

Hot Food Takeaway and Fast Food Outlets

Supplementary Planning Document

Scoping Report

May 2025

Hot Food Takeaway and Fast Food Outlets Supplementary Planning Document

Sefton Council is preparing a Hot Food Takeaway and Fast Food Outlets Supplementary Planning Document. Once adopted this will replace the current Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shops SPD.

We are inviting you to comment at this early stage to help us decide what level of guidance and background information should be contained within the SPD.

Comments should be made by 14 November 2025

We are seeking views from developers, organisations, individuals and others who are involved or have an interest in hot food takeaway and fast food proposals in Sefton. This scoping report identifies some key issues. Please let us know if you agree with these and whether there are additional issues you would wish the SPD to cover.

What is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?

SPDs give more detailed guidance to policies in the Adopted Local Plan and 'made' (i.e. adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in Sefton. They are subject to public consultation under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted SPDs are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Planning policies on Hot Food Takeaways and Fast Food Outlets

Government planning policy and how it is to be applied is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2).

Section 8 of the NPPF sets out how planning policies and decisions should achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. Specifically, paragraph 97 sets out that:

Local planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast food outlets:

- a) within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or*
- b) in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour.*

Sefton Local Plan was adopted in April 2017. The Local Plan includes a range of policies, which conform to national planning policy, to shape the future of Sefton. It sets out how new development will be managed in the period from 2015 to 2030, encouraging

sustainable development and economic growth and giving current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton's outstanding environment.

The SPD will support the following Local Plan policy:

- EQ10 Food and Drink

This policy is applicable across the whole borough.

Once adopted the SPD will replace the existing Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shop SPDs which was adopted in September 2017. Note that this new SPD will not cover Betting Shops. Legislation on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals have removed the primary reason for restricting the proliferation of Betting Shops.

Role of the Hot Food Takeaways and Fast Food Outlets SPD

The SPD will provide additional guidance on how Local Plan policy EQ10 should be interpreted and applied in relevant proposals. It is particularly aimed at agents and developers who promote hot food takeaways or fast food outlets, as well as anyone interested in this type of development in Sefton.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

National planning policy indicates that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are not required for an SPD unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects or exceptional circumstances.

This SPD builds on policies in the adopted Local Plan, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination. Furthermore, the criteria in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been taken into consideration and it is the view of Sefton Council that these have not been triggered to the extent that it is necessary to subject this SPD to SEA.

If you believe SEA is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Key issues for consideration in the SPD:

- Setting out the context and reasons for the restrictions
- Defining the terms 'Hot Food Takeaway' and 'Fast Food Outlets'
- Setting out which locations they will be restricted
- Setting out circumstances and locations in which the Council will make allowances for proposals for Hot Food Takeaways and Fast Food Outlets.

How to comment

Comments on whether you agree with the scope of this SPD and/or whether there are other things that should be included should be sent to:

local.plan@sefton.gov.uk

Planning Department
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle L20 3NJ

What happens next?

An indicative SPD timetable is provided below:

Prepare Draft SPD, taking into account comments made to the scope	To July 2025
Approval from Cabinet Member to publish draft SPD for six weeks public consultation.	July 2025
Publish draft SPD for eight weeks consultation.	September 2025
Prepare draft SPD for adoption, taking into account comments made	November 2025
Approval from Cabinet to adopt the SPD	December 2025

Data Protection

- All comments, including personal details, received will be logged securely.
- Comments from private individuals will be published online. Names will be published online unless a specific request to remain anonymous is made. However, we may not be able to give the same weight to anonymised comments.
- Comments from groups, organisations and companies will be published online giving name of group, organisation and company only.
- No contact details will be published online, including home address, email or telephone number
- The Council may need to contact you to request further information or clarification in relation to the comment(s) made.
- Personal details will be used for the purposes of SPD production only.

For full data protection rights in planning please see: www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR