

Sefton Council



Local Development Scheme 2025-2028

Effective from 6 March 2025

This is Sefton’s Local Development Scheme for 2025-28. A Local Development Scheme is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This must specify (among other matters) the development plan documents (i.e. local plans) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area.

Local Plan

In light of the changes to the NPPF, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF, i.e. by no later than 6 March 2025.

Whilst the plan-making regulations have not yet been published, the timetable below reflects the plan-making proposals [previously consulted on](#). It is possible that this timetable will be revised when the new government publishes the final plan-making regulations later this year.

Stage	Date
Local Plan Pre-Commencement – including commissioning some studies, reviewing constitution, resourcing, setting up governance structures	February 2025 to June 2026
Give notice of start	July 2026
Prepare Project Initiation Document	July to September 2026
Gateway 1*	October 2026
Prepare Local Plan Vision and Strategy	October 2026 to May 2027
Public Engagement 1 – plan vision and strategy (8 weeks)	June to August 2027
Gateway 2*	September 2027
Prepare draft Local Plan	September 2027 to May 2028
Public Engagement 2 – draft Local Plan (6 weeks)	June to August 2028
Gateway 3*	September 2028
Submission	October 2028

Bootle Area Action Plan

Sefton Council is developing a Bootle Action Area Plan (AAP) to guide the development and investment strategy for the wider Bootle area (see proposed area at Annex 1). Once adopted it will form part of the Development Plan for Sefton alongside the Local Plan. It is likely to cover a range of issues that have a land use component but can also look to address wider factors that influence the quality of place in which people live, work, shop, socialise, undertake leisure activities and visit. Further information is available at www.sefton.gov.uk/BootleAAP.

The Bootle AAP will supplement or supersede existing policies in the Sefton Local Plan. These policies will be clearly identified in the Bootle AAP.

The table below sets out the key stages in the preparation of the Bootle AAP when engagement will occur. These timescales have slipped a little since the previously published Local Development Scheme to reflect the delay in commencing with Issues and Options and the need to commission studies to look at Employment Land in Bootle.

Issues and Options consultation	November 2021 – January 2022 (completed)
Preferred Option Consultation	August to November 2023 (completed)
AAP Publication - Comments sought	September 2024 – November 2024
AAP Examination	Winter 2024/2025

Liverpool City Region Waste Local Plan

The Council will work with other local authorities on a review of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan, which was adopted in July 2013. It is anticipated that a detailed programme will be agreed for the review of the Waste Local Plan later this year and this will be reflected in an update to the Local Development Scheme.

Supplementary Planning Documents

The Council has a range of existing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Information Notes. These set out how policies in the Local Plan will be applied.

These can be viewed at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-including-local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/adopted-supplementary-planning-documentsguidance/>

The Council are in the process of producing a number of new or replacement SPD/information notes in the period 2024-25. These are:

- Nature SPD (update to current SPD)
- City Region Recreation Mitigation Strategy SPD (which will replace Sefton's Interim approach)
- Developer Contributions to Southport Visitor Infrastructure SPD

- Affordable and Supported Homes SPD (update to current SPD)
- Children's Residential and Supported Living Accommodation SPD

Neighbourhood Plans

There are currently three made (i.e. adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in Sefton: Maghull; Lydiate; and Formby and Little Altcar. A map showing the areas the Neighbourhood Plans cover is in **Annex 2**.

Melling Parish Council had their parish area designated as a neighbourhood planning area but have not progressed a Neighbourhood Plan to date.

There are no current plans for any other Neighbourhood Plans in Sefton. However, Maghull are considering a review of their current Neighbourhood Plan. If a review is proposed, the timetable of that review will be published and reflected in an update to this Local Development Scheme.

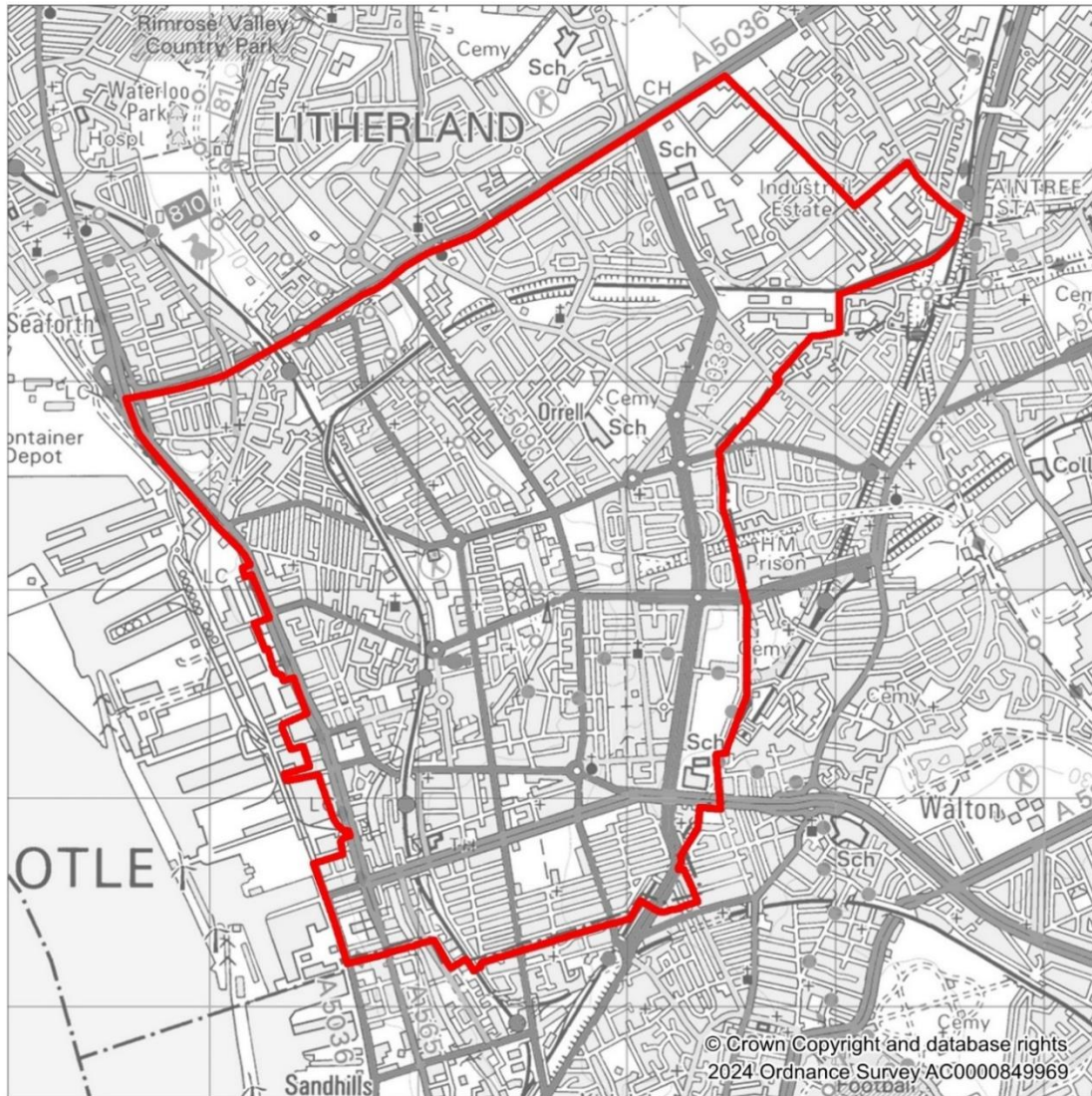
Spatial Development Strategy

The Combined Authority of the Liverpool City is working on a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) in partnership with each the constituent Local Authorities. These are Knowsley, Halton, Liverpool, Wirral, St Helens and Sefton.

Early engagement has been undertaken in the SDS and a draft SDS was published for comment. Engagement ran between 24th November 2023 and 16th February 2024. It is expected further engagement will be undertaken later this year (2025).

Once adopted the SDS will form part of the development plan for each of the constituent authorities, including Sefton. Further information can be found at <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-spatial-planning/>

Annex 1 Bootle Area Action Plan Area



Annex 2 Made Neighbourhood Plan areas

