



Our ref:

Contact: Steve Skelton

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Date: 8th November 2024

By email only to: Bootleaap@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Mr Ian Loughlin,

Bootle Area Action Plan Publication (Regulation 19) Draft, July 2024

On behalf of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), I am pleased to set out the Authority's response to consultation on the Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP) Publication (Regulation 19) Draft, July 2024. This response considers broad alignment of the Draft AAP with the emerging LCR Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)¹ as well as other areas of LCRCA interest and responsibility.

Firstly, the LCRCA would wish to offer support to Sefton Council in its progression of the AAP and consider it a significant and positive step in addressing the issues and challenges faced in Bootle. Overall, the plan's vision and objectives are considered to align with those of the emerging SDS, particularly the impetus to regenerate and revitalise the town, attract investment, bring environmental improvements and increase opportunities for its residents and communities. The AAP's recognition of the emerging SDS and its future role, when published/adopted, as part of the Development Plan for Sefton is welcomed.

Draft Policy LCR SS1 of the emerging SDS identifies an 'Inner Urban Area' in which Bootle (and the AAP area) lies. This area is to provide a focus for sustainable regeneration, benefitting from its proximity to Liverpool City Centre and complementing the wider city region. New development within the Inner Urban Area would be expected to:

- Maximise use of brownfield and underutilised land to catalyse urban regeneration.
- Deliver regeneration objectives including tackling deprivation and inequality, attraction of investment, creation of job opportunities and environmental improvement.

¹ ['Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region to 2040'](#) (November 2023)





- Provide new, high-quality housing for all kinds of people, including family homes and affordable housing, integrating positively with existing communities.
- Create new and revitalised mixed communities, helping to tackle previous housing market failure.
- Help to address long standing issues of dereliction and land contamination.
- Maximise opportunities to integrate and improve connectivity with Liverpool City Centre, adjacent areas and neighbourhoods within the Inner Urban Area and elsewhere in the city region.

For Bootle in particular, emerging SDS policy outlines the key planning priorities for the town, consistent with the AAP. These are:

- Repurposing and regenerating the Strand shopping centre and sustainable development of the canal side.
- Enhancing and increasing of town centre living, higher and further educational facilities, employment opportunities, high quality public space and leisure and cultural attractions.
- Consolidating the Strand's position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area.
- The provision of a mixed high-quality offer for residents, businesses, employees and students throughout Bootle, including a greater choice of house types and good quality and well-located employment sites.
- Improved physical integration and connectivity (including active travel links).
- Enabling Bootle to reshape and grow its reputation as a highly desirable and sustainable residential, education, leisure and business location.
- Making Bootle a healthier place to live, through the provision of an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle (including Green Infrastructure).
- Enabling Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network.
- Supporting opportunities to repurpose and redevelop vacant land and buildings.
- Protecting Bootle's valued built heritage and supporting the reuse of heritage assets for suitable viable uses.

The policies and proposals in the Draft Bootle AAP are therefore considered to present a good overall strategic fit with emerging SDS policy. The plan would also help in the achievement of wider LCRC priority objectives including tackling climate change, the promotion of active travel and sustainable transport modes,



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skills and education provision, promotion of economic growth and job creation, and securing environmental improvements.

In addition, the plan is considered to provide a positive planning framework for the delivery of development projects funded by the LCRCA (such as those part of the Brownfield Land Fund programme).

As you will be aware, officers from the LCRCA have been working collaboratively with those from Sefton in the ongoing production of the LCR SDS which looks to set a long-term spatial strategy for the city region and achieve sustainable growth and regeneration. The LCRCA would wish to continue this collaborative approach to plan-making and look forward to working with Sefton Council in future.

I trust this aids the council in its progression of the AAP. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further assistance or information.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Skelton
Interim Director of Policy and Strategy
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority