss of an active ground floor use will not be supported.</p> <p>5. Residential development and other non-town centre uses will be permitted, if it does not compromise the vitality and viability of the centre or parade, in in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defined town and district centres [outside Primary Shopping Areas] and local centres; or • upper floors of buildings in the Primary Shopping Area; or • local shopping parades <p>if it does not compromise the vitality and viability of the centre or parade. Careful design is required to ensure residential development and other uses are compatible and complement each other.</p> <p><u>Bootle and Southport Town Centres</u></p> <p>6. Bootle Town Centre is the main focus for local convenience and comparison retail development and other town centre uses in the south of Sefton. Southport Town Centre is the main focus for comparison and convenience retail development, cultural, education, office and leisure development in the north of Sefton.</p> <p><u>Development in District and Local Centres</u></p> <p>7. The District and Local Centres are the main focus for retail development to serve local convenience shopping needs. In Crosby and Maghull District Centres, a more significant scale of retail redevelopment will be supported where it contributes positively to the regeneration of these centres, consistent with policy ED6 Regeneration Areas.</p> <p>Local Shopping Parades</p> <p>8. Non-retail development within local shopping parades which are not retail centres in their own right, will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a vacant property is brought back into beneficial use; and b) the overall provision of facilities in the local area or the 		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>appearance of the local shopping parade is not harmed; and</p> <p>c) the development would have no unacceptable impact on the amenity of surrounding/neighbouring uses.</p> <p>For the purposes of this policy, a shopping parade is defined as groupings of four or more consecutive retail units or four retail units in any six units.</p>		
<p>ED3:</p> <p>Primarily Existing Employment Area</p>	<p>The Primarily Industrial Existing Employment Areas are suitable for the following uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office and light industrial (class B1) • General Industrial (class B2) • Storage and distribution (class B8) <p>2. Other uses will only be permitted where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are small scale or ancillary to the above uses, and would not prejudice the operation of Class B1, B2, or B8 uses within the Existing Employment Area, or • The land/premises has been continuously and actively marketed for B1, B2 and B8 uses for at least 12 months at a reasonable market rate (i.e. rent or capital values) as supported by a formal marketing report, or There would be a significant community benefit that would outweigh the loss of the employment land/premises <p>3. Development within the Primarily Industrial Existing Employment Areas must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly harm the amenity of any nearby residents; and • Significantly harm the general environment. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy do not result in impact pathways that could have adverse effects upon the integrity of internationally designate sites.</p>	<p>Previously this policy was screened out as it sets out planning control measures for Existing Employment Areas. No location or quantum of development is identified.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and this policy remains screened out.</p>
<p>ED4:</p> <p>Mixed Use Areas</p>	<p>1. The Mixed Use Areas listed below are suitable for the following types of development: office and light industry, health and educational uses, civic and community facilities, and other uses that are compatible with complement the character of the area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bootle Central Commercial Area 2. Land at Crosby Road North, Waterloo 2. Land at Copy Lane, Netherton 3. Land to the West of Ormskirk Road, Aintree 4. Switch Island, Aintree 5. Land at Hawthorne Road / Church Road, Bootle <p>2. Residential development will be permitted where an acceptable residential environment can be achieved, consistent with other Plan policies. This should have regard to any adjacent non-residential uses.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy are minor and remove reference to a site allocation that has been removed from the Plan and the policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>Previously this policy was screened in as it sets out planning control measures for Mixed Use Areas.</p> <p>Impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance and recreational pressure • mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment • water resources

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water quality <p>The main modification to this policy is the removal of Land at Crosby Road North, Waterloo.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and this policy remains screened in.</p>
<p>ED5:</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Strategic Tourism Locations</p> <p>1. Tourism development will be supported in the following locations, subject to there being no adverse effects on the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance and to , other natural and heritage assets, or other Local Plan policies: Tourism development will be supported in the following locations, subject to other Local Plan policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southport Seafront and Southport Central Area Crosby Coastal Park Aintree Racecourse Adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. <p>Other Tourism Development</p> <p>2. Elsewhere sustainable tourism development will be supported in principle where it relates to location specific tourism assets and is consistent with other Local Plan policies.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for any new impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites. This policy now provides protection for sites of 'international nature conservation importance' and will only provide for tourism if development is in accordance with other Local Plan policies. As such this policy can now be screened out.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened in as it provided for tourism, with the following potential impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disturbance and recreational pressure; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> breeding birds non-breeding birds other activities causing disturbance mechanical/ abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment; local air pollution; water resources; and water quality
<p>ED6:</p> <p>Regeneration Areas</p>	<p>The following areas are identified as priorities for regeneration in Sefton.</p> <p>1. Regeneration in Bootle</p> <p>The Council is committed to the regeneration of Bootle, including both the redevelopment of derelict and vacant land and buildings throughout Bootle, and the regeneration of the Bootle Central Area.</p> <p>(a) Bootle Central Area</p> <p>The regeneration objectives for Bootle Central Area include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The refurbishment, re-use or redevelopment of vacant office blocks and other vacant /under-used land for appropriate new uses, consistent with Policy ED4 'Mixed Use Areas'. The refurbishment and re-use of Listed and historic buildings in and around Bootle Town Hall 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are generally minor and do not provide for any new impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites. The proposed modifications do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA and the policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>In the 2015 HRA of the Plan, this policy was screened in. This outlines policy for development within Regeneration Areas. Areas ED2, which was screened in an d MN3 which following modifications can be screened out. .</p> <p>Proposed modifications to this policy do not change the outcome from the 2015 HRA.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>iii. The focussing of new retail development within Bootle Town Centre (as defined on the policy map)</p> <p>iv. The development of new restaurants, leisure, hotels, and other appropriate uses within the Central Area, subject to policy ED2 'Development in Town Centres, District Centres and Local Centres and Local Shopping Parades'.</p> <p>v. The expansion of Hugh Baird College and it's campus</p> <p>vi. The development of new buildings of an appropriate scale and mass on the Stanley Road frontage.</p> <p>(b) Regeneration Opportunity Sites The following sites (as shown on the Policy Map) are allocated as Regeneration Opportunity Sites:</p> <p>(i) 501 – 509 Hawthorne Road, Bootle – 5.2 ha This site is suitable for housing development. Partial development for other uses will be permitted where this does not prevent the development of the remainder of the site for housing, and where the proposed uses are compatible with a residential environment.</p> <p>(ii) Land at Hawthorne Road / Aintree Road, Bootle – 7.1 ha</p> <p>(iii) Former Gasworks Site, Marsh Lane, Bootle – 6.3 ha</p> <p>The redevelopment of the this site above sites for appropriate uses will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <p>a) the proposed use is compatible with the adjacent residential area a residential area; and</p> <p>b) the proposed use provides a significant regeneration benefit to the area is compatible with the Council's regeneration objectives for the area; and</p> <p>c) any partial redevelopment would not prejudice the development of make it more difficult to develop the remainder of the site.</p> <p>2. Regeneration of Centres The regeneration of town centres is a priority for Sefton. Development within the following centres, as shown on the Policy Map, should make a positive contribution to the regeneration of the centre:</p> <p>(a) Central Southport The regeneration of the Southport Central Area and Seafront as set out in Policies ED6, ED8 and ED9, including the redevelopment of the Marine Park site.</p> <p>(b) Crosby Centre The regeneration of Crosby District Centre as set out in Policy ED9 Crosby Centre.</p> <p>(c) Maghull Centre</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>The regeneration of Maghull District Centre to provide modern, high quality, town centre floor space, consistent with Policy ED2 'Development in Town, District and Local Centres and Local Shopping Parades'.</p> <p>(d) Seaforth Centre Proposals within the defined Seaforth Centre that support the following regeneration objectives will be acceptable in principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the consolidation of the existing shopping area, b) the introduction of complementary uses supporting the retail function, c) the redevelopment and positive re-use of vacant and / or derelict land and buildings <p>3. Regeneration of the Dunnings Bridge Road Corridor, Netherton The Dunnings Bridge Road Corridor will be the focus for major new employment generation and investment in South Sefton. The regeneration objectives for this area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development of the 3 Strategic Employment Sites within the Corridor (Policy MN2). b) The redevelopment of the Heysham Road Industrial Estate to provide modern employment premises and environmental enhancements. c) The development of land to support the expanded Port 		
<p>ED7: Southport Central Area</p>	<p>1. Within the Southport Central Area development proposals should be consistent with, and make a positive contribution to, the economic function of the area and the quality of the environment and maintain the significance of heritage assets and their settings.</p> <p>2. Development proposals within the Southport Central Area for the following uses will be acceptable in principle, subject to other Local Plan policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hotels and guest houses b) for new hotels and guest houses are acceptable in principle. <p>3. Development proposals for Arts and cultural uses, and visitor attractions are acceptable in principle</p> <p>c)</p> <p>4. New Education uses including the development, including the expansion of Southport College</p> <p>d) Uses which secure a sustainable future for vacant or 'at risk' heritage assets. is acceptable in principle</p> <p>3. Development within the Central Area must should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have no unacceptable impact on existing living conditions; and b) Cause no unacceptable harm to the appearance of street frontages, and to the vitality and viability of the town centre in 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out</p>	<p>In the 2015 HRA of the Plan, this policy was screened out as it outlines development principles for the development of Southport Central Area. No impact pathways were identified.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>general.</p> <p>c) Take opportunities to enhance heritage assets and their settings including securing their re-use, repair and restoration where appropriate. Where heritage is degraded through poor quality previous changes, enhancements should form part of proposals. Within the Lord Street and Promenade Conservation Areas, new or replacement features should enhance the appearance of buildings, public spaces, and the historic character of the area.</p> <p>4. On the Lord Street frontages, new development is expected should to promote active frontages that support vitality and viability. Amusement arcades and centres will not be permitted on the north west Lord Street frontage. between 91 and 581 Lord Street.</p> <p>5. The use of upper floors for a range of uses comparable with the retail and commercial character of the area will be encouraged. The use of upper floors for residential development will be permitted where they provide acceptable living conditions.</p>		
<p>ED8:</p> <p>Southport Seafront</p>	<p>1. Proposals within the Southport Seafront area for the following uses will be acceptable in principle, subject to other Local Plan policies and designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Leisure facilities; b) Hotels; c) Facilities for conferences, events and exhibitions; and d) New or improved visitor attractions. <p>2. Development that would be detrimental to the historic and landscape character of the Seafront or its function as a regionally important centre for tourism, or harm the integrity of adjacent internationally important nature sites, will not be permitted. Marine Park site, Marine Drive</p> <p>3. The Marine Park site (16.4 ha) is allocated for major visitor-based development [shown on the Policy Map]. Redevelopment of this site must support Southport's visitor economy and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reflect the regional leisure and tourism role of Southport; and b) Ensure that any associated non-tourism development is consistent with the strategy for the site as a whole and is complementary to the key tourism role of the site; and c) Be of high design quality, incorporating attractive frontages to both Marine Drive and Esplanade and high quality landscaping; and d) Link with and complement King's and South Marine Gardens, enhancing the existing pedestrian route 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications remove detail of development at the Marine Park site, Marine drive (see policy ED8A). They do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened out as it outlines policy for the seafront at Southport. There are impact pathways, however, Policy ED8: Southport Seafront includes text to ensure the integrity of internationally designated sites remains unaffected.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p style="text-align: center;">through the site to link with the town centre, and improving views across from the Promenade.</p> <p>4. Any proposal to partially develop the site should be prepared in the context of a development strategy for the whole site must not prejudice the ability to provide a comprehensive redevelopment as envisaged in this policy.</p>		
<p>ED8A</p> <p>Marine Park, Southport</p>	<p>1. Marine Park (16.4 ha) is allocated for major visitor-based development [shown on the Policy Map]. Redevelopment of this site must significantly enhance the regional leisure and tourism role of Southport.</p> <p>2. The redevelopment of this site must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Be of high design quality that compliments the existing historic seaside environment and its open character b) Incorporate active frontages to both Marine Drive and Esplanade c) Significantly improves pedestrian links within and through the site. This must include the provision of a high quality, landscaped pedestrian link through the site continuing the linear route connecting Scarisbrick Avenue and the Venetian Bridge in King's Gardens to the seafront d) Incorporate high quality landscaping, including enhancements to the north western edge of the Marine Lake. e) Retain the open seafront setting of the listed pier, and maintain views to and from it f) Ensure that the position, orientation, and scale of new buildings allows for open views to be retained towards the sea from the Promenade and the Seafront Gardens g) Improve views from the Promenade towards Ocean Plaza. h) Provide appropriate compensatory open space and green infrastructure within the site <p>3. The expansion of the existing fairground and the provision of new outdoor leisure facilities are acceptable in principle.</p> <p>4. Any proposal to partially develop the site should be prepared in the context of a development strategy for the whole site.</p> <p>5. Development that would adversely affect the integrity of adjacent internationally important nature sites will not be permitted.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This is a new policy for the Marine Park, Southport (previously included within policy ED8: Southport Seafront). Due to its proximity to designated sites there are impact pathways, however, Policy ED8A: Marine Park includes text to ensure the integrity or internationally designated sites remains unaffected.</p> <p>This policy can be screened out.</p>	<p>None – this is a new policy</p>
<p>ED8B</p> <p>Aintree Racecourse</p>	<p>1. Within the part of Aintree Racecourse which lies within the Green Belt, development must meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintain or enhance the existing use of the Racecourse b) preserve the character of the area c) be consistent with national Green Belt Policy and other Local Plan policies. <p>2. Within the remaining part of Aintree Racecourse, development</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This is a new policy that provides for tourism and conference functions within Aintree Racecourse, located approximately 5km from the SPA and Ramsar site and 5.6km from</p>	

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>which enhances the recreational, tourism and conference functions of the Racecourse will be supported where consistent with other Local Plan policies.</p>	<p>the SAC.</p> <p>From review of aerial photography, habitats on site consist of hard standing, buildings and large expanses of amenity grassland associated with the horse race course, golf course, and Aintree Motor Racing Circuit. The site is located within an area of sensitivity for pink-footed goose and within an area with records of the species according to the Lancashire Bird Atlas, however, due to the heavily disturbed nature of the site, it is considered unlikely for that the site will support designated bird features. This policy can be screened out.</p>	
<p>ED9:</p> <p>Crosby Centre</p>	<p>1. Within Crosby Centre proposals should be consistent with, and make a positive contribution to, the regeneration of the centre.</p> <p>2. New retail and other town centre developments of an appropriate scale will be supported in order to improve the vitality and viability of the centre.</p> <p>3. Proposals that would prejudice the comprehensive development of key sites within the Centre will not be permitted.</p> <p><u>Design and Townscape</u></p> <p>4. Development within the Centre should be of high quality design, particularly on the key routes and gateways of Liverpool Road, Coronation Road, Islington, Cooks Road, The Bypass and Moor Lane.</p> <p>5. Development should contribute towards a high quality public realm, to ensure that the centre benefits from attractive outdoor areas.</p> <p>6. Development should facilitate and improve pedestrian connections to Moor Lane to support its role as the focal point for the Centre.</p> <p>7. Development proposals should have active ground floor uses facing key routes, gateways and public spaces. Development on key routes should be at least two storeys in height. The use of upper floors for appropriate uses will be encouraged.</p> <p>7A. Development proposals in proximity to the listed St Michael's Cross should enhance its setting.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u></p> <p>8. The improvement of traffic flows and accessibility within and beyond the centre is acceptable in principle. Improvements to facilitate pedestrian, cycling, and vehicular access within and beyond the Centre will be required as part of development</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Modifications to this policy do not provide for any new impact pathways. The proposed modifications to this policy are minor and do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened out as it outlines policy for the development of Crosby Centre.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	proposals.		
Housing and Communities			
<p>HC1:</p> <p>Affordable and Special Needs Housing</p>	<p><u>All of Sefton outside Bootle and Netherton</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For new developments of 15 dwellings or more (or for residential and other conversions involving 15 or more additional dwellings net) 30% of the total scheme (measured by bedspaces) will be provided as affordable housing. 80% of the affordable housing should be provided as social rented/affordable rented and the remaining 20% provided as intermediate housing. <p><u>Bootle and Netherton</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing will be required as part of proposals for new developments of 15 dwellings or more (or for residential and other conversions involving 15 or more additional dwellings net) on the basis of 15% of the total scheme (measured by bedspaces). Affordable housing should be 50% social/affordable rented and 50% intermediate housing <p><u>All Areas</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Special needs housing can be substituted for up to 50% of the site affordable housing contribution on a bedspace for bedspace basis. The residual affordable housing requirement should meet the relevant tenure requirement. Where extra care or sheltered housing is proposed to be substituted for affordable housing, this must meet the tenure requirements set out in parts 2 and 4 of this policy. 80% of this should be provided as social rented/affordable rented and the remaining 20% provided as intermediate housing for all parts of the Borough apart from Bootle and Netherton, where it should be provided as 50% social/affordable rented housing and 50% intermediate housing. Affordable and/or special needs dwellings shall be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'tenure blind' i.e. there shall be no external visual difference between the affordable/special needs housing and market housing, and 'pepper-potted' i.e. there shall be a reasonable dispersal of affordable housing or special needs units within residential developments (i.e. groupings of no more than six units) to promote mixed communities and minimise social exclusion. The only exception to this will be where it can be demonstrated that the special needs housing has to be grouped together for functional or management 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are minor and do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened out as this policy outlines provision for affordable and special needs housing and does not outline provision for new residential development.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>purposes.</p> <p>8. Affordable and/or special needs housing will be provided in accordance with this policy unless a robust assessment of a scheme's economic viability confirms that this cannot be achieved.</p> <p>9. Off-site provision of affordable housing, or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value, will be considered where it can be robustly justified, and where the agreed approach contributes to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities.</p> <p>10. In implementing the policy, the Council will have regard to:</p> <p>a) the definitions and provisions of affordable and/or special needs housing in relevant national guidance as they may change over time; and</p> <p>b) changes in the Borough's requirements for affordable and special needs housing based on new evidence of need as set out in future commissioned Strategic Housing Market Assessments or similar studies.</p>		
<p>HC2:</p> <p>Housing Type, Mix and Choice</p>	<p>1. In developments of 15 25 or more dwellings, the mix of new properties provided must be as follows unless precluded by site specific constraints, economic viability or prevailing neighbourhood characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 25% of market dwellings must be 1 or 2 bedroom properties • A minimum of 40% of market dwellings must be 3 bedroom properties <p>These requirements do not apply to wholly apartment/flatted, extra care, and sheltered housing developments. Any new affordable dwellings are also exempt.</p> <p>2. In developments of 50 or more dwellings, at least 20% of new market properties must be designed to meet Building Regulation Requirement M4(2) 'accessible and adaptable dwellings'. In addition, at least 20% of all new homes, in developments of 15 homes or more, should be designed to meet the Lifetime Homes Standards.</p> <p>3. Where housing for older people or people with special needs is provided as part of a larger scheme, this should, where appropriate, be located within the scheme in the most accessible location for local services and facilities.</p> <p>4. Proposals for residential care accommodation that would result in or exacerbate an existing oversupply will be refused.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA this policy was screened out as it outlines provision for housing type, mix and choice and does not outline provision for new residential development.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>5. The Council will support proposals for custom or self-build homes on appropriate sites. To identify and provide for those who wish to custom or self-build their own homes the Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage a register of interested parties who wish to custom or self-build their own home • Identify at least two pilot schemes to be made available for custom or self-builders. 		
<p>HC3:</p> <p>Residential development and development in Primarily Residential Areas</p>	<p>1. New residential development will be permitted in Primarily Residential Areas shown on the Policy Map where consistent with other Local Plan policies.</p> <p>2. Non-residential development will be permitted in Primarily Residential Areas provided that it can be demonstrated that the proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) will not have an unacceptable impact on the living conditions of neighbouring properties; and b) will otherwise not harm the character of the residential area; and c) will not undermine objectives of the plan regarding housing delivery. <p>3. Residential development will be permitted in other areas except where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the land is required for the purpose for which it is designated; b) the development would conflict with the allocated or designated land use; and c) it would result in an unacceptable residential environment, or d) it is inconsistent with other policies in the Plan. <p>4. New residential development must achieve a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare of the net developable area, except where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) constraints within the site, or the provision of infrastructure within the site, make this impractical; or b) a lower density can be justified having regard to the layout and character of the immediate surrounding area. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are minor and do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA, this policy was screened out as it is a control document for residential development and housing within Primary Residential Areas</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>HC4:</p> <p>House Extensions, Alterations and Conversions to Houses in Multiple Occupation and Flats</p>	<p>1. Extensions and alterations to dwelling houses will be approved where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They are of a high quality of design that matches or complements the style of the dwelling and the surrounding area; b. The size, scale and materials of development are in keeping with the original dwelling and the surrounding area; 	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA this policy was identified to have HRA implications but was screened out.</p> <p>This policy outlines development guidance for extension and alterations of houses, and conversions to multiple occupation and flats.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process																									
	<p>c. The extensions and alterations are designed so that there shall be no significant reduction in the living conditions of the occupiers of neighbouring properties. In particular, extensions must not result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of outlook, from the main windows of neighbouring habitable rooms • A significant loss of light/overshadowing for neighbours • An overbearing or over-dominant effect on the habitable rooms of neighbouring properties • A significant loss of privacy for neighbouring residents. <p>2. Development involving the conversion of buildings to Houses in Multiple Occupation or flats will be permitted where it will not cause significant harm to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The character of the area or • The living conditions for either the occupiers of the property or for neighbouring properties. 		<p>This policy could result in increases in population within the area of conversions homes to multiple occupancy. It is considered that this will be a small increase.</p> <p>However, Policy NH2: Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Habitats and Species includes for the protection of Internationally designated sites via the need for HRA if required.</p>																									
<p>HC5: Planning for Gypsies and Travellers</p>	<p>1. The following sites are allocated for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in order to meet the Borough's needs for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="443 778 1158 1353"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site ref</th> <th>Site location</th> <th>Size</th> <th>Type of site</th> <th>Maximum Number of pitches</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HC5.1</td> <td>Land north east of Red Rose Traveller Park, Broad Lane, Formby</td> <td>0.4ha</td> <td>Permanent</td> <td>6-8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HC5.2</td> <td>Land south west of Red Rose Traveller Park, Broad Lane, Formby</td> <td>0.2ha</td> <td>Permanent</td> <td>2-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HC5.3</td> <td>Land at Plex Moss Lane, Ainsdale</td> <td>1.0ha</td> <td>Permanent</td> <td>6-8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HC5.4</td> <td>Land at New Causeway, Ince Blundell</td> <td>0.4ha</td> <td>Transit</td> <td>4-6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>These sites are identified on the policy map. These sites are suitable for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and other ancillary</p>	Site ref	Site location	Size	Type of site	Maximum Number of pitches	HC5.1	Land north east of Red Rose Traveller Park, Broad Lane, Formby	0.4ha	Permanent	6-8	HC5.2	Land south west of Red Rose Traveller Park, Broad Lane, Formby	0.2ha	Permanent	2-3	HC5.3	Land at Plex Moss Lane, Ainsdale	1.0ha	Permanent	6-8	HC5.4	Land at New Causeway, Ince Blundell	0.4ha	Transit	4-6	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are minor and do not provide for any new impact pathways.</p> <p>However, this policy includes text that provides clear protection for Internationally designated sites and the requirement for HRA of sites HC5.3 and 5.4 within the supporting text of this policy. As such, this policy can now be screened out.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA this policy was screened in. It outlines planning requirements for gypsies and travellers. It includes the provision of four sites.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 of the 2015 HRA for the Test of Likely Significant Effects upon these un-modified site allocations.</p> <p>Two of these sites have impact pathways and as such cannot be screened out. Impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recreational pressure; • disturbance to birds using supporting habitat; and, • loss of supporting habitat. • water quality
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	<p>development required for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. Development which is not compatible with Gypsy and Traveller accommodation will not be permitted on these sites.</p> <p>2. Proposals for new sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation should meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site should provide a safe environment for intended occupants including from flood risk • The site should have good or adequate access to the primary road network • The site should be within easy reach of a range of essential facilities and services, including health services, schools, and jobs • The use should not cause significant harm to the amenity of neighbouring properties • The site should, as far as possible, be in a location that meets the aspirations of the Gypsy and Traveller community <p>The development of the site should not result in unacceptable harm to the local environment, including to the integrity of internationally important nature sites.</p>		
<p>HC6:</p> <p>Assets of Community Value</p>	<p>Where development will result in the loss, or partial loss of an Asset of Community Value, planning permission will be granted where the Applicant has demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative provision will be made to meet community needs; or, • An existing accessible facility will provide the facility or service that is being lost with the development. • There is a sufficient existing provision to meet a community's day-to-day needs. 	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>In the 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA this policy was screened out. This policy outlines provision for retention of community assets.</p> <p>No pathways of impact.</p>
<p>HC7:</p> <p>Education and care institution sites in the urban area</p>	<p><u>Sites in active use as schools, colleges or care institutions</u></p> <p>1. Development which is for the following uses is acceptable in principle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Uses directly related to the existing use of the site or which sustain the viability of the existing use of the site. b) Community-based recreation or sports facilities ancillary to the existing use of the site, or c) Environmental improvements which enhance the site's environmental quality or green infrastructure benefits. <p>2. Development of the site must retain key green infrastructure and heritage characteristics of the site minimise harm to the historic environment and settings.</p> <p><u>Sites formerly in use as schools, colleges or other care institutions</u></p> <p>3. Development for an alternative use which is compatible with</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are minor. However, this policy can be now screened out, for the reasons set out in the next column.</p>	<p>This policy outlines development of educational and care institute sites within the urban area. The 2015 HRA screened in this policy. However, this was only on the basis that ten housing site allocations are located at former school premises. Three of these have been screened in. these are MN2.8: Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale, MN2.9, and MN2.41.. However, these sites are not designated under policy HC7 and so do not come under the remit of this policy. They come under the remit of policy MN2.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	the surrounding area is acceptable in principle, where appropriate evidence is provided that the institution and its ancillary facilities are surplus to recreational requirements.		The inclusion of these sites was the only reason why policy HC7 was screened in in the 2015HRA. Therefore Policy HC7 can be screened out.
Infrastructure			
IN1: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	1. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Appendix 1 and other policies in the Local Plan list the essential infrastructure required for the implementation of the Local Plan strategy. 2. Social, community, environmental and physical infrastructure will be protected, enhanced and provided where there is an identified need to support sustainable communities. 3. Developer contributions may also be sought in appropriate locations to assist with regeneration objectives set out elsewhere in the plan. 3. Where appropriate, contributions will be sought to enhance and provide infrastructure to support new development. This may be secured as a planning obligation through a legal agreement, through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or through other agreements. 4. Where appropriate, the Council may require developers to provide the necessary infrastructure themselves as part of their development proposals, rather than making financial contributions. 5. Developer contributions may also be sought in appropriate locations to assist with regeneration objectives set out elsewhere in the plan. 6. Planning conditions or phased legal agreements may be used to ensure essential infrastructure is provided within appropriate timescales. 7. The Council will work with a range of partners to make sure that infrastructure is provided in the right location when required. 8. The impact of providing or contributing to infrastructure on the viability of development proposals will be considered. Where scheme viability will be affected, developers will be expected to provide Viability Assessments which will be taken into account as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Essential infrastructure is required regardless of viability.	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.	The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. This outlines policy for infrastructure and developer contributions. No impact pathways
IN2: Transport	1. The Local Plan will seek an efficient and extensive transport network which enables services and facilities to be accessible to all, whilst also reducing congestion and minimising the environmental impact of transport. It will achieve this by:	No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications. Proposed Modifications to this policy details/	The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy in. This outlines transport based policy.

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to the Port of Liverpool by a range of transport types • A new train station and park and ride facilities at Maghull North • Development or extension of park and ride facilities at Hall Road, Seaforth & Litherland and Waterloo rail stations • The provision of interchange facilities in Southport, Crosby and Maghull centres. • Improved parking facilities in Bootle, Southport, Crosby and Maghull centres. • Upgrading of the motorway access at Junction 1 on the M58 • Traffic management improvements to the A565 and A5036 • Improved access to Southport from the east [A570 corridor] • Safeguarding the rail link between Bootle New Strand and Aintree rail station [i.e. the Aintree Curve North Mersey Branch line]. <p>2. The Council's general priorities for the transport network include will take account of the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving safety and accessibility for all transport users • Protecting the freight distribution network • Maintaining, improving and extending the walking and cycling network • Better connecting new and existing neighbourhoods with the public transport network • Creating opportunities for existing transport to become more sustainable such as by promoting/installing charger units at appropriate places along routes locations. <p>3. Transport Assessments or Transport Statements will be required for all significant development (see paragraph 9.179 below). A Transport Assessment will also be required where a development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is below the Transport Assessment threshold but which will generate a significant number of trips • Will affect the strategic route network • Are Is judged to result in a significant impact on air quality, particularly where the development is within, or adjacent to and an Air Quality Management Area or the development would be likely to result in the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area • Is in close proximity to, or may have a significant impact 	<p>supports initiatives to reconnect the Port of Liverpool (Southern Zone) between Alexandra Dock and Sandon Dock to the rail network, and proposals by Peel Ports to extend the existing rail lines within the Port of Liverpool at Seaforth to directly serve the new Liverpool Container Terminal (L2). These initiatives have potential to result in loss of supporting habitat, disturbance of species during construction and operational phases; however this development identified in point 7 must be in accordance to NH2: (Protection and enhancement of nature sites, priority habitats and species), thus providing explicit protection for the Internationally designated sites.</p> <p>Further to this the pre-amble to his policy provides for the need for HRA where proposed development is are likely to result in an increase of more than 1% in nitrogen inputs into the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As such, this policy can now be screened out.</p>	<p>Projects noted within his policy have potential to impact upon Internationally designated sites via the following impact pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of supporting habitat; • disturbance to bird features during construction and operation al phase; and, • increased recreational pressure

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>upon a level crossing. Any proposal that significantly impacts upon a level crossing should be accompanied by a transport assessment which includes assessment of the level crossing.</p> <p>Will have a significant impact upon a level crossing. Any proposal that significantly impacts upon a level crossing should be accompanied by a transport assessment which includes assessment of the level crossing.</p> <p>4. Access onto the Primary Route Network will be restricted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct access onto the Highways Agency's motorways and trunk road network will not normally be permitted • access onto the remainder of the primary route network, whether indirectly (by way of an existing access) or directly (by a newly built access) will be permitted where it does not reduce the capacity of the road. <p>5. Direct access onto the primary route network will not be permitted where a reasonable alternative exists.</p> <p>6. The preferred locations for development which generates significant movement of freight are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites which are served by sea, canal, rail or where rail facilities can be provided as part of the development or, where these options are not available, • Where there is good access to a road designated as a Freight Priority Route. <p>7. The Council will support initiatives to reconnect the Port of Liverpool (Southern Zone) between Alexandra Dock and Sandon Dock to the rail network. Subject to the compliance with Policy ED1 and NH2 'Protection and enhancement of nature sites, priority habitats and species', proposals by Peel Ports to extend the existing rail lines within the Port of Liverpool at Seaforth to directly serve the new Liverpool Container Terminal (L2) will be supported.</p>		
<p>IN3:</p> <p>Managing waste</p>	<p>1. The Council will promote sustainable waste management in accordance with the waste hierarchy. As set out in the Joint Waste Local Plan it will work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and safeguard [where appropriate] waste management sites in appropriate locations; • Assist in the implementation of a resource-recovery led strategy for sustainable waste management; • Ensure that the Borough contributes to meeting the identified sub-regional waste management needs; • Encourage good design in new development in order to minimise waste, promote the use of reclaimed and recycled 	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It outlines policy for managing waste.</p> <p>This policy does not provide specifically for new development, only that it should take place in 'appropriate locations'.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>materials and to facilitate the storage, collection and recycling of waste;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the sustainable transport of waste and promote use and waste audits or a similar mechanism, such as waste management plans; and Ensure that waste management facilities are developed whilst minimising any negative impacts on the environment and communities of the Borough. 		
Design and Environmental Quality			
<p>EQ1:</p> <p>Planning for a healthy Sefton</p>	<p>1. Development should help maximise opportunities to improve quality of life to make it easier for people in Sefton to lead healthy, active lifestyles, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to a choice of homes and providing new homes that meet the needs of future occupiers Improve access to jobs Making adequate provision for safe waste storage or recycling opportunities Designing easy to maintain, safe and attractive public areas which minimise the opportunity for from crime or the fear of crime and which promote social cohesion Encouraging people to take physical exercise by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, outdoor recreation and sport Appropriately locating of food and drink shops, hot food takeaways drinking establishments, restaurant, cafes, better shops and other non-food and drink uses, having regard to other land uses in the local area Having regard to accessibility of homes, education, jobs, public transport, health and other services, recreational opportunities and community, cultural and leisure facilities Encouraging measures to achieve affordable warmth Managing air quality and pollution 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are minor and do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy in.</p> <p>This policy includes provision for health. It includes provision to encourage people to take physical exercise such as <i>'walking, cycling, outdoor recreation, sport and physical exercise close to where people live'</i></p> <p>Impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased recreational pressure.
<p>EQ2:</p> <p>Design</p>	<p>Development will only be permitted where it is of a high quality design that responds positively to the local character and distinctiveness of the surroundings.</p> <p>2. To achieve high quality design, development must demonstrate that the following have been considered:</p> <p>a) Scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, alignment,</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This outlines policy for design and is a development control document.</p> <p>This policy does not provide specifically for new development.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>orientation, materials, access, active frontages, townscape, architecture and amenity.</p> <p>b) Retaining or creating good quality landmark and gateway features.</p> <p>c) Ease and safety of movement and circulation of walkers, cyclists, vehicles and people with limited mobility, both within and into the site</p> <p>d) Safety and security of those within and outside the development.</p> <p>e) Preservation and enhancement of views towards, within and out of the development.</p> <p>f) Flexibility and adaptability to change in order to be sustainable.</p> <p>g) The delivery of high quality, well-connected and well-maintained public space.</p> <p>1. In relation to site context:</p> <p>(a) The proposal responds positively to the character, local distinctiveness and form of its surroundings.</p> <p>(b) In areas of lesser quality the development enhances the character of the area rather than preserves or reproduces negative aspects of the existing environment.</p> <p>(c) Key views of townscape, including landmark and gateway buildings, and important landscape features are retained or enhanced.</p> <p>2. In relation to site design, layout and access:</p> <p>The arrangement of buildings, structures and spaces within the site, including density and layout, and the alignment and orientation of buildings, relates positively to the character and form of the surroundings, achieves a high quality of design and meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>(a) Ensures safe and easy movement into, out of, and within the site for everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists and those with limited mobility</p> <p>(b) Integrates well with existing street patterns</p> <p>(c) Protects the amenity of those within and adjacent to the site</p> <p>(d) Ensures the safety and security of those within and outside the development through natural surveillance and the creation of active frontages</p> <p>(e) Creates well-connected attractive outdoor areas which fulfil their purpose well.</p> <p>3. In relation to the design of buildings and structures:</p> <p>(a) Proposals make a positive contribution to their surroundings through the quality of their design in terms of scale, height, form, massing, style, detailing, landscaping, use of materials and meet criteria (b) to (d) listed in part (2) above (replacing 'site' with</p>		<p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>'building' in c.)</p> <p>(b) Proposals for non-residential buildings consider flexibility in design to facilitate conversion to other uses in the future.</p> <p>(c) Proposals for residential buildings consider the adaptability of new homes to meet the long term needs of residents.</p> <p>(d) Proposals are designed to take advantage of natural solar gain.</p> <p>4. In relation to major and urban edge sites the following additional criteria apply:</p> <p>(a) Key landmarks are retained, and new gateway features provided, to ensure locally distinctive developments.</p> <p>(b) Structural planting is provided to soften the urban edge and provide a suitable transition to open countryside.</p> <p>(c) A clear road hierarchy is set out, and different character areas within the development are provided, to assist navigation through and around the development.</p>		
<p>EQ3:</p> <p>Accessibility</p>	<p>1. In order to improve accessibility in Sefton, new development must adhere to the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located and designed to encourage walking and cycling both within, to and from the site, • Where practical, be located in areas that are accessible, or are capable of being made accessible to bus stops and rail stations, • Be accessible to an existing range of local services and facilities or, where appropriate, be supported by new services and facilities, • Consider the needs of all residents and users of services and buildings, including those with limited mobility, • Ensure the needs of all residents and users of services and buildings, including those with limited mobility, are met. • Ensure existing pedestrian and cycle paths are protected and where possible enhanced • Ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and all road users is not adversely affected, and • Consider the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and all road users, and • Have regard to the Council's parking standards and the recommendations of any submitted Transport Assessment or Transport Statement. Comply with the Council's parking standards. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy in. as it outlines policy for accessibility.</p> <p>It includes the principle to encourage walking and cycling within and to and from the site. Impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased recreational pressure; and, • disturbance to bird features during construction and operation al phase.
<p>EQ4:</p> <p>Pollution and Hazards</p>	<p>1. Development proposals should demonstrate that environmental risks have been evaluated and appropriate measures have been taken to minimise the risks of adverse impacts which include</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy are</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This policy provides for the protection against</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>amenity, damage to health and wellbeing, property and the natural environment (including internationally important nature sites) from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution of the land, water including surface water and groundwater, and the air • Hazardous substances • Noise/vibration, dust, odour or artificial light pollution. <p>2. Development will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate measures are incorporated into proposals to avoid pollution to air, water and soil; • There would be no unacceptable risk to the users of the site, occupiers of neighbouring land or the environment from the presence of hazardous substances. Proposals for sensitive uses close to existing sources of pollution must demonstrate, that there will be no detrimental impact on the amenity of existing or future occupiers; • The impact of noise/vibration and lighting will not be significant or can be reduced to an acceptable level. <p>3. Development must lead to no deterioration of, and where practicable improve, water quality; and must protect and enhance Sefton's waterbodies and water environment.</p> <p>4. The cumulative effects of pollution will be taken into account in terms of the impact of a number of developments in an area. The effects of a combination of various types of pollution will also be considered.</p>	<p>positive as they provide for explicit protection of internationally designated sites.</p>	<p>pollution and hazards.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present.</p>
<p>EQ5:</p> <p>Air quality</p>	<p>1. Development proposals must demonstrate that they will not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinder the achievement of Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) objectives and the measures set out in an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan; or • Result in a significant worsening of air pollution levels in an Air Quality Management Area or • Hinder the revocation of an Air Quality Management Area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introducing significant new sources of air pollutants; or, ○ Introducing new development whose users will be especially susceptible to air pollution or • Lead to the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area; or • Lead to a significant material decline in air quality <p>2. Where appropriate, major developments must incorporate measures to reduce air pollution and minimise exposure to harmful levels of air pollution to both occupiers of the site and occupiers of</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This policy provides protection to prevent reductions in air quality.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>

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	<p>neighbouring sites. Major developments must incorporate appropriate measures to reduce air pollution and minimise exposure to harmful levels of air pollution to both occupiers of the site and occupiers of neighbouring sites.</p>		
<p>EQ6: Land Affected by Contamination</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development on contaminated land will be granted permission where it can be demonstrated that both future residents/occupiers of the development site, the residents of neighbouring sites and controlled water systems, ecological systems and property will not be exposed to harmful levels of contamination. 2. Where development is proposed on a site that may be contaminated, the developer must establish the nature, degree and extent of any contamination and other relevant ground conditions on the development site by carrying out preliminary investigations. Where there is evidence that a site may be affected by contamination, or the proposed development is particularly sensitive to contamination, planning applications must be accompanied by a Preliminary Investigation report. 3. Where planning permission is granted for sites where contamination has been identified, the developer will be required to (where appropriate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a full site investigation and assessment of development; and • Remediate the site before it is developed. 4. Where remediation is required, a verification report must be submitted to show that the agreed remediation objectives and criteria have been complied with. 5. After remediation, land should not be capable of being listed as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. 	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This outlines planning policy for dealing with land affected by contamination.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>
<p>EQ7: Energy efficient and low carbon design</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major development should incorporate measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where practicable, through one or more of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Making the most of natural solar gain through site and building layout and design, b) Energy efficiency measures, including for existing buildings, c) Use of low carbon, decentralised and renewable energy, d) Provision of infrastructure for low emissions vehicles. 	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This policy outlines development principles for energy efficient and low carbon design.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>
<p>EQ8: Managing flood risk</p>	<p><u>Flood risk generally</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Development must be located in areas at lowest risk of flooding from all sources, unless the Sequential test and</u> 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter</p>

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and surface water	<p>where appropriate the Exceptions test set out in national policy have been passed. Within the site, uses with the greater vulnerability to flooding must be located in areas with lower risk of flooding, unless it is demonstrated that there are overriding reasons why this should not take place</p> <p>2. Development must be located in areas at lowest risk of flooding from all sources. Within the site, buildings must be located in the areas at lowest risk of flooding.</p> <p>2. Development proposals must not increase flood risk from any sources within the site or elsewhere, and where possible should reduce the causes and impacts of flooding flood risk.</p> <p>2A. Development proposals must incorporate an integrated approach to the management of flood risk, surface water and foul drainage.</p> <p>2B. Ground floor and basement access levels of all development should be 600mm above the 1 in 100 annual probability fluvial flood level or the 1 in 200 annual probability tidal flood level with an allowance for climate change, taking into account the presence of defences and the residual risks of failure of those defences.</p> <p>2C. Ground floor and basement access levels of all development should be 300mm above the 1 in 100 annual probability surface water flood level with an allowance for climate change.</p> <p><u>Surface water management</u></p> <p>3. In addition to the national requirements, site-specific Flood Risk Assessments will also be required for all development on sites of 0.5 hectares or more in Critical Drainage Areas as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>4. Where reasonably practicable, site-specific Flood Risk Assessments will be required for all development on sites of 0.5 hectares or more in Critical Drainage Areas as defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p> <p>5. Development must incorporate sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water flooding run-off within the site so that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water run-off rates and volumes are reduced by 20% (compared to the pre-existing rates) for sites covered by buildings or impermeable hard surfaces, and for greenfield sites do not exceed greenfield rates. Surface water discharge is targeted, using a sequential approach and proposals to for the attenuation discharge of surface water into anything other than the ground must demonstrate why the other sequentially preferable alternatives cannot be implemented; 	<p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>that conclusion.</p> <p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy in. This outlines policy for the management of surface water and flood risks. Potential impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changes in water quality changes in water quantity

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Into the ground (infiltration) ii. Into a watercourse or surface water body, iii. Into a surface water sewer, or iv. Into a combined sewer. <p>c) Above ground, natural drainage features rather than engineered or underground systems are used.</p> <p>6. Sustainable drainage systems must be designed to provide effective drainage for properties and their capacity must take account of the likely impacts of climate change and likely changes in impermeable area within the site over the lifetime of the development. Sustainable drainage systems and any water storage areas must control pollution and should enhance water quality and existing habitats and create new habitats where practicable. Sustainable drainage systems and any water storage areas must control pollution and should enhance water quality and existing habitats and create new habitats where practicable</p> <p>5A. Suitable arrangements for long-term access to and operation, maintenance and management of sustainable drainage systems must be incorporated within development proposals. This includes both surface and subsurface components of sustainable drainage systems</p> <p>7. Development on an area which is an adopted Sustainable Drainage System or has a formal flood risk management function is acceptable in principle where the development proposals do not reduce the ability of the area to manage the surface water or flood risk.</p>		
<p>EQ9:</p> <p>Provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees in development</p>	<p><u>Public open space</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appropriate high quality new public open space of at least 40 square metres per new-build home must be provided for the following developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for 150 or more new-build homes • Proposals for 11 to 149 new-build homes on sites which are more than 2 kilometres from a main park or Countryside Recreation Area 2. This new public open space must be provided within the site unless it can be demonstrated that enhancement of off-site open space is more appropriate, in terms of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The type and density of housing development and site size, or b) Proximity to existing main, district and community parks, or c) Other site-specific factors. Proposals for 50 or more new-build homes, or which are part of a phased development for a site of 100 or more new homes must provide appropriate high quality new 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It provides policy for the provision of public open space, strategic paths and trees within development. This includes the provision for developments to provide 'appropriate high quality new public open space'. This will help alleviate recreational pressure upon the Internationally designated sites.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>public open space.</p> <p>3. New public open space (including outdoors sports facilities) created during the Plan period will be accorded the policy protection set out in policy NH5 'Protection of public open space, Countryside Recreation Areas and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public', even where it is not shown on the Policy Map.</p> <p>4. Development proposals which include new public open space must incorporate suitable arrangements for long-term management and maintenance of, and public access to the new open space.</p> <p><u>Sefton's green network of paths and cycleways</u></p> <p>5. Development with the potential to adversely affect the establishment or retention of a public right of way, or Strategic Path as shown on the Policy Map, will not be permitted unless sufficient mitigation is provided to ensure that existing access is maintained, and where possible enhanced, or where an acceptable alternative path is provided.</p> <p>6. Links to, or extensions of existing public rights of way, strategic paths or cycleways will be supported required where they improve the accessibility of an existing community or a development site.</p> <p><u>Trees and landscaping</u></p> <p>7. Major development proposals must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Not result in unacceptable loss of, or damage to, existing trees or woodlands or significant landscaping during or as a result of development; Replace any trees lost as a result of the development at a ratio of 1:1 within the site. Include an appropriate landscape scheme, showing all hard and soft landscaping and including future management arrangements.. 		
<p>EQ10:</p> <p>Food and Drink</p>	<p>1. Proposals for food and drink uses in the town, district and local centres will only be permitted where they are located so as to meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They would not cause significant harm to local amenity; They would not result in unacceptable groupings of similar uses where they would harm the character of the area, the vitality and viability of a centre or shopping parade or harm public health; and Any external ventilation and extractor systems do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly harm the external appearance of the building or the street scene. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. This outlines policy for food and drink use proposals.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harm the residential amenity of neighbouring properties through noise or odours. <p>2. In order to address the problem of obesity amongst children, proposals for hot food takeaways [Class A5 uses] within 400 metres of secondary schools and further education establishments will not be permitted. Exceptions will be made where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is located within a designated town, district or local centre; or • The premises are not open until after 1700 hours. <p>2. Proposals for food and drink uses in or adjacent to Primarily Residential Areas and/or close to school and educational establishments will not be permitted where they cause significant harm to living conditions local residents, encourage unhealthy lifestyle choices in local people or harm the residential character of the local area.</p>		
<p>EQ11:</p> <p>Advertisements</p>	<p>1. Proposals for advertisements will be granted consent where they do not have an unacceptable impact upon amenity and are not harmful to public safety.</p> <p>2. In relation to amenity the following will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They should respect the scale of and be sympathetic to their immediate surroundings and not dominate buildings, street scenes or open areas; • They should respect the design and appearance of buildings on which they are displayed • The size, location, and means of any illumination and whether a proliferation of adverts will create clutter, <p>3. In relation to public safety the following will be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location, siting, illumination, design or scale must not impede movement of pedestrians or make it unsafe for pedestrians and must not compromise the safety of vehicles using the public highway. <p>4. Advertisements displayed within or adjacent to Heritage Assets will need to be of particularly high quality, respecting the size, materials, proportions and detailing of the building.</p> <p><u>Advertisements on the verandahs in the Lord Street and Birkdale Village Conservation Areas</u></p> <p>5. Advertisements attached to the verandahs should be limited in extent and must not over-dominate or hide their features. The cumulative effects of signage on the verandahs will be taken into account.</p>	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It outlines policy for advertisement proposals.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
Natural and heritage assets			
<p>Strategic Policy NH1:</p>	<p>1. Sefton's natural and heritage assets together with its landscape character should continue to contribute to the Borough's sense of</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It outlines</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
<p>Environmental—Natural Assets</p>	<p>place, local distinctiveness and quality of life. Development proposals and other initiatives should contribute positively towards achieving this.</p> <p>2. A hierarchical approach will be taken to the protection and enhancement of Sefton's natural and heritage assets, according to their designation and significance.</p> <p>3. Development should seek to protect and manage Sefton's natural assets (including natural habitats, sites and Ecological Network and green infrastructure). Where possible, development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain, restore, enhance or extend these natural assets; and • Create new habitats and green infrastructure; and • Secure the long-term management of these natural assets. <p>4. Where it has been demonstrated that appropriate protection or retention of natural assets cannot be achieved, and there are no alternatives, mitigation` and/or as a last resort compensatory provision will be required.</p> <p>5. The main priorities are; improving access, quality, linkages and habitat within the city region ecological network (including the Nature Improvement Area), improving access to and the quality of public open space and other outdoor facilities available to the public; and urban trees.</p> <p>4. Sefton's heritage assets should be protected from losses and harmful changes to their significance, fabric and features or in their settings. Development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the long-term future of the heritage asset • Be designed to avoid harm • Be of a high quality design which is sympathetic to the historic context of the heritage assets affected • Incorporate proposals for proper repair and re-instatement of historic features and/or involve work which better reveals the significance of Sefton's heritage assets and their settings • Where losses are unavoidable, recording, analysis and reporting must be undertaken where appropriate. 	<p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>policy for the protection of environmental assets, and where it has been demonstrated that appropriate protection or retention of natural assets cannot be achieved, and there are no alternatives, mitigation and/or as a last resort compensatory provision will be required.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>NH2:</p> <p>Protection and Enhancement of Nature Sites, Priority Habitats and Species</p>	<p>1. Development which may result in a likely significant effect on an internationally important site must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to enable the Council to make a Habitats Regulations assessment. Adverse effects should be avoided, or where this is not possible they should be mitigated, to make sure that the integrity of internationally important sites is protected. Development which may adversely affect the</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It provides protective policy for Internationally designated sites and features for which they are designated.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>integrity of <i>internationally important sites</i> will only be permitted where there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, and where <i>suitable</i> compensatory provision has been made. This also applies to sites and habitats outside the designated boundaries that support species listed as being important in the designations of the internationally important sites.</p> <p>2. Development which may affect other designated sites of nature <i>and/or</i> geological conservation importance, or priority habitats and <i>legally</i> protected <i>species</i> <i>and/or</i> priority species will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there is no significant harm.</p> <p>3. Development which may cause significant harm will only be permitted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National sites (including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves)</i>: where there are no alternatives and where the reasons for and the benefits of development clearly outweigh the impact on the nature conservation value of the site and its broader contribution to the national network; • <i>Local Sites (including Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites)</i>: where the reasons for and the benefits of development clearly outweigh the impact on the nature conservation value of the site and its broader contribution to the ecological network; and • <i>Priority Habitats</i>: where the reasons for and the benefits of development on balance clearly outweigh the impact on the nature conservation value of the habitat and its broader contribution to the LCR Ecological Network • <i>Protected and Priority Species</i>: where it is demonstrated that no significant harm will result. • where the reasons for and the benefits of development on balance outweigh the habitat's broader contribution to the ecological network. <p>For national and local sites, where it has been demonstrated that significant harm cannot be avoided appropriate mitigation or, as a last resort, replacement or other compensation will be required, to accord with the hierarchy of sites. The location of appropriate mitigation, replacement or other compensation will be targeted, using a sequential approach, as follows:</p>	screened out.	

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the development site • In the immediate locality and / or within the core biodiversity area • Within a Nature Improvement Area within the Borough • Within a Nature Improvement Area elsewhere in the Liverpool City Region, and lastly, • Elsewhere. <p>Where significant harm resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated, then planning permission will be refused.</p> <p>4. Development proposals which affect sites of nature conservation importance, priority habitats and/or priority or legally protected species must be supported by an ecological appraisal showing details of avoidance, mitigation and/or compensation, and management.</p> <p>5. This policy also applies to sites which are recognised and designated during the Plan period as being of nature conservation importance, including land provided as compensation under this policy.</p> <p>6. Where it has been demonstrated that significant harm cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation, replacement or other compensatory provision may be required, to accord with the hierarchy of sites. The location of appropriate mitigation, replacement or other compensatory measures will be targeted, using a sequential approach as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On site; • Immediate locality and / or within the Core Biodiversity Area; • LCR Nature Improvement Area within the Borough; and lastly • LCR Nature Improvement Area outside the Borough. <p>7. Where significant harm resulting from development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated, then planning permission will be refused.</p> <p>8. Development proposals which affect sites of nature conservation importance, Priority Habitats, legally protected species or Priority Species must be supported by an Ecological Appraisal and include details of avoidance, mitigation and / or compensation, and management, where appropriate.</p> <p>9. Plan policies apply to other sites recognised during the Plan period as being of nature conservation Importance, including</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
<p>NH3:</p> <p>Development in the Nature Improvement Area</p>	<p>land provided as compensation.</p> <p>Development within the Nature Improvement Area will be permitted where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the functioning of the Nature Improvement Area; • Contributes to the opportunities for habitat creation and / or habitat management as set out in the NIA Focus Area profiles; and • Is consistent with other policies in the Plan. Development proposals within the Nature Improvement Area will be permitted where they complement the identified opportunities for habitat creation and / or habitat management, and are consistent with other policies in the Plan. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide for new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It provides policy for development within the Nature Improvement Area</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>NH4:</p> <p>The Sefton Coast and Development</p>	<p>1. Development must not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase the risk of tidal flooding or coastal erosion through their impact on coastal processes b) Impair the capacity of the coast to form a natural sea defence or adjust to changes in conditions without risk to life or property c) Adversely affect water quality including the quality of the dune aquifer and bathing water quality d) Adversely affect the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance, taking into account appropriate mitigation, or as a last resort, compensation. Development which may have an adverse effect on internationally important nature sites will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there are both no alternatives and imperative reasons of overriding public interest and where compensatory provision has been made <p>2. Proposals which protect or enhance informal recreation, for new coastal flood defences, flood risk management measures, and essential landfill facilities for offshore installations will be supported, subject to other Plan policies.</p> <p>3. Within the Coastal Change Management Area, development must take into account the risk of coastal change and the vulnerability of the development and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located in accordance with a sequential approach to risk and vulnerability; • Be safe over its planned lifetime; and 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It sets out policy for development within the Sefton Coast. Impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased recreational pressure; • direct disturbance to features; • loss of supporting habitat; • water quality; • water quantity; and, • coastal squeeze <p>This policy includes explicit protection for Internationally designated sites within 1d.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wider sustainability benefits. • Be located in accordance with a sequential approach to risk and vulnerability • Be safe over its planned lifetime, and • Provide wider sustainability benefits. 		
<p>NH5:</p> <p>Protection of public open space, Countryside Recreation Areas and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public</p>	<p>1. The following types of development are acceptable in principle on public open space and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities which are available to the public:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Environmental improvements which enhance the site's environmental quality or green infrastructure benefits, including built facilities necessary for the use of the site; b) Other development proposals, where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the public open space or outdoor sports facilities to be surplus to Sefton's requirements standards; • The loss of public open space or outdoor sports facilities resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity <i>and</i> quality in a suitable location, <i>or</i>; • The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss. <p>2. Development in Countryside Recreation Areas should protect and enhance their informal recreation use, subject to other Plan policies.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It provides policy for the protection of public open space and other outdoor sports and recreation facilities available to the public. This is important for the integrity of Internationally designated sites as the loss of these facilities could lead to an increase in recreational pressure on Internationally designated sites.</p>
<p>NH6:</p> <p>Urban golf courses</p>	<p><u>Bootle Golf Course</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development which enhances the recreation or environmental quality or other green infrastructure benefits of Bootle Golf Course will be acceptable in principle, including built facilities necessary to the golfing use of the site. 2. Proposals for other development which sustains the viability and quality of a golfing facility at Bootle Golf Course, <i>or for other development</i>, will be considered on their merits, having particular regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scale and type of development, • Enhancements to the golf and recreation facilities, • Highways and access issues, • Design, access and amenity considerations, and • Other plan policies. <p><u>Southport Old Links Golf Course</u></p> 3. Development which enhances the recreation or environmental 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened in.</p>	<p>Policy poses the same potential for likely significant effects as it did in 2015. The modification does not alter that conclusion.</p> <p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy in. It sets out policy for the use and development of Urban golf courses. Development within Southport Old Links Golf Course and Hesketh Golf Course has potential to negatively impact upon the integrity of Internationally designated sites as they have potential to be supporting habitat to bird features.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 of the 2015 HRA for TOLSE of these un-modified site allocations.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>quality or other green infrastructure benefits of Southport Old Links Golf course and protects or enhances the Local Wildlife Site will be supported. , subject to other Plan policies.</p> <p>Hesketh Golf Course</p> <p>4. Development which enhances the recreation or environmental quality or other green infrastructure benefits of the part of Hesketh Golf Course in the urban area and protects or enhances the Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Site and Local Geological Site will be supported subject to other Plan policies.</p>		<p>It should be noted that Bootle Golf Course has been screened out.</p>
<p>NH7:</p> <p>Rural Landscape Character</p>	<p>Development in the rural area must protect, enhance or restore landscape character, as appropriate.</p>	<p>This policy has not been modified as such it has not been re-assessed.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened this policy out. It sets out development policy for the character of the rural landscape.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>NH8:</p> <p>Minerals</p>	<p>1. To minimise the need for minerals extraction, the use of recycled, secondary and substitute materials will be encouraged. Mineral Safeguarding Areas have been defined for deposits of sub-alluvial sand and windblown silica sand (The Shirdley Hill Formation). Within Mineral Safeguarding Areas, as shown on the policy map, proposals for development will not be permitted unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is compatible with safeguarding the mineral; or • the applicant can demonstrate that the mineral concerned is no longer of any value or potential value; or • the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the development taking place; or • the development is of a temporary nature and can be completed and the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction; or • there is an overriding need for the development; or • the development is included on the list of exempt developments in figure 11.2A <p>2. Existing, planned and potential infrastructure supporting the aggregates industry will be safeguarded from inappropriate development. This includes strategic rail freight links and sites for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material. Proposals for non-mineral related development that may threaten, lead to the</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>Proposed modification text provides clear need for HRA where required regarding shale gas exploitation.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy and supporting text do not change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA provided impact pathways but the policy was screened out. This policy sets out development control for minerals extraction. This policy does not identify any specific location, type or quantity of mineral extraction.</p> <p>It provides basic protection for Internationally designated sites.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>loss of or damage to, the functioning of safeguarded infrastructure or locations will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative site within an acceptable distance can be provided, which is at least as appropriate for the use as the safeguarded site; and • It can be demonstrated that the infrastructure no longer meets the current or anticipated future needs of the minerals, building and construction industry or the waste management industry. <p>Mineral resources found to be present on sites intended for development will be expected to be extracted for beneficial use prior to development taking place, unless special circumstances can be demonstrated that justify proceeding without prior extraction.</p> <p>2. The Port of Liverpool and strategic rail freight links suitable for the movement of minerals will be safeguarded from inappropriate development. Proposals for non-mineral related development that may threaten the functioning of the wharfage of the Port of Liverpool, transport links or other infrastructure through which minerals are landed, processed (including secondary and recycled materials) and trans-shipped, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infrastructure is not required for mineral purposes, and is unlikely to be so in the future; or • There is an overriding case for development taking place; • Equivalent alternative infrastructure capacity exists which is able to meet commercial needs. <p>3. Proposals for the exploration, extraction, storage, processing and distribution of minerals will be permitted if all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse impacts relating to any criteria set out in Section 4 of this policy can be avoided or appropriately mitigated; • The developer must demonstrate the proposed location for the development is suitable, taking into account factors such as environmental, geological and technical issues; • Restoration and aftercare of sites will be implemented at the earliest opportunity and to an agreed timescale, to a standard and manner consistent with the agreed end use and the context of its surrounding area including its character, setting and landscape. <p>4. Planning and environmental criteria to be taken into account</p>		

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>when considering planning applications for minerals development are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity (e.g. dust, noise and vibration); • Air and water quality; • Lighting; • Visual intrusion into local setting and landscape; • Landscape character; • Traffic, including air and rail, and access; • Risk of contamination to land; • Soil resources; • The impact on best and most versatile agricultural land; • Flood risk and drainage; • Land stability; • Ecology including habitats, species and designated sites; • Heritage assets and their setting. <p>5. In determining shale gas applications Sefton will seek the highest levels of environmental, health and social protection and benefit consistent with prevailing national policy and regulation, including that relating to Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. Compliance with industry best practice standards as defined by United Kingdom Onshore Oil and Gas (UKOOG) will also be expected.</p>		
<p>HN9A Heritage Assets</p>	<p>1. Sefton's heritage assets together with its historic landscape character should continue to contribute to the Borough's sense of place, local distinctiveness and quality of life. Development proposals and other initiatives should contribute positively towards achieving this.</p> <p>2. The Council will seek to protect the significance of Sefton's heritage assets and their settings. Opportunities will be pursued to enhance heritage to reinforce the identity of the distinctive towns, villages and rural landscapes within Sefton.</p> <p>3. Key elements which contribute to the distinctive identity of Sefton, and which will therefore be a strategic priority for safeguarding and enhancing into the future, include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The verandahs throughout Southport, particularly in Lord Street, which add considerably to its local distinctiveness. • The historic centre, resort and traditional seafront of Southport including the conservation areas of Lord Street and Promenade, and their settings. • The spacious planned character of Victorian and Edwardian suburban conservation areas such as those in Birkdale, Blundellsands, Christ Church, Moor Park and 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This is a new policy within the Proposed Modifications document. It provides protection for heritage assets.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present and as such, its addition does not alter the outcome of the previous iteration of the HRA.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>Waterloo Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country estates, their countryside settings and associated villages including Ince Blundell Hall, Crosby Hall and North Meols Hall. • The dispersed layout and simple rural character of village conservation areas such as Lunt, Homer Green and Sefton village. • The open and flat ditched former wetland landscapes. • The broad sands, dune system, pinewoods and habitats that characterise parts of the Sefton coast, and the ancient and modern historic features within them such as the prehistoric footprints and wartime remnants; • The 18th century Leeds and Liverpool Canal, associated historic features and its setting. • Valued historic green spaces and their key features, particularly registered Historic parks and gardens, but also undesignated parkland and cemeteries such as Crosby Hall and Duke Street Cemetery. • Important archaeological sites such as village and wayside crosses, moated sites, Lunt Meadows and St Catherine's Chapel; <p>4. Designated heritage which is 'at risk' will be a priority for action. Opportunities to secure enhancements to safeguard and sustain these assets will be expected to be taken.</p> <p>5. Proposals affecting Sefton's heritage assets and their settings should ensure that features which contribute to their significance are protected from losses and harmful changes. Development should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the long-term future of the heritage asset • Be designed to avoid harm • Be of a high quality design which is sympathetic to the historic context of the heritage assets affected • Incorporate proposals for proper repair and re-instatement of historic features and/or involve work which better reveals the significance of Sefton's heritage assets and their settings Where losses are unavoidable, a thorough analysis and recording of the asset should be undertaken. 		
<p>NH9:</p> <p>Demolition or substantial harm to Designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Development which results in substantial harm to, or demolition of, a designated heritage asset or its setting will not be permitted, unless it can be demonstrated that substantial public benefits outweigh the harm or loss. Development which results in substantial harm to, or demolition of a designated heritage asset or its setting will not be permitted.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines policy for the demolition or substantial harm to Designated Heritage Assets.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
<p>NH10:</p> <p>Works affecting Listed Buildings</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works affecting a Listed Building or its setting will only be permitted where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Any alterations preserve the historic fabric and features of the building and/or its setting which are important to it contributing to its significance. b) Any new additions are well designed and respect the special architectural or historic interest of the building. c) New development is affecting respects and conserves historic and positive existing relationships between the listed building and its surroundings. d) Development does not undermine the long term economic viability of the listed building or otherwise harm options for its long term maintenance. 2. Opportunities should be taken to enhance the significance of a listed building or its setting 3. Development which harms elements that contribute to the significance of a Listed Building or its setting will not be permitted, unless it can be demonstrated that public benefits outweigh the harm. 	<p>of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p> <p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines policy for works affecting listed buildings.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
<p>NH11:</p> <p>Development affecting Conservation Areas</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development within conservation areas or affecting their setting will only be permitted where the proposal is of high quality design and preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the conservation area or its setting. Changes of use within conservation areas should retain the mix of uses which are characteristic of the area Development must ensure that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Replacement or new features are of an appropriate style and use materials which are sympathetic to the age, architecture and features of the affected property b) Extensions, alterations or additions respect the layout and historic pattern of development in the conservation area affected c) Hard and soft landscape features which contribute to the historic value of the site to the conservation area are retained (including historically significant features from previous uses), and d) The character of historic boundary treatments, patterns of trees and planting in the conservation area are retained and enhanced. e) Changes of use within conservation areas generally retain the mix of uses which are characteristic of the area. 2. Development which affects features harms elements which 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines policy for development affecting Conservation Areas.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
	<p>make a positive contribution to positively contribute to the significance of a conservation area or its setting will only not be permitted where unless it can be demonstrated that public benefits outweigh the harm. :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Replacement or new features are of an appropriate style and use materials which are sympathetic to the age, architecture and features of the affected property 3. Extensions, alterations or additions respect the layout and historic pattern of development in the conservation area affected 4. Hard and soft landscape features which contribute to the historic value of the site to the conservation area are retained (including historically significant features from previous uses), and 5. The character of historic boundary treatments, patterns of trees and planting in the conservation area are retained and enhanced. <p>Development proposals which provide opportunities to better reveal the significance of conservation areas and their settings will be supported. Where the asset affected is degraded, enhancements will normally be required. Development which affects sites or features which do not contribute positively to the character or appearance of the conservation area, must enhance the site or conservation area.</p>		
<p>NH12:</p> <p>Development affecting Registered Parks and Gardens</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development within a Registered Historic Park or Garden or affecting its setting will only be permitted where the development must relate relates well to the elements which contribute to the significance of the significant features of the historic park or garden and be is of high quality design, which conserves and enhances is sympathetic to the special interest and function of the site. 2. Development affecting the setting of a registered historic park or garden must maintain the aspects of its setting which contribute to its significance including views into and out of it, and the general relationship between the park or garden and the character of the surrounding landscape or townscape. 3. Development which harms elements which make a positive contribution to a Registered Historic Park or Garden or its setting will not be permitted, unless it can be demonstrated that public benefits outweigh the harm. 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines policy for development affecting Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways</p>
<p>NH13:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development affecting, or within the setting of, Scheduled Monuments or nationally important archaeological sites will 	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
Development Affecting archaeology and Scheduled Monuments and Non-designated Archaeology	<p>only be permitted where the development does not harm their significance or setting, unless it can be demonstrated that the development is necessary to deliver public benefits which outweigh the harm. detract from the importance of the site. Historically significant relationships between features within the site and between the site and its surroundings must be retained.</p> <p>2. Where development which harms the archaeological interest of buildings, and development on, or within the setting of of designated or non-designated archaeological sites, or their setting (i.e. including buildings and sites recognised as having archaeological potential, where their significance, extent and state are unclear), development will not be permitted unless the benefits of the proposals outweigh the loss and: will not be permitted unless the benefits of the proposals outweigh the loss and:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the nature and value of the archaeology is well understood, b) the development has been designed to minimise harm to the archaeology, and c) provision is made for recording, reporting and interpretation where appropriate. 	<p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>policy for development affecting archaeology and Scheduled Monuments.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
NH14: Development affecting non-designated Heritage Assets	<p>1. Development affecting a locally listed asset or its setting, or a non-n undesignated heritage asset or its setting will be permitted where the aspects of the asset which contribute to its significance are conserved or enhanced.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>The proposed modifications to this policy do not provide new impact pathways or change the conclusions from the previous iteration of the Local Plan HRA. This policy remains screened out.</p>	<p>The 2015 iteration of the Plan HRA screened out this policy. It outlines policy for development affecting non-designate Heritage Assets.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways.</p>
Planning Enforcement			
PIM1 Planning Enforcement	<p>1. The Council will act proportionately in the extent to which it investigates and pursues breaches of planning control.</p> <p>2. Where it is considered expedient and in the wider public interest to do so, the Council will take the necessary appropriate action to secure compliance with planning related controls, utilising its powers under the relevant planning, advertisement and conservation acts, policies and guidance to ensure compliance.</p> <p>3. Where it is considered appropriate to do so, the Council will seek to prosecute those who fail to comply with any statutory planning enforcement notice. Powers under the various planning acts allowing direct action to be taken to remedy breaches of statutory notices may also be utilised where appropriate.</p>	<p>No new HRA implications identified by Proposed Modifications.</p> <p>This policy sets out the Council's approach to planning enforcement.</p> <p>This is a new policy identified within the Proposed Modifications document.</p> <p>There are no impact pathways present and as such, its addition does not alter the outcome of the previous iteration of the</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

Heading	Proposed Modifications to Policies	Initial Screening of Proposed Modification	Further detail relating to 2015 HRA process
		HRA and this policy remains screened out.	

About AECOM

AECOM (NYSE: ACM) is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government. With approximately 100,000 employees around the world, AECOM is a leader in all of the key markets that it serves. AECOM provides a blend of global reach, local knowledge, innovation, and collaborative technical excellence in delivering solutions that enhance and sustain the world's built, natural, and social environments. A Fortune 500 company, AECOM serves clients in more than 100 countries and has annual revenue in excess of \$6 billion.

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Scott House
Alençon Link
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 7PP
United Kingdom
+44 1256 310200