

Sefton Council Annual Monitoring Report 2023

February 2024

Introduction

This is the Council's 19th Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (formerly Annual Monitoring Report). Previous publications are available at www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR. This is the eighth AMR published following the adoption of the Sefton Local Plan in April 2017. It uses the monitoring framework set out at Appendix 3 of the Local Plan.

As the monitoring framework has been established for five years trend-based information is strengthening and progress with many of the strategic aims of the Local Plan and the policies that seek to secure them is demonstrated. Points for action are noted wherever this is not the case.

The AMR is split into a number of distinct sections.

Key Headlines for 2022/23 provides a summary of the main points of interest for the year

Section A looks at direct impact indicators - those which the implementation of planning policies influence in a direct way.

Section B covers indirect indicators – those which the implementation of planning policy may influence, but which are also influenced by other factors.

Section C reports on the progress the Council has made on its duty to co-operate.

Section D reports on the progress with the Local Development Scheme, setting out the Planning Documents we have produced and aim to produce in the future.

Section E reports on the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in the borough.

Section F reports on progress of Infrastructure Working Group Recommendations

Main headlines

Direct Impact Indicators

- The Council can demonstrate an 8.7 year supply of specific deliverable housing sites. This is an increase on the previous year position of 8.4 years. This means that Sefton can comfortably meet its five-year supply requirement for deliverable housing sites.
- During 2022/23 there were 705 net additional dwellings in Sefton. This continues the trend of the number of dwellings built exceeding our identified need for new homes. This is a considerable success compared with the years pre-adoption of the Local Plan where delivery figures of around 400 per year were more typical.
- As of 31 March 2023, there have been 1,453 new homes completed on the Local Plan housing allocations, an increase of 308 in the past year.
- During 2022/23 there were 159 new affordable homes completed. This is a decrease from the previous year (235) and a break from what had been a steadily increasing trend. This is likely to be an outlier, and this will be monitored closely moving forward.

- During 2022/23 there was a total of 26,476m² of floorspace developed for new employment use. This is considerable increase on previous years and is explained by a small number of large sites.
- The total area of land and premises lost from employment to other uses was 1.726ha.
- During 2022/23 there were 15 approvals on sites designated as 'Education and care institutions'. All of these approvals were considered appropriate for the land use.
- During 2022/23 there were 16 applications for HMOs that were assessed. Only three of the applications were granted permission and two were considered lawful development.

Indirect Impact Indicators

- The most recently published data (base date of 2020) shows that there are 105,000 jobs in Sefton. The jobs density in Sefton of 0.63 (i.e. the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64) remains much lower than both the north-west (0.82) and national average (0.84).
- The unemployment rate in Sefton from April 2021 to March 2023 stood at 2.8% which a fall from 4.0% reported over the same period the previous year. This is also lower than the regional and national average.
- On 31st March 2023 the number of active applicants on the Sefton Housing Register was 3,310, a decrease from 3,744 the previous year and part of a decline from 5,693 in 2019.
- The recently published 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that 30.49% of Sefton's population lives within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. This is an increase since 2015 when 25.7% of Sefton's population were in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- In 2021 (data published in 2023) the total amount of CO₂ emissions for Sefton was 1,170.6kt. This is a small increase on the previous year.
- The vacant home rate in Sefton at 31st March 2023 was 4.0%. The long-term vacancy rate (i.e. vacant 6 months+) stands at 3.1%. The long-term vacancy rate is slightly up on the previous year but still part of a longer term downward trend.

Section A – Direct Indicators

1. Meeting Sefton’s Needs

Indicator 1 – (Policy MN1)

Five Year Housing Supply Position

The Council has an 8.7 year five-year supply position. This compares with the 2021/22 position of 8.4 years.

The housing supply has again gone up and represents the strongest supply position in recent years.

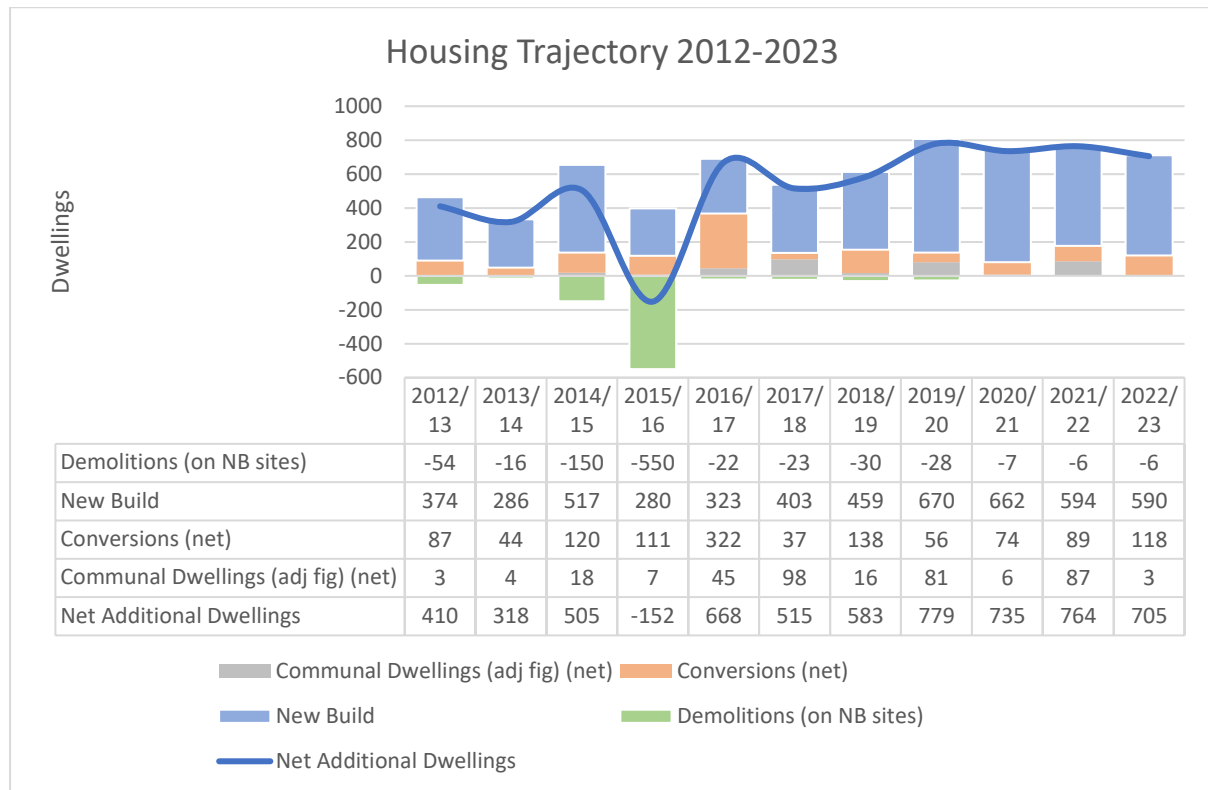


Action – None. Continue to monitor in the SHLAA and five year supply report

Indicator 2 – (Policy MN2)

Net additional dwellings (total/on allocated sites)

There was an additional net of 705 new dwellings completed in Sefton during 2022/23 in Sefton.



The housing trajectory above shows the number of homes completed since the start of the Local Plan base date period. This shows the difference a Local Plan that allocated developable sites has made with big increased in net-housing delivery.

Below can be seen all of the Local Plan allocations for housing and the progress on each site to date.

Site Ref & Name	Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments
MN2.1 Land adjacent to Bartons Close	36	30	83%	23	DC/2019/01069 – currently under construction
MN2.2 Land at Bankfield	300	284 ¹	95.3%	-	DC/2017/00821 DC/2020/02331 – reserved matters

¹ Application DC/2017/00821 secured 128 (full) + up to 200 (outline). Reserve matters (DC/2020/02331) for the outline part of the scheme subsequently secured 156 dwellings for a total across the scheme of 286.

Site Ref & Name	Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023 *	Application Reference and comments	
Lane, Southport						
MN2.3	Former Phillip's Factory, Balmoral Drive, Southport	158	157	99.4%	63	DC/2017/01325 – under construction
MN 2.4	Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown	450	0	0%	-	-
MN2.5	Land at Crowland Street, Southport	678	0	0%	-	-
MN2.6	Land at Broome Road, Southport	174	0	0%	-	-
MN2.7	Land West of Lynton Road	25	0	0%	-	-
MN2.8	Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale	120	0	0%	-	-
MN2.9	Former St John Stone School, Meadow Lane, Ainsdale	40	47	117.5%	24	Planning permission granted DC/2019/01164 – under construction
MN2.10	Land at Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale	83	154	185%	24	Two approvals DC/2014/02171 - completed DC/2020/02187 130 dwellings plus respite centre
MN2.11	Land south of Moor Lane, Ainsdale	69	0	0%	-	-

Site Ref & Name		Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments
MN2.12	Land north of Brackenway, Formby	286	262	92%	-	DC/2018/00093 outline DC/2022/00938 reserved matters.
MN2.13	Land at West Lane, Formby	40	0	0%	-	-
MN2.14	Former Holy Trinity School, Lonsdale Rd, Formby (part)	50	42	84%	42	DC/2015/003330
MN2.15	Land at Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road, Formby	34	0	0%	-	Current application being considered. -
MN2.16	Formby Professional Development Centre, Park Road, Formby	15	0	0%	-	-
MN2.17	Land at Liverpool Road, Formby (west part)	319	68	117%	-	DC/2018/00588
MN2.17	Land at Liverpool Road Formby (east part),		305		155	DC/2018/00658 – under construction
MN2.18	Land at Altcar Lane, Formby	29	24	83%	-	DC/2018/00020
MN2.19	Power House phase 2, Hoggs Hill Lane, Formby	12	9	75%	-	DC/2018/01105
MN2.20	Land at Andrew's Close, Formby	87	99	114%	99	DC/2016/01740 DC/2018/00101 DC/2018/00181

Site Ref & Name	Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments	
MN2.21	Land at Elmcroft Lane, Hightown	120	0	0%	-	-
MN2.22	Land at Sandy Lane, Hightown	10	0	0%	-	-
MN2.23	Land at Hall Road West, Crosby	14	14	100%	14	DC/2016/01523
MN2.24	Land at Southport Old Road, Thornton	85	0	-	-	-
MN2.25	Land at Holgate, Thornton	221	206	93.2%	-	DC/2021/00417
MN2.26	Land at Lydiate Lane, Thornton	265	268	101.1%	-	DC/2017/00434 Outline planning application for up to 268 dwelling houses approved DC/2022/01518 Reserved matters.
MN2.27	Land south of Runnell's Lane, Thornton	137	183	133.5%	115	DC/2018/02199
MN2.28	Land at Turnbridge Road, Maghull	40	39	98%	39	DC/2017/00456
MN2.29	Land north of Kenyons Lane, Lydiate	295	291	98.6%	-	DC/2021/00887
MN2.30	Former Prison Site, Park Lane, Maghull	370	369	99%	319	DC/2015/01527
MN2.31	Land east of Waddicar Lane, Melling	178	149	83.7%	149	DC/2017/02359

Site Ref & Name		Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments
MN2.32	Wadacre Farm, Chapel Lane, Melling	135	146	108%	-	DC/2021/02497
MN2.33	Land South of Spencers Lane, Melling	18	29	161%	-	DC/2019/00691
MN2.34	Land at Wango Lane, Aintree	25	59	236%	-	DC/2021/00759
MN2.35	Aintree Curve Site, Ridgewood Way, Netherton	109	109	100%	109	DC/2014/01655
MN2.36	Former Z Block Sites, Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton	100	26	120%	26	DC/2016/01092 (middle site)
	Former Z Block Sites, Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton		31		31	DC/2016/02302 (southern site)
	Former Z Block Sites, Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton		63		-	DC/2021/02293 (northern site)
MN2.37	Former St Raymond's School playing field, Harrops Croft, Netherton	53	0	0%	-	-
MN2.38	Land at Pendle Drive, Netherton	29	0	0%	-	-

Site Ref & Name		Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments
MN2.39	Land at the former Bootle High School, Browns Lane, Netherton	63	0	0%	-	-
MN2.40	Former Daleacre School, Daleacre Drive, Netherton	37	0	0%	-	-
MN2.41	Former Rawson Road Primary School, Rawson Road, Bootle	20	0	0%	-	-
MN2.42	Former St Wilfrid's School, Orrell Road, Bootle	160	185	115.6%	28	DC/2019/01356 – currently on site
MN2.43	Klondyke Phases 2 and 3, Bootle	142	142	100%	142	DC/2014/00642
MN2.44	Peoples site, Linacre Lane, Bootle	110	0	0%	-	-
MN2.45	Former St Joan of Arc School, Rimrose Road, Bootle	51	51	100%	51	DC/2014/00605
MN2.46	Former St Mary's Primary School playing fields, Waverley Street, Bootle	72	0	0%	-	-

Site Ref & Name		Local plan capacity	approved	% of LP target to date	Total completions at March 2023*	Application Reference and comments
MN2.47	Land East of Maghull Northern Site	1,400	855	121.1%	-	DC/2017/01528 Outline application
MN2.47	Land East of Maghull Southern Site		841		-	DC/2017/01532 (allowed on appeal)
Total indicative dwellings on allocated sites		7,264	5,537	70.6%	1,453	

1,453 new homes have been built on Local Plan housing allocations this is a increase from 1,145 a year earlier.

Actions: Continue to contact developers of allocated sites to determine likely delivery rates.

Indicator 3 – (Policy MN1)

Land available for (general) employment

The chart below sets out how much land is still available for employment land on sites allocated for employment uses in the Local Plan.

	Use Class B general (ha)	Use Class B1 (ha)	Use Class B2 (ha)	Use Class B8 (ha)	Use Class E(g) (ha)	Total (ha)
Allocated sites with no Planning Permission	38.89					38.89
Allocated sites with Planning Permission	15.40	1.00				16.40
Sites in Primarily Industrial Areas with Planning Permission	3.34			0.63	3.93	7.90
Other sites				0.94	0.15	1.08
Totals	57.63	1.00	0.00	1.57	4.08	64.28

Actions: None at present. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 4 – (Policy MN1)

Employment land lost to non-employment

The list below sets out all sites lost from employment. All were small scales schemes and very small areas of land. All were considered to be acceptable. Three of the five schemes were changes of uses from offices top residential.

Land Type	Application Ref	Site Address	Proposal	Site Area
LP HC3 - Primarily Residential Area	DC/2020/00656	Old Saw Mills Marsh Brows Formby	COU from Workshop (B1) to Theatrical Arts Learning Centre (F).	0.107
LP HC3 - Primarily Residential Area	DC/2020/01595	23-27 Segars Lane Southport	COU from offices to residential	0.050
LP HC3 - Primarily Residential Area	DC/2021/01171	2 Mount Street Crosby	COU from offices to residential	0.015
LP ED7 - Southport Central Area	DC/2021/02862	12 Wright Street Southport	COU from offices to residential	0.013
LP HC3 - Primarily Residential Area	S/2008/0038	Site of Sefton Works Field Lane Netherton	Residential development on former industrial site	0.850
Total				1.036

Action – None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 5 – (Policy MN1)

Land available for port related employment

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton, Wirral and West Lancashire) produced a Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) published in March 2018. This also considers the need for land for Port-related employment (i.e. large scale B8 logistics and warehousing development). The SHELMA identifies a need of between 308 and 397ha of land required to 2037 for large scale B8 warehousing. This figure is for the City Region as a whole and has not been disaggregated.

A further study was commissioned by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to undertake a series of site assessments in respect of potential future strategic distribution and warehousing requirements as identified in the SHELMA.

The study² (August 2019) concluded that:

² [Liverpool City Region Areas of Search Assessment, GL Hearn August 2019](#)

'The total developable land from the sites assessed is 378 Ha and vary in times of delivery (unadjusted for B2 demand). Adjusting this figure by 20% to account for B2 use on the site results in 281.0 Ha of B8 developable land. Subject to further investigation this land area is in excess of that required to achieve the 'Do Something' strategic B8 requirement and thus fulfilling future growth requirements.'

Action – None

Indicator 6 – (Policy MN1)

Floorspace (m²) developed for employment (by type (B1, B2, B8) and location)

The amount of land developed for employment land is quite large in 2022/23 but this is skewed by schemes at the former Peerless refinery.

It should be noted that the planning use classes were updated on 1st September 2020. This update comprised the removal of class B1 (business) and the introduction of Class E (commercial, business and service).

Year completed	Use class								Total
	B1(A)	B1(B)	B1(C)	B2	B8	BOPEN	E	Other	
2010/11	598		978		525	8,070			10,171
2011/12				1,740					1,740
2012/13	212		372		500			418	1,502
2013/14	4,323							1,200	5,523
2014/15	270				24,234	2,158			26,662
2015/16	506			2,531	726			1,762	5,525
2016/17	3,332		333	3,860	6,425				13,950
2017/18	2,370	60	715	6,833	6,833				16,811
2018/19	351		945	1,162		2,850			5,308
2019/20	851			1,427	-430	568		688	3,104
2020/21	350		907		4,014				5,271
2021/22	720				1,235		296	271	2,522
2022/23				336		26,140			26,476
Grand Total	13,883	60	4,250	17,889	44,062	39,786	296	4,339	124,565

Action – None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 7 – (Policy MN1)

Number of jobs (full-time equivalent) created on employment sites

There were no commercial/industrial developments which provided a net increase in employment in 2022/23. One scheme provided no details. This is based on the information

supplied by the applicant of the relevant schemes. This compares to 29 jobs in 2021/22, 51 in 2020/21 and 25 in 2019/20 at various sites.

The new Social Value SPD will help the Council to work with developers to create new jobs for local people.

Action – The Council will continue to work with developers and landowners to get sites developed and to create jobs for local people.

Indicator 8 – (Policy MN7)

Approvals in the Green Belt and %

During the year 2022/23 there were 20 approvals in the Green Belt. Of these, 14 were considered to be ‘appropriate’ development in the Green Belt as defined by the NPPF and 5 were considered ‘inappropriate’ by definition but were justified by ‘very special circumstances’ as the benefits of the development clearly outweighed the harm to the Green Belt, in accordance with the NPPF.

Action – The Council will continue to enforce Green Belt policy and assess applications on their own merit.

Indicator 9 – (Policy MN7)

Approvals in Safeguarded Land and % inappropriate

The Local Plan has allocated two areas of safeguarded land (Lamshear Lane, Lydiate and Land adjacent to Ashworth Hospital, Maghull). These are sites between the edge of the Green Belt and the urban area that have been removed from the Green Belt to meet longer term development needs. There have been no approvals on ‘safeguarded’ land in 2022/23.

Action – None.

2. Economic development and regeneration

Indicator 10 – (Policy ED1)

Approvals in Port and Maritime Zone and % inappropriate

There were five approvals in the Port and Maritime zone. All five approvals (100%), were appropriate development within the Port and Maritime zone.

Action – None. Continue to monitor that applications that are submitted.

Indicator 11 – (Policy ED1)

Improved access to the port consulted on/approved/implemented

This is a Highways England project. Public consultation on the preferred access to the Port of Liverpool option was undertaken in January and February 2017 and Highways England announced the preferred route in August 2017. The decision-making process was challenged and went through a Judicial Review process, which was dismissed in November 2018. Site investigation and environmental survey work continued in 2020. Public consultation on the emerging design of the route through the Rimrose Valley was delayed due to the covid-19 pandemic. In July 2022 Highways England reported that they need to update their traffic modelling to inform any proposals. This is expected to take 12 months. For more information see <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a5036-port-of-liverpool-access/>

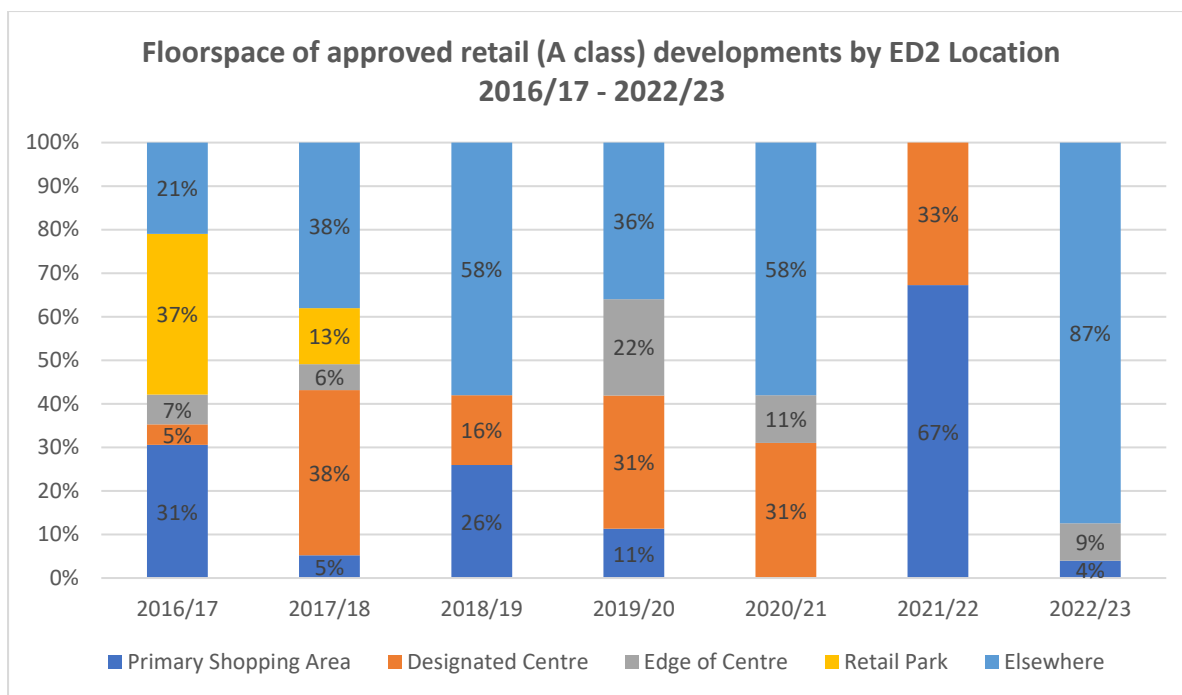
Progress as of January 2024:

Consulted on	✓
Approved	✗
Implemented	✗

Actions – None.

Indicator 12 – (Policy ED2) Number and % of approved retail/leisure/other town centre uses development in

- designated centres (Primary Shopping Areas)
- edge of centre
- retail parks
- elsewhere



It is noted that 87% of approved floorspace was located ‘elsewhere’ which is at the bottom of the retail sequential test. This is explained by a few larger schemes that made up most of the floorspace, including a 1,900m² retail store development off Marine Drive in Southport. The reason why so little new retail floorspace was created in or close to our centres is less clear. This may be due to a combination of changes in shopping patterns to online shopping, the post covid move away from centres to local areas connected with working from home and the increase in the amount of development that is covered by ‘permitted development’ rights that mean expressed planning permission is no longer required.

Actions – Closely monitor changes to retail habits and where developments are being submitted.

Indicator 13 – (Policy ED5)

Approvals by type in locations listed in Policy ED5

Policy ED5 of the Local Plan lists four locations that are strategic tourism locations in the borough. These are:

- Southport Seafront
- Southport Central Area
- Crosby Coastal Park
- Aintree Racecourse
- Adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool canal

In 2022/23 there were 45 approvals in tourism areas. These can be broken down as follows:

- Southport Central Area 37 approvals
- Southport Seafront 2
- Crosby Coastal Park 3
- Aintree Racecourse 0
- Adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal 3

The 39 changes of use 9 were for conversions to residential. The others were a wide variety that included. 7 approvals were tourism related uses. These include additional rooms to existing hotels and guest houses, an apart-hotel, change of use to a short term let and an observation wheel.

There have been 16 developments for new build of/changes of use to (or extensions or alterations) town centre uses. These include shops, restaurants, food kiosks and takeaways. There were seven other uses, including telecommunications and adverts.

The three permissions on the Crosby Coastal Park were all minor and related to the tourism use.

The three developments adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool canal were, a 44 bed retirement living accommodation, an upper floor residential conversion and a leisure use consistent with the visitor economy.

It is clear that plenty of activity is taking place in these locations. Only some of those are linked directly to tourism, however this is not necessarily a concern as some of these locations, for example Southport Town centre, are multifunctional locations.

Actions – None

Indicator 14 - (Policy ED6)

Approvals in locations listed in Policy ED6 'Regeneration Areas' by type

There were 33 applications in regeneration areas across the borough. This is a fall from 61 the previous year. This included the creation of 19 self-contained apartments and an observation wheel tourist attraction.

Regeneration Site	Planning applications approved
Regeneration in Bootle – Bootle Central Area	2
Regeneration in Bootle – Regeneration Opportunity Sites – 501- 509 Hawthorne Road	0
Regeneration in Bootle – Regeneration Opportunity Sites – Former Gasworks Site	0
Regeneration of Centres – Central Southport	22
Regeneration of Centres – Crosby Centre	3
Regeneration of Centres – Maghull Centre	2
Regeneration of Centres – Seaforth Centre	1
Regeneration of the Dunning's Bridge Road Corridor	3

Action- None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 15 – (Policy ED7)

Approvals in Southport Central Area by type

There were twelve approvals in the Southport Central area. This was consistent with previous years (11 in 2021/22, 8 in 2020/21 and 12 in 2019/20).

Use	2017/18*	2018/19*	2019/20*	2020/21*	2021/22*	2022/23*
Restaurant/cafe	-	3	3	3	1	4
Hot food takeaway	1	-	1	4	1	2
Public House / bar	2	-	1	1	2	2
Hotel / apart-hotel	-	1	2	-	1	4
Outdoor seating area	-	-	2	3	1	1
Retail	1	-	-	1	1	6
Offices	1	1	-	1	1	2
Residential	8	15	9	9	7	9
Home in Multiple Occupation	-	-	2	-	-	-
Gym	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed use	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cinema	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nursery	-	1	-	-	-	-
Land to site caravans	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other	-	-	12	8	11	12

*Some approvals contained more than one use

Action – None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 16 – (Policy ED8)

Approval in Southport Seafront by Type

During 2022/23 there were 2 approvals within Southport Seafront. They were for an observation wheel and extra rooms for a hotel. Both approvals were entirely consistent with the Seafront planning designation.

In 2021/22 there were 4 approvals in the seafront area, in 2020/21 there were 2 approvals in the Southport Seafront area, in 2019/20 there were 4 approvals and 1 each in 2018/19, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Action – None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 17 – (Policy ED10)

Approvals in Aintree Racecourse (in the Green Belt Area) by Type

None.

Action – None.

Indicator 18 – (Policy ED10)

Approvals in Aintree Racecourse (outside the Green Belt Area) by Type

None.

Action – None

Indicator 19 – (Policy ED11)

Approvals in Crosby Centre by

There were four approvals in Crosby Town centre in 2022/23. This included a large mixed-use development at Telegraph House, (DC/2022/01148).

There were 8 approvals in 2021/22 and 5 in 2020/21.

Action – None. Continue to monitor.

Indicators 20-23 – (Policy ED11)

Total units in Crosby Centre

Total floorspace in Crosby Centre

Reduction in vacancies in Crosby Centre

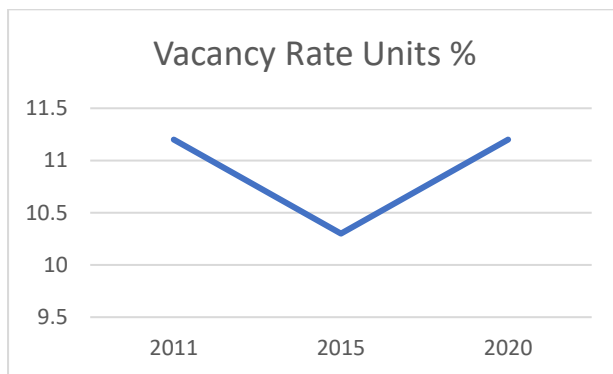
Number of National Retailers in Crosby

The Crosby District Centre Health Check was last completed in October 2020.

128 Total units in Crosby District Centre as at October 2020

21,580m² total floorspace in Crosby District Centre as at October 2020

11.1% vacant units in Crosby District Centre as at October 2020. This is more than reported in 2015 and is back to rates reported at 2011.



18 National Retailers in Crosby District Centre as of October 2020

Action – Continuer to monitor and results form the next set of Town centre health checks will update the results.

3. Housing and Communities

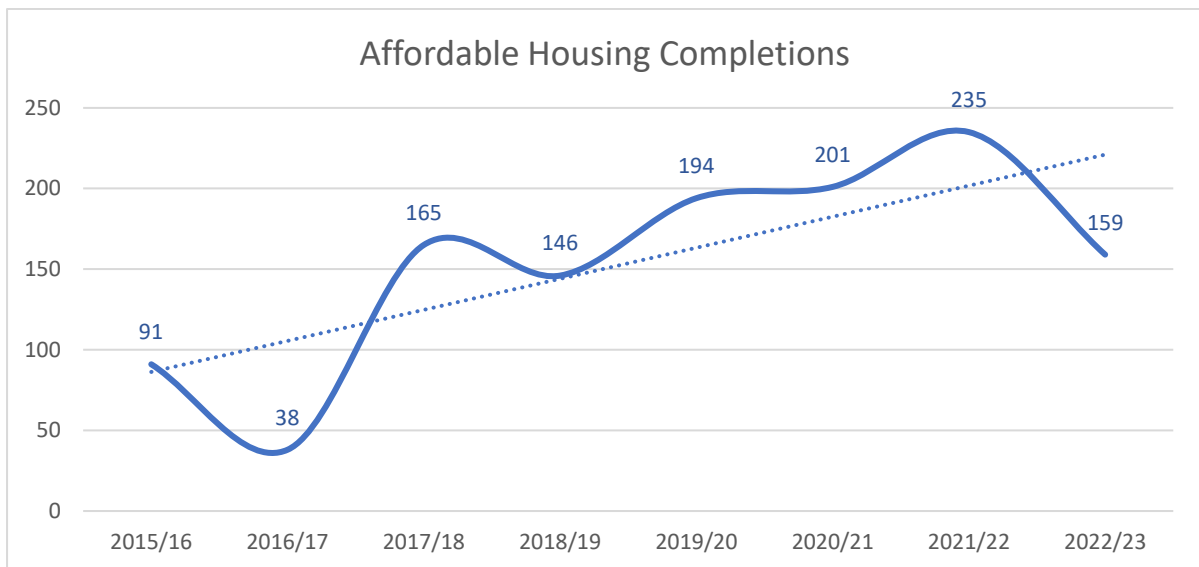
Indicator 24 – (Policy HC1)

Number of affordable housing completions by type (social rented, affordable rented, intermediate, through section 106) and location.

The number of affordable home completions fell in the last year. It is not clear what has caused this as the overall housing completions were fairly similar between the two years. It may be explained a single affordable housing scheme being completed one year and none the next, or alternatively if a site is awaiting building regulations sign off after the March 31st date. A one-year drop is not in itself a concern but these figures will be monitored to see if becomes a longer term trend.

Application	Site Name	Total Homes	Funding Source	Total Affordable	Affordable Rent	Intermediate	Social Rent
DC/2019/01435	Former Littlewoods Sports Ground, Park Lane, Netherton	149	S106 and Other	15			15
DC/2019/01831	Land near, Chapel Terrace, Bootle	16	HCA	6	6		
DC/2018/02199	Land rear of 1 to 93, Runnells Lane, Crosby & Hightown	183	S106	11	9	2	
DC/2018/00658	BDW Part of Liverpool Road, Formby	305	S106	27	24	3	
S/2008/0038	Site of Sefton Works, Field Lane, Netherton	55	HCA	39	39		
DC/2015/01527	Fmr Ashworth Hospital Site (South), School Lane, Maghull & Aintree	369	S106/HCA	15		8	7
DC/2017/02359	Land east of Waddicar Lane, Waddicar Lane, Maghull & Aintree	149	S106	8	7	1	
DC/2019/01069	Land adjacent to, Barton's Close, Southport	30	S106	8	6	2	
DC/2019/01164	Former St John Stone RC Primary, Meadow Lane, Southport	48	S106	10	5	5	
DC/2019/01708	South West Corner of, Cambridge Gardens, Southport	4	HCA	4		4	

S/2012/04 00	Town Lane - David Wilson Homes sch, Town Lane, Southport	759	S106	16	16		
		2,067		159	112	25	22



Action – Monitor to see if the variation between this year and last is a one-off.

Indicator 25 – (Policy HC1)

% of units that are affordable in approvals for new homes in qualifying schemes (15 homes or more) (total and by settlement)

Policy HC1 of the Local Plan sets out a requirement that developments of 15 homes of more should provide affordable housing. In Bootle and Netherton the requirement is for 15% of the total scheme to be provided as affordable homes. Outside Bootle and Netherton the requirement is for 30% of the total scheme to be provided as affordable homes. During 2022/23 there were 10 approvals on schemes in which the Council’s affordable housing requirement was triggered. Both of the schemes (326 Liverpool Road South, Maghull and Telegraph House, Crosby), negative viability reduced the amount of affordable housing from the policy position.

The figures indicate that policy requirements in HC1 are being delivered.

Settlement Area	Number of Affordable dwellings on eligible Schemes	% of affordable homes on eligible schemes
Crosby and Hightown	254	38.8
Bootle	121	100.0
Maghull and Aintree	132	27.4
Formby	79	30.2
Southport	130	100
Borough Total	716	46.9

Site name	Total Units	Affordable units	%
Former Johnsons Cleaners	121	121	100
Park House	106	106	100
Land at Holgate	144	62	30.1
Land at Lydiat Lane (Rakes Park)	188	80	29.9
Land north of Brackenway	183	79	30.2
Wadacre Farm	102	44	30.1
Land north of Kenyon's Lane	203	88	30.2
The Meadows ATC	130	130	100
326 Liverpool Road South	44	0	0
Telegraph House*	69	3	4.2

* Subsequent to the approval, all the homes on this scheme are to be affordable

Actions – Continue to implement the Local Plan and NPPF policies in relation to affordable housing.

Indicator 26 – (Policy HC2)

In developments of 25 homes or more the number and % of homes with:

- 1 or 2 bedrooms – target: minimum of 25% of market dwellings only
- 3 bedrooms - target: minimum of 40% of market dwellings only
- 4 bedrooms or more: maximum of 35% of market dwellings only

During 2022/23 there were five schemes approved that were relevant for this indicator and these are listed below. This policy does not apply to affordable housing, wholly flatted development or sheltered housing. The total is therefore the number of market homes on the development only and not the market and affordable together which triggers the housing mix requirement. The table below provides a summary of the sites:

Application	Site Name	1 or 2 bedrooms		3 bedrooms		4+ bedroom	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
DC/2022/00938	Land north of Brackenway	30	16.39%	114	62.30%	39	21.31%
DC/2021/00417	Land at Holgate	36	25.00%	57	39.58%	51	35.42%
DC/2022/01518	Land at Lydiate Lane (Rakes Park)	48	25.53%	75	39.89%	65	34.57%
DC/2021/00887	Land north of Kenyon's Lane	51	25.12%	81	39.90%	71	34.98%
DC/2021/02497	Wadacre Farm	24	23.53%	43	42.16%	35	34.31%
Total		189	26.27%	370	45.06%	261	28.67%

Action – Continue to implement the Local Plan policy HC2.

Indicator 27 – (Policy HC2)

Approvals of older persons housing by type, tenure and settlement (including extra care, sheltered accommodation, nursing homes etc.)

There were two older peoples approvals in 2022/23 were approved. One was at the Meadows in Woodvale where a mixed residential scheme included 2 bungalows and a 90-bed extra care facility. A second scheme was approved for 44 retirement living units at Liverpool Road South in Maghull.

Action – Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the policy.

Indicator 28 – (Policy HC2)

In approved schemes of 50 or more dwellings, the % of market homes designed to meet Building Regulation Requirement M4 (2) 'accessible and adaptable dwellings'.

The M4(2) compliant schemes in 2022/23 were as follows:

Application	Location	Accessible and adaptable homes	
		Number	% of new market homes
DC/2021/00417	Land at Holgate, Crosby	29+ units secured by s106	Minimum 20%
DC/2022/01518	Land North Of Lydiate Lane Thornton	47	25%
DC/2021/02497	Wadacre Farm, Chapel Lane, Melling	21	20.6%
DC/2022/00938	Land at Brackenway, Formby	183	100%
DC/2021/00887	Land at Kenyon's Lane, Lydiate	41 + units secured by condition	Minimum 20%

In the cases of the applications at Holgate and at Kenyons Lane, a specific figure has not been provided with the application but a minimum of 20% has been secured through either a condition or through a section 106 legal agreement.

Actions - Continue to ensure all future qualifying housing schemes meet this requirement.

Indicator 29 – (Policy HC2)

Number of approved custom or self-build homes

Three new custom or self-build homes were granted in the last year. This is the same as the previous year but significantly lower the numbers granted permission in 2017/18 and 2018/19, (31 and 28 respectively). It is not clear why this is the case and whether this is connected to the high cost of materials and labour over the last couple of years.

31 October 2015 – 30 October 2016	8 homes
31 October 2016 – 30 October 2017	6 homes
31 October 2017 - 30 October 2018	31 homes
31 October 2018 – 30 October 2019	28 homes
31 October 2019 – 30 October 2020	7 homes
31 October 2020 – 30 October 2021	9 homes
31 October 2021 – 30 October 2022	3 homes
31 October 2022 – 30 October 2023	3 homes

Action – Continue to monitor to see whether the last two year figures have been so low.

Indicator 30 – (Policy HC2)

Number of people registered on Sefton’s Custom and Self-Build

The Sefton Self-Build register was established in April 2016 and contains the following information:

Base Period	Number registered
1 – to 30/10/2016	54
2 – to 30/10/2017	37
3 – to 30/10/2018	25
4 – to 30/10/2019	26
5 – to 30/10/2020	24
6 - to 30/10/2021	39
7 – to 30/10/2022	31
8 – to 30/10/2023	4

There was a significant fall in the number of people asking to go on the register in the last year. It is not clear why this was the case. The numbers will continue to be monitored to see if this becomes a pattern.

The Council does not set local eligibility criteria for entry onto the register (as set out in the [Regulations](#)). As such Sefton’s register does not have two parts.

Action – Continue to monitoring numbers of people submitting sites for the register and number of permissions for custom build homes.

Indicator 31 – (Policy HC3)

Approvals in Primary Residential Area (PRA) that are not residential and

During late 2022/23 there were 40 non-residential approvals were granted in the PRA. All of these are considered appropriate.

Actions: Nothing at this stage. Continue to monitor

Indicator 32 – (Policy HC3)

Densities in approvals for residential development

In 2022/23 the following densities were achieved. It should be noted that some of these approvals were part of previously approved schemes, where new applications or reserved matters were submitted.

	0 to 30	30 to 50	over 50
Number of dwellings 2022/23	323 (15%)	1290 (61%)	497 (24%)
Number of dwellings 2021/22	346 (35%)	444 (44%)	212 (21%)
Number of dwellings 2020/21	69 (5%)	1174 (80%)	227 (15%)
Number of dwellings 2019/20	202 (18%)	839 (76%)	68(6%)
Number of dwellings 2018/19	434(27.5%)	887(56.2%)	257(16.3%)
Number of dwellings 2017/18	158 (28.5%)	333 (60%)	64 (11.5%)
Number of dwellings 2016/17	179 (29.9%)	290 (48.5%)	129 (21.6%)

Actions - Nothing at this stage. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 33 – (Policy HC4)

Applications for conversions to Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and the proportions refused/approved

16 applications have been submitted in 2022/23 for HMOs. Three were approved, two were lawful development, two were withdrawn and nine were refused. Of those refused, to 31st March 2023, three had been appealed with one allowed and two appeals being dismissed. The following list of conversions to HMOs were submitted in the last year:

Application Number	Application Address	Council Decision	Appeal Decision
DC/2022/01358	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	Allowed on Appeal
DC/2022/01361	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	Dismissed
DC/2022/01399	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	Dismissed
DC/2022/01875	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	
DC/2022/01874	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	
DC/2022/01947	101 South Road, Waterloo	Refused	
DC/2022/00066	118 Old Park Lane, Southport	Approved	

DC/2022/00260	18 Antonio Street, Bootle	Refused	
DC/2022/02312	21 Hawkshead Street, Southport	Approved	
DC/2022/01964	24 Pembroke Road, Bootle	Refused	
DC/2022/01892	26 Beaconsfield Road, Seaforth	Withdrawn	
DC/2022/01980	3 Hereford Road, Seaforth	Lawful Development	
DC/2022/01276	5 and 5A Bury Road, Birkdale	Approved	
DC/2022/00656	5A Bury Road, Birkdale	Lawful Development	
DC/2022/01569	61 Worcester Road, Bootle	Withdrawn	
DC/2022/02201	61 Worcester Road, Bootle	Refused	

Actions- Nothing at this stage. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 34 – (Policy HC4)

Total number of HMOs in Sefton and by ward

The number of HMOS per ward is:

BIRKDALE	2
BLUNDELLSANDS	2
CAMBRIDGE	28
CHURCH	19
DERBY	18
DUKES	41
FORD	3
KEW	9
LINACRE	16
LITHERLAND	3
MANOR	1
NETHERTON AND ORRELL	4
NORWOOD	10
ST OSWALD	4
VICTORIA	2
Total	162

Actions- Nothing at this stage. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 35 – (Policy HC5)

Five-year traveller pitch supply

The 2022 Sefton Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) outlined that the Borough has the following pitch needs:

Need for Gypsy and Traveller households 2021-2041

Status	2021-2041
Meet Planning Definition	22
Undetermined	3
Do not meet Planning Definition	13

Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that met that planning definition by five-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-2031	2031-36	2036-41	
	12	3	4	3	22

Need for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households by five-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-2031	2031-36	2036-41	
	2	0	1	0	3

Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that did not meet the planning definition by five-year periods

Years	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Total
	2021-26	2026-2031	2031-36	2036-41	
	8	1	3	1	13

For the current 5-year period (2023-2028) this equates to a requirement of 14 pitches to meet identified Traveller needs. This is made up from 12 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households in Sefton that met that planning definition and 2 pitches for undetermined Gypsy and Traveller households. These are set out in the tables above.

The current supply consists of six pitches and so there is a shortfall of 8 pitches over the 2023-28 period.

Action- No action on supply needed until the next Local Plan. Continue to work to implement existing Local Plan Traveller sites.

Indicator 36 – (Policy HC5)

Provision of traveller pitches (permanent/transit)

No Traveller pitches were granted permission in 2022/23.

Actions- None. Continue to monitor.

Indicator 37 – (Policy HC5)

Number, size and duration of unauthorised traveller encampments

There were 22 unauthorised encampments in 2022/23. In 2021/22 there were also 22 unauthorised encampments. In 2020/21 there were just 6. However the Covid pandemic and restrictions on movement may explain the small number in the year.

DATE ARRIVED/VACATED	LOCATION	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
03/04/22 – 06/04/22	Field near Bullbridge Lane/Spencers Lane, Aintree	13 Caravans / 14 associated vehicles
18/05/22 – 19/05/22	Sands Pub Car Park, Ainsdale	1 Caravan/ 1 associated vehicle
04/06/22 – 06/06/22	Tulketh Street, Car Park Southport	4 Caravans 1 Motorhome
06/06/22 – 13/06/22	Jubilee Woods, Bridge Road, Maghull, L31 8BT	5 Caravans / 5 associated vehicles
12/06/22 – 16/06/22	Kew Park & Ride Car Park Foul Lane, Southport	19 Caravans/17 associated vehicles
22/06/22 – 30/06/22	Crosby Marina, Cambridge Road, (Near Lakeside Car park)	3 Caravans / 2 associated vehicles
19/07/22 – 23/07/22	Kew Park and Ride Car Park Southport	7 Caravans / 8 associated vehicles
20/07/22 – 22/07/22	Botanic Gardens, Verulam Road Car Park Southport	5 Caravans/6 associated vehicles
22/07/22 – 23/07/22	Duke Street Park Southport	6 Caravans/12 associated vehicles
04/08/22 - 05/08/22	Higher End Park (Land adjacent to Road) Netherton	3 Caravans
09/08/22 – 11/08/22	Car Park near Lifeboat Centre,	5 Motorhomes plus 1 Transit

	Burbo Bank Car Park, Crosby	
09/08/22 – 11/08/22	Ho Lee Chow Restaurant, Rotten Row, Southport	1 Caravan/1 vehicle
14/08/22 – 16/08/22	Southport Theatre Convention Centre, Southport, PR9 0DZ	5 Motorhomes plus 1 Transit
21/08/22 – 23/08/22	Kew Park and Ride Car Park Southport	5 Caravans / 2 associated vehicles/ 2 pick up trucks
24/08/22 – 26/08/22	Playing Fields, End of Ferryside Lane, Crossens, PR9 9JG	7 Caravans / 2 associated vehicles/ 2 pick up trucks
07/9/22 – 10/09/22	Fairway Park and Ride Southport	3 Caravans
16/9/22 – 17/09/22	Fairway Park and Ride Southport	3 Caravans
08/09/22 – 16/09/22	Kew Park and Ride Car Park Southport	3 Caravans
22/09/22 – 23/09/23	Marine Drive Car Park Southport	4 Caravans / 2 associated vehicles
26/09/22 – 28/09/22	Rimrose Valley Road, Chaffers Running Track, L22 4RS	6 Caravans / 3 associated vehicles
27/02/23 – 02/03/23	The Esplanade, Southport, PR9 1RX (Near Park and Ride)	5 Caravans / 4 associated vehicles
12/03/23 – 18/03/23	Buckley Hill Playing Fields, Buckley Hill, Netherton	9 Caravans /7 associated vehicles.

	Average no. Caravans	Average no. days
2016/17	8	4
2017/18	6	4
2018/19	11	3
2019/20	8	3

2020/21	8	5
2021/22	8	4
2022/23	6	3

Action- Continue to work with multi-agencies to monitor unauthorised encampments.

Indicator 38 – (Policy HC6)

No. of applications that affect an Asset of Community Value.

There was one application on an Asset of Community Value at the Former Carnegie Library at College Road in Crosby. The application was a change of use from a public Library to an office, digital hub, restaurant with an extension and a mezzanine floor.

Action- None

Indicator 39 – (Policy HC7)

Approvals in Sites of Education and Care Institutions and % inappropriate

There were 15 approvals this year for schemes on sites designated as ‘Education and Care Institutions’ as set out in Local Plan policy HC7. All of the applications were appropriate as per policy HC7 part 1.

Action- Continue to implement the policy.

4. Infrastructure

Indicator 41 – (Policy IN2)

Number of schemes in part 1 of Policy IN2

There have been no schemes from part 1 of policy IN2 implemented in 2022-23.

Action- None

5. Design and Environmental Quality

Indicator 42 – (Policy EQ3)

% of new build housing within appropriate (SPD) distance to bus stop; rail station; GP; Primary School

There were 1,769 'new build' dwellings granted planning permission in 2022/23. On 53 sites. These were assessed against the Travel SPD measures of accessibility, which determine whether a development site is accessible in the three bands shown.

	High	Medium	Low	Grand Total
Bus	85.2%	14.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Rail	16.3%	16.4%	67.3%	100.0%
GP	66.6%	1.8%	31.6%	100.0%
School	99.4%	0.3%	0.3%	100.0%

Action – None. Continue to monitor

Indicator 43 – (Policy EQ6)

Contaminated land remediated as part of development

Sefton Borough has a legacy of land contamination as a consequence of historical industrial land uses. Issues vary significantly in their nature and extent across the Borough. Progress on remediation is difficult to monitor as the risk depends on the proposed end use, nature of contamination and proximity to a potential source of contamination. For example, the potential for cross boundary contamination onto sites that may not appear to be affected by contamination is also considered. Typically, the assessment of a site is undertaken in four stages and each stage requires a specific report. During 2022/23 132 reports were reviewed and these are set out in the tables below.

Assessment	2023	
	No. of reports prepared	Area (Hectare)

Phase 1 – Preliminary Investigation	13	20.75
Phase 2 – Site Investigation & Risk Assessment	31	73.33
Phase 3 – Remediation Strategy	21	79.22
Phase 4 – Verification Report	67	28.53
TOTAL	132	201.83

Action – None. Continue to liaise with the Contaminated Land Team.

Indicator 44 – (Policy EQ8)

Number of applications refused on flood risk grounds

There were no applications refused on flood risk grounds in 2022/23.

Action – None. Continue to implement Local Plan and NPPF policies.

Indicator 45 – (Policy EQ8)

Number of major applications approved with conditions and/or legal agreements related to SuDS

In 2022/23 14 out of 21 (67%), major applications were approved with conditions and/or legal agreements related to SuDS. This compares to 83% in 2021/22, 88% in 2020/21, 77% in 2019/20, 77% in 2018/19, 86% in 2017/18 and 78% in 2016/17.

The schemes where these were not required were:

- There was a change of use or minor extensions and alterations to existing large sites where a SuDS scheme was not appropriate.
- Reserved matters application where the SuDS had been secured with the outline application, (Land at Brackenway, Formby).
- A small addition to an existing scheme, where SuDS has been secured for the main part of the scheme, (Land north of Liverpool Road, Formby).
- A scheme to improve the sand dunes in Ainsdale where the sand dunes provide natural drainage.

Action – None. Continue to implement Local Plan and NPPF policies.

Indicator 46 – (Policy EQ9)

Area of new Public Open Space approved on:

- Schemes of 150 or more dwellings

Proposals for 11 to 149 dwellings on sites which are more than 2km from a main park or Countryside Recreation Area

Land north of Kenyon's Lane, Land at Lydiate Lane (Rakes Park), Land north of Brackenway and Land at Holgate all were schemes approved for over 150 homes that included open space on site. In the case of Raikes Park and Brackenway, these were reserved matters applications. Land north of Liverpool Road, Formby also got planning permission but this was an update on a previous permission that had already secured public open space on site.

Actions – None.

Indicator 47 – (Policy EQ9)

Financial contributions secured through section 106 to improve existing open space

This indicator is reported on separately as part of a planning obligations monitoring report.

Actions - None. The Policy Team will advise if financial contributions are appropriate in line with the Open Space SPD.

Indicator 48 – (Policy EQ10)

Approvals (and refusals) of hot food takeaway uses in designated centres, shopping parades, within 400m of a secondary school or college (including those restricted to opening after 5pm)

The Local Plan includes a policy supported by the Control of Hot Foods and Betting Shops Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that seeks to restrict new hot food takeaway uses in areas that are close to secondary schools or colleges, and in centres and shopping parades where there is already considered to be an oversupply.

Two applications were received and approved in 2022/23 for hot food takeaways. Neither were within 400 metres of a school.

Actions - Nothing at this stage. Continue to implement policy.

6. Natural and Heritage Assets

Indicator 49 - (Policy NH2)

Approvals in International, National and Local Nature Sites and % Inappropriate

There were seven approvals in 2022/23 on International, National and Local Nature sites. These included the creation of dune slacks, dune notches and grassland in the Ainsdale sand dunes that will enhance the habitat and the reserved matters for Land at Brackenway, Formby where improved management of a LNS will be a benefit. None of the approvals were considered to cause significant damage to the designated sites.

Action – None. Continue to monitor and liaise with the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

Indicator 50 – (Policy NH3)

Approvals in Nature Improvement Areas and % Inappropriate

There were six approvals in Nature Improvements Areas in 2022/23. All were considered to not have an adverse impact upon the aims of the NIA.

Action – None. Continue to monitor and liaise with MEAS.

Indicator 51 – (Policy NH4)

Approvals in Coastal Change Management Area and % Inappropriate

Three applications were received in the coastal change management area.

Two of the proposals are temporary applications where the type, location and length of occupation of the development will not impact upon coastal change.

The third application is a sand dune management scheme which is consistent with natural coastal change management.

Action – None. Continue to implement Local Plan Policy

Indicator 52 – (Policy NH5)

Approvals in Public Open Space and % Inappropriate

There were eight approvals on public open space. All eight were uses compatible with an open space.

Action – None. Continue to implement Local Plan Policy

Indicator 53 – (Policy NH6)

**Approvals in Urban Golf Course and %
Inappropriate**

In 2022/23 there was one approval on an urban Golf course. This was for an irrigation tank and concrete base on Hesketh Golf Links.

Action – None. Continue to implement Local Plan Policy

Indicator 54 – (Policies NH9-14)

**% of Listed Buildings surveyed as part of Heritage at Risk
assessment**

This year Nov 22 to December 23 the Council surveyed 152 of its listed building entries 27% of the total, this is a decrease of 19.11% from the previous year. However, it still exceeds the target of 20% per year. See indirect impact indicator 73 for more information.

Actions- Continue to survey listed buildings at risk.

Indicator 55 - (Policies NH9-14)

**Conservation Area Appraisals
adopted**

There are 25 Conservation Areas in Sefton. This year Green Lane and Hesketh Road were adopted increasing the amount to 15 (60%) having adopted Conservation Area Appraisals to date.

Actions - Continue with work on draft Conservation Area Appraisals. Determine which of the other Conservation Areas are priorities for Conservation Area Appraisals.

Indicator 56 - (Policies NH9-14)

Conservation Area Management Plans adopted

There are 25 Conservation Areas in Sefton, this year Green Lane and Hesketh Road were adopted increasing the amount to 16% having adopted Management Plans to date.

Actions - Adopt Management Plans for Conservation Areas as they are completed and determine which of the other Conservation Areas are priorities for having Management Plans.

Section B

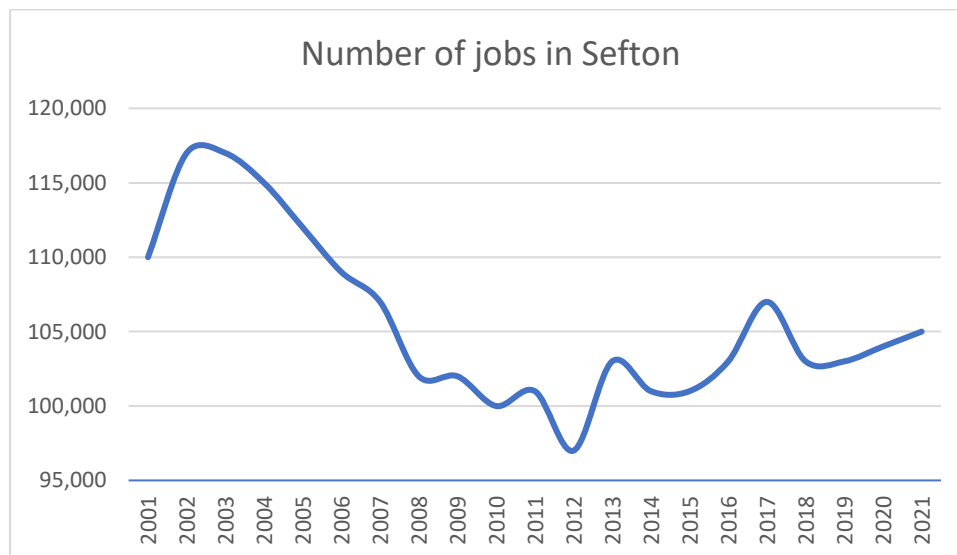
Indirect Impact Indicators

The following indicators are indirect indicators.

Indicator 57 – (Economy)

Number of jobs in Sefton

The number of jobs in has fallen quite considerably since 2002, although the numbers have started to recover from a low of 97,000 jobs in 2012. The most recently published data (2021) shows that there are 105,000 jobs in Sefton. The jobs density in Sefton of 0.63 (i.e. the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64) remains much lower than both the north-west (0.84) and United Kingdom (0.85). These figures reflect the historic role of Sefton as a commuter area. It is expected that the number of jobs may decrease over the next couple of years as a result of the current living crisis and this will be reported in future years.

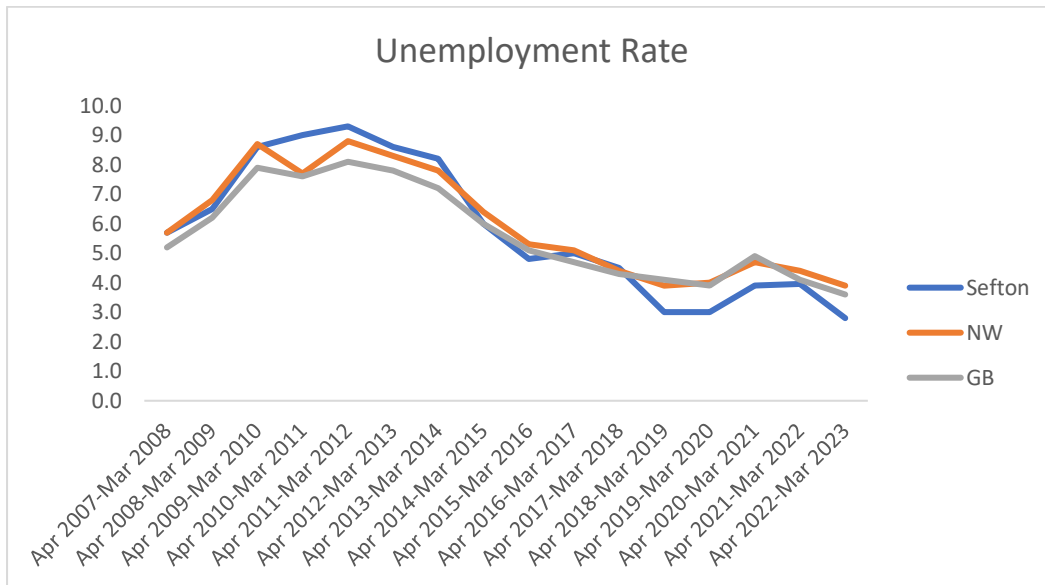


Indicator 58 – (Economy)

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in Sefton has dropped significantly since a peak unemployment rate of 9.3% in 2012. Between April 2022 and March 2023 the rate stood at 2.8 (yearly average)

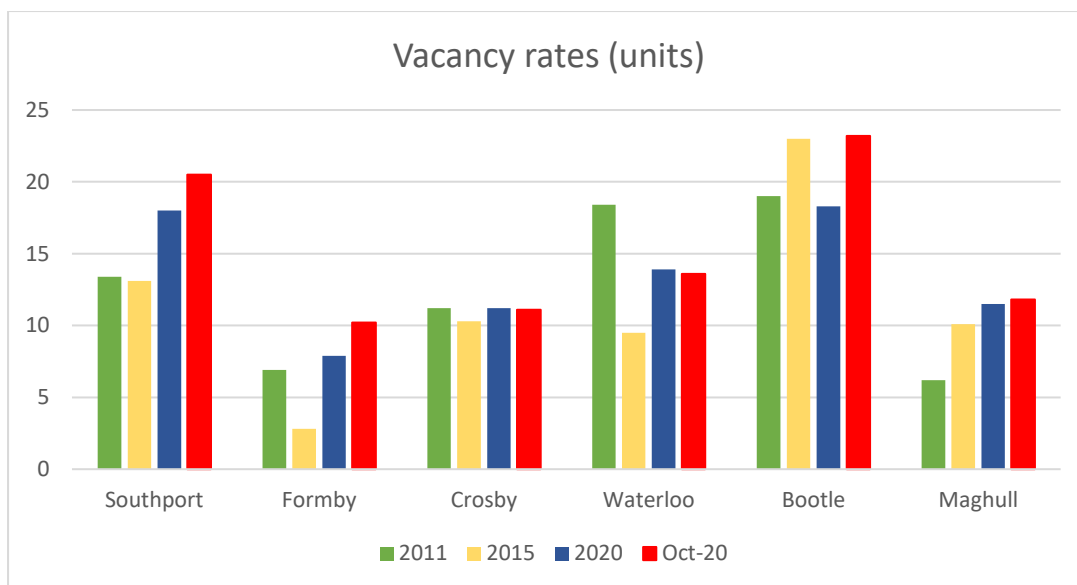
April – March). This is slightly lower than both the Northwest average, the Great Britain average and last year (4.0%).



Indicator 59 – (Local Centres)
Retail ranking of Bootle and Southport

This information is no longer available to Sefton.

Indicator 60 – (Local Centres)
Vacancy rates (units) in designated



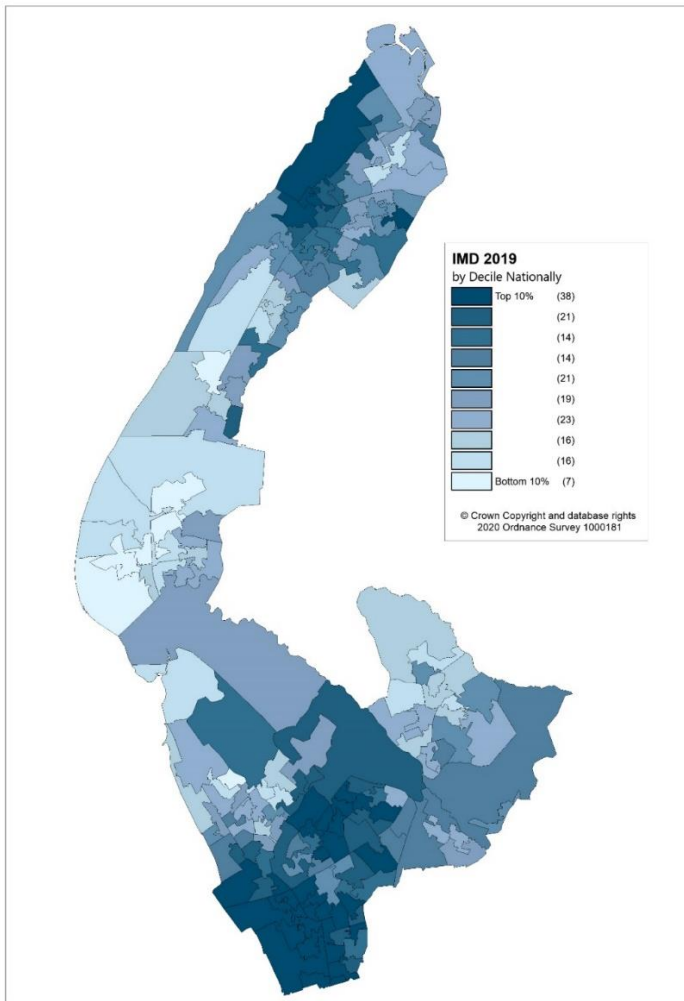
A health check assessment of Sefton’s principal centres was received in 2021 (using data from October 2020) to assess the consequences of the Covid pandemic. There is a general upward trend in vacant units within the borough’s principle centres, with Bootle, Southport and Formby being particularly hard hit by the pandemic. However, during the time since the 2020 town and district health check, Crosby and Waterloo slightly reduced the percentage of vacant units.

Indicator 61 – (Communities)

% of Sefton’s population living in 20% most deprived areas in England

The most recently published information relating to this indicator is the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. This shows that 30.49% of Sefton’s population lives within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. This is an increase since 2015 when 25.7% of Sefton’s population were in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

The darkest colour in the map and chart represents the most deprived. The map shows that in Sefton most areas of Bootle and Netherton and parts of central Southport are classed as being within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.



Indicator 62 – (Communities)
Social Housing waiting lists

At 31st March 2023 the number of active applicants on the Sefton Housing Register was 3,310. A small fall on the previous year and showing part of a longer-term pattern of a fall in the waiting list from 5,693 in 2019.

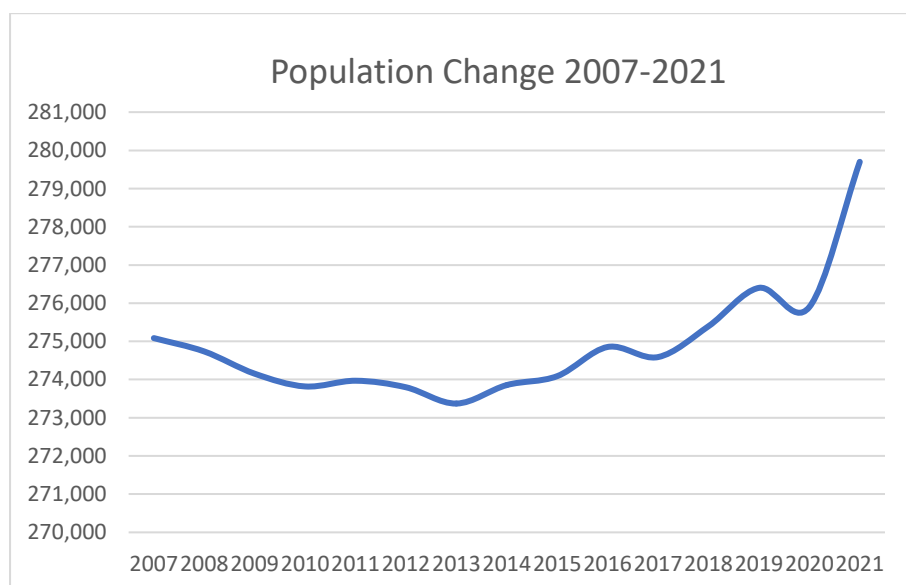
At 31 st March	No. of active applicants on the Sefton Housing Register
2023	3,310
2022	3,744
2021	4,005
2020	5,290

At 31 st March	No. of active applicants on the Sefton Housing Register
2023	3,310
2022	3,744
2019	5,693
2018	4,760
2017	3,917
2016	3,190

Indicator 63

Population in Sefton

Nomis have update the 2021 figure up from 279,300 to 279,700 otherwise there is no change to report. Whilst the figure showed a considerable rise in population, this reflected the new census data in 2021.

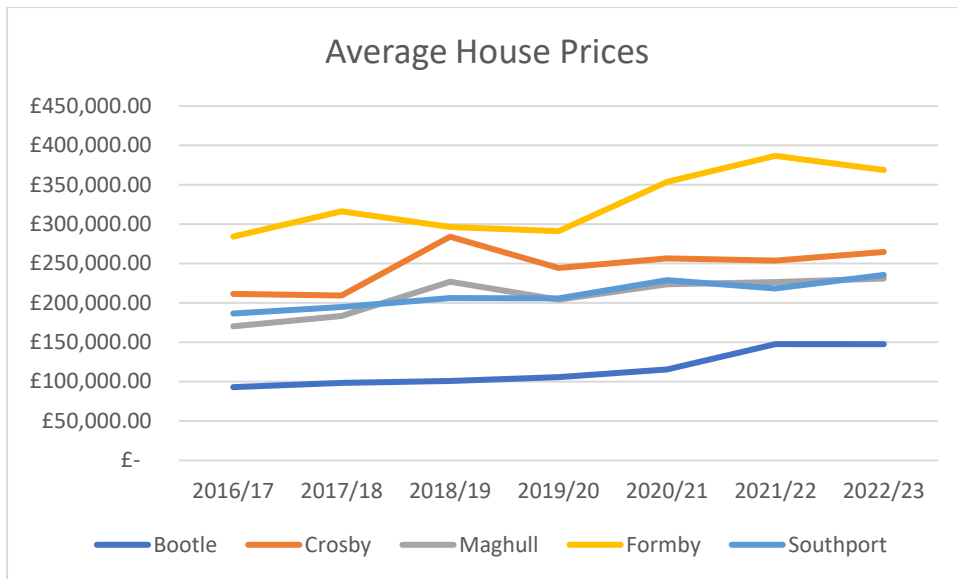


Source: Nomis

Indicator 64 – (Housing)

Average House Prices by Area

The average house prices per area in 2022/23 were:



Data taken from Rightmove

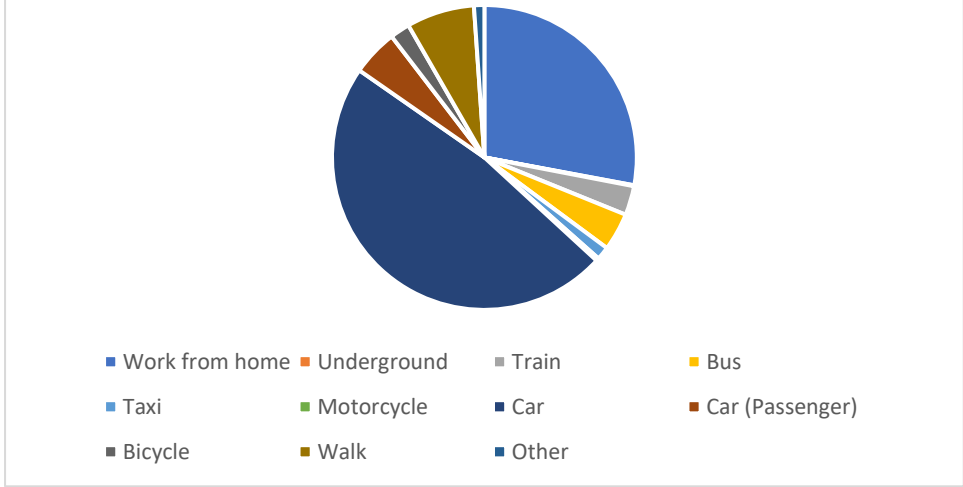
Indicator 65 – (Accessibility)

Travel to work by transport mode

The latest data from the census shows the travel to work method of usual Sefton residents aged 16 years and over. The below chart does not contain the figures for those not in employment.

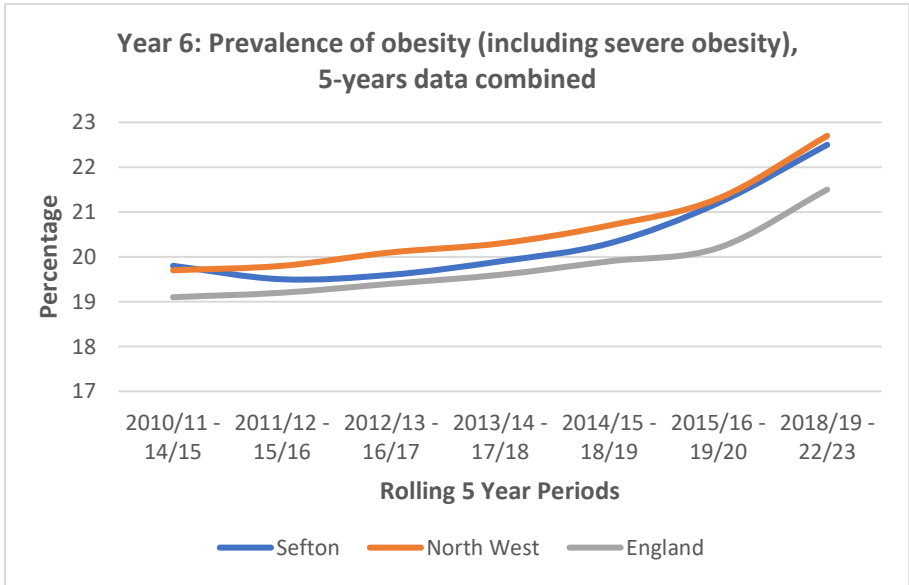
Mode of Travel	Percentage
Work from home	27.90%
Underground	0.10%
Train	3.10%
Bus	4.00%
Taxi	1.40%
Motorcycle	0.30%
Car	47.80%
Car (Passenger)	4.90%
Bicycle	2.10%
Walk	7.20%
Other	1.10%

Travel to work mode of transport 2023

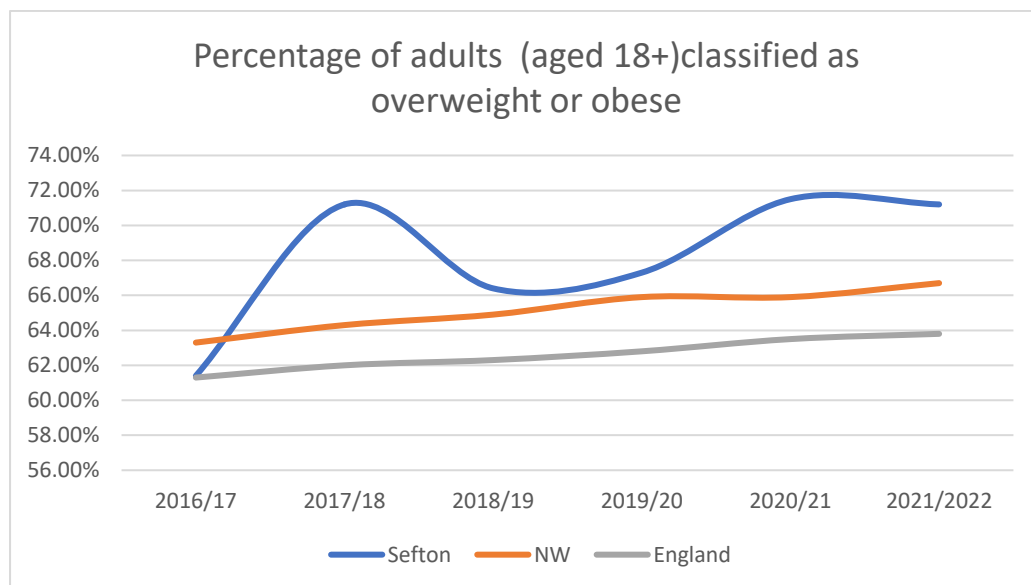


Indicator 66 – (Health and Wellbeing)
Obesity rates in adults/children

Child obesity profiles are available for year 6 children from Public Health England. The following rolling averages for Sefton, and those for the Northwest and England, show that there is a continued upward trend on the obesity rates for children.



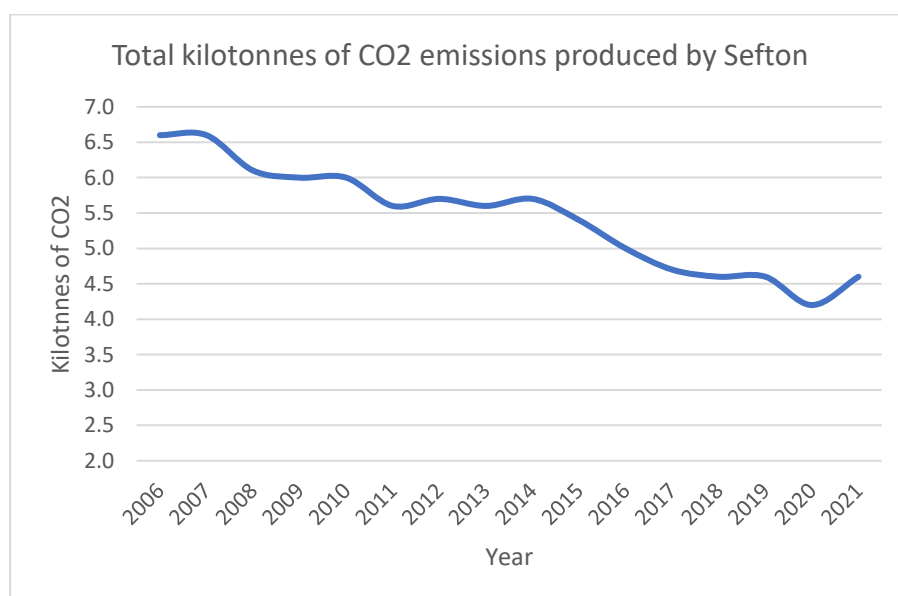
Obesity and overweight rates for adults in Sefton is higher than those for the Northwest and England. Sefton has had a small fall in overweight and obese adults whereas the Northwest region and England continue to see increases.



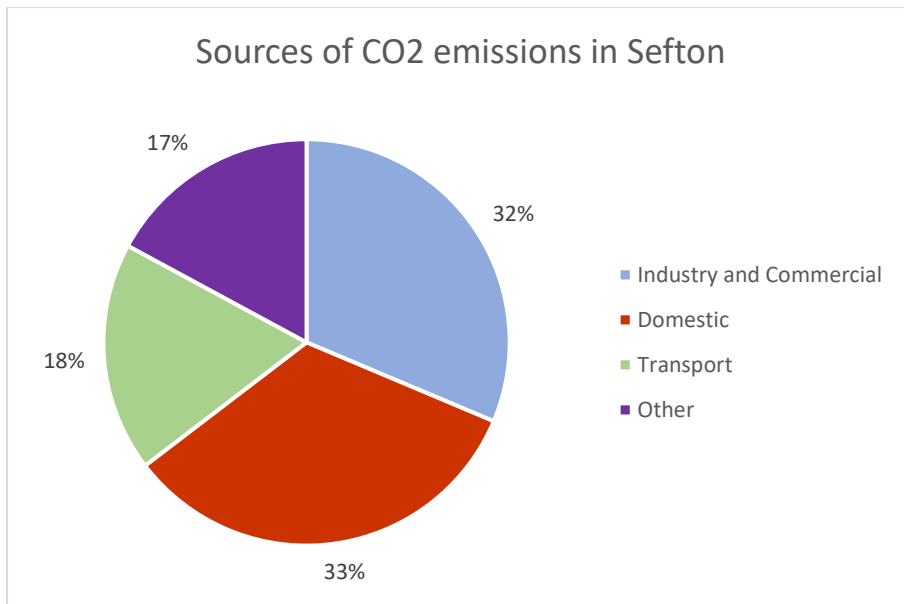
Indicator 67 – (Climate Change and Resource Use)

Carbon emissions by source (CO2 per person)

The amount of carbon per capita emissions for 2021 was 4.6 (tCO²e). This was a small increase on the year before. However this might be explained by the fall in both domestic and commercial activity in 2020 and the subsequent increase in activity in 2021. The long-term trend is still downwards.



See [2005-21-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions-update-060723.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)



Indicator 68 – (Flooding)
Total number of homes and businesses classed at risk from flooding

The Council has identified the number of homes and commercial properties that are within Flood Zones 2 or 3 or in any area classed as being at risk (1 in 100 years) of surface water flooding as follows:

	Residential Properties	Commercial Properties
Properties in Flood Zone 2	6805	691
Properties in Flood Zone 3*	5981	498
Risk of Surface Water Flooding (1 in 100 years)	13477	1796

*Properties within Flood Zone 3 are also counted within Flood Zone 2. 824 residential and 193 commercial properties are in Flood Zone 3.

These figures are based on Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea) and Flood risk maps for surface water published by the Environment Agency in January 2023.

Indicator 69 – (Environmental Quality)

Air quality at monitoring stations

The table below sets out the average annual readings from four monitoring stations in Sefton this year so far and for the previous 4 years as an annual average figure for four types of pollutants. It would appear that the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions has had a negative impact on air quality in all locations in Sefton when compared to 2020 when the country was in a stricter lockdown.

Indicator 69 – (Environmental Quality)

	Nitric Oxide/ppb					Nitrogen Dioxide/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$					Oxides of Nitrogen/ppb					PM10 Particles/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Crosby Road South	13.8	-	9.6	9	-	35.9	-	23.3	25.8	-	32.6	-	21.7	22.4	-	25.2	-	-	-	-
Millers Bridge, Bootle	19.7	15.7	-	17	16.2	38.2	32.5	-	34.1	31.6	39.7	32.7	-	34.8	32.7	16.5	17.3	16.1	19.0	19.9
Princess Way, Seaforth	38.7	29.2	-	29	29.9	41.6	30.7	-	31.5	33.8	59.7	45.2	-	45.5	47.3	17.7	21.2	19.7	15.5	13.4
Waterloo Primary School	17.7	9.4	-	13.8	14.9	34.8	23.7	-	29.1	25	35.8	21.8	-	29.0	27.8	23.1	-	-	15.5	-
Hawthorne Road	23.4	17.9	-	15.7	16.3	33.6	27.1	27.1	26.9	25.2	41.7	31.8	-	29.7	29.3	23.7	20.6	19.6	18.6	21.3

Indicator 70 _ (Environmental Quality)

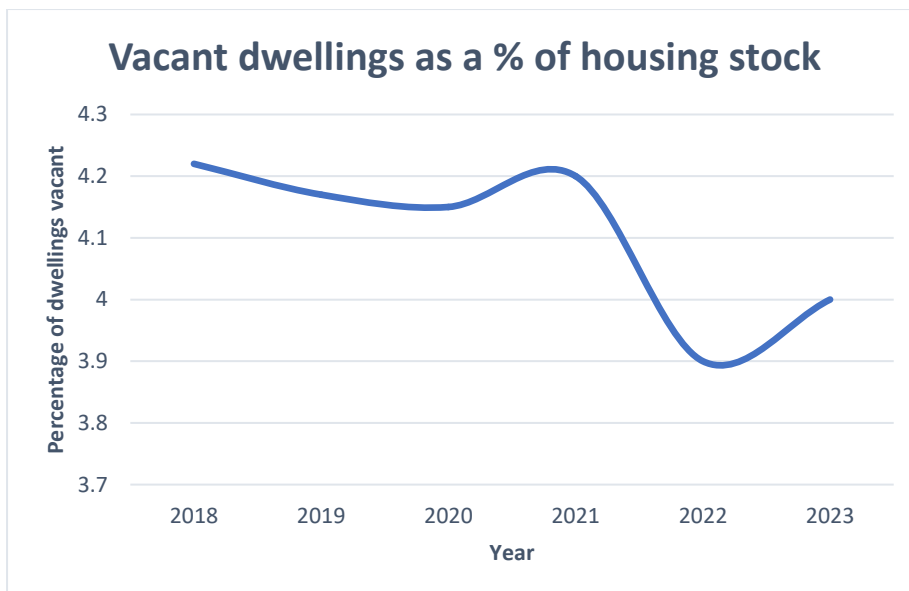
River Quality

The Environment Agency has not provided data on river quality since 2009. The Council will look at alternative indicators in future monitoring reports.

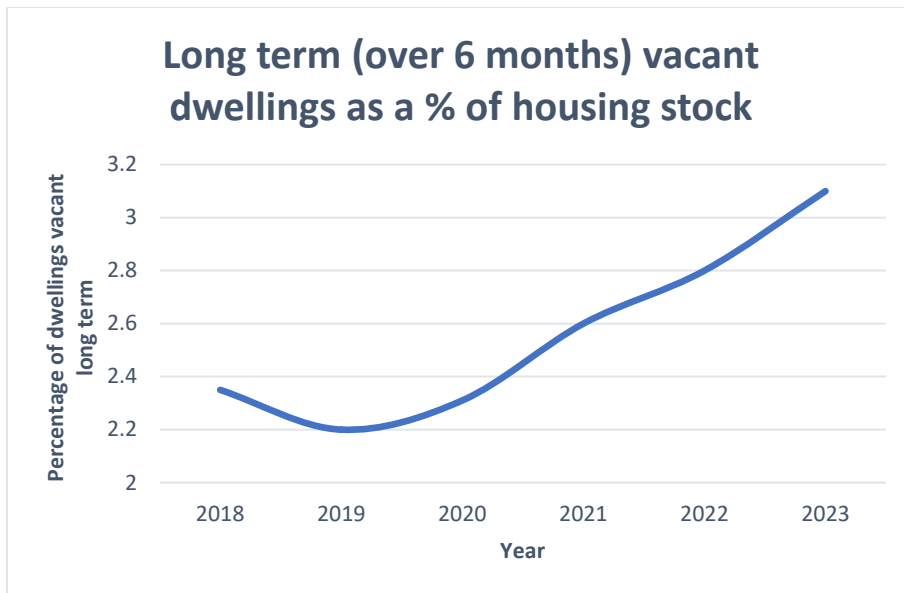
Indicator 71 – (Environmental Quality)

Vacant home rate

The overall vacant home rate for 2023 was 4.0%. This represents a consistent pattern from previous years and a small raise from 3.9% the year before.



The chart below shows the proportion of long-term housing vacancies (those vacant for 6 months or more). The latest figure available for the Long-Term Vacancy rate also relates to 31st March 2023 and is 3.1%. There has been a gradual increase over the last 6 years. This is reflective of the difficulties in bringing back longer-term vacant units back into use, as they often require significant renovation.



Indicator 72 – (Biodiversity)

Local sites and sites in positive conservation

In 18 of Sefton's of 56 Local Wildlife Sites (32.14%) positive conservation management is being or has been implemented in the 5 years prior to 31/3/2022. To date this figure has not been updated for 2023.

Indicator 73 – (Culture and Heritage)

Number of listed buildings 'at risk'

This year Nov 22 to December 23 the list includes 54 listed buildings or structures at risk, which is an increase of 1 from the previous year.

The number of buildings that have been removed from the list to Dec 23 was 2.

- 143 509-515 Lord St. with attached verandah
- 392 St. Nicholas Fountain

The number of buildings that have been included in the list to Dec23 was 3.

- 222 Southport Pier
- 424 Education department and front wall
- 462 Barn to East of Grange Farm

Indicator 74 – (Culture and Heritage)

Number of Conservation Areas 'at risk'

6 Conservation Areas have been identified as 'at risk'. These are:

Christchurch, Lord Street, North Meols, Promenade, Waterloo Park and West Birkdale.

This is unchanged since last year, as developments of "at risk" buildings progress it is hoping these will allow removal of some Conservation Areas.

Indicator 75 – (Culture and Heritage)

Number of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk'

There is one Scheduled Monument identified as 'at risk'. This is Sefton [Old Hall moated site and fishponds](#). This is unchanged since last year

Indicator 76 – (Culture and Heritage)

Parks with Green Flag status

The Council will no longer be pursuing Green Flag Status for its parks. Instead it is looking to develop the APSE Land Audit Management System, which provides a platform for all sites to be audited for quality by staff and volunteers.

Section C

Duty to Cooperate

The duty to cooperate was created in the Localism Act 2011, and amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters.

Local Authorities must also, through their Authority's Monitoring Report, give details on the actions they have taken during the period covered by the report in co-operating with other local planning authorities and others under the duty. In July 2018 the government introduced a requirement for a Statement of Common Ground through the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), carried forward into the 2023 NPPF (paragraphs 24 to 27).

Statement of Common Ground

As part of this co-operation Sefton Council, the other local authorities in the Liverpool City Region (including West Lancashire) and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority prepared a draft Statement of Common Ground. This was approved by the Combined Authority and the other constituent local authorities in the period from July to September 2019 and was reported to Sefton's Cabinet on 25th July 2019. This is reviewed regularly and is again currently being reviewed.

The Statement of Common Ground covers a wide range of spatial planning matters, including housing delivery, employment land, the Green Belt, the retail hierarchy, transport planning, digital inclusion, utilities, renewables, health and wellbeing, environmental and green infrastructure and waste and minerals. The document includes 20 specific points of common ground – either already established or setting out areas where the LCR authorities will work together to deal with cross-boundary strategic matters.

This follows on from the Liverpool City Region Statement of Cooperation on Local Planning approved by Sefton Council in October 2016 and by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and each of the other City Region local authorities.

Recreation Mitigation Strategy

The protected nature sites on the Sefton Coast and coast elsewhere in the Liverpool City Region are under increasing pressure from recreation, from both residents and visitors to the City Region. Recreation use is known to be damaging, for example, trampling and wildlife disturbance from a wide range of activities.

This was recognised in the 2015 and 2016 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports for the Sefton Local Plan, which identify the potential for new housing development in Sefton to increase recreation pressure on the internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast; and the need to mitigate this pressure to less than significant. Similar issues

arise for neighbouring authorities, in relation to both the Sefton Coast and the coast elsewhere in the region.

For a number of years Sefton Council has been jointly working with Natural England, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, the other Liverpool City Region local authorities, the Mayoral Combined Authority, West Lancashire Council and the National Trust to prepare a Recreation Mitigation Strategy for the City Region's coast. An evidence gathering phase has resulted in the publication of an evidence document and strategic mitigation measures which underpins

interim approaches for Sefton and neighbouring authorities, pending collection of further evidence and a sub-regional joint Supplementary Planning Document, (SPD) of a Liverpool City Region Recreation Mitigation Strategy approach. The collaborative work (including the published supporting evidence) carried out so far has been examined independently by the Planning Inspectorate, for example for the Halton and Liverpool Local Plans.

In December 2021 Sefton's Interim Approach was approved for development management and consultation purposes, to be used. It has been endorsed by Natural England. In May 2023 an updated interim approach was adopted for development management purposes. This reflects the most recent evidence.

The Interim Approach is an 'opt in' approach; if applicants do not wish to opt-in to this scheme, they must make sure that sufficient bespoke information is provided with their planning application, prior approval or permitted development scheme to enable the Council to make a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The basis of the Interim Approach is that Sefton Council has considered, costed and assessed the likely scale of housing development in Sefton and beyond, levels of visitor pressure from different parts of Sefton, and measures that will mitigate recreation pressure from this housing to less than significant on the Sefton Coast. This mitigation will be through the provision of an integrated set of measures both on the Coast and green and open spaces within the Borough, funded by those opting in by s106 commuted sum payments. These commuted sums will be monitored through the Council's usual s106 planning obligation monitoring procedures.

The proposed SPD scope was consulted on in the Autumn of 2023 and it is expected to be adopted later in 2024/early 2025.

Statement of Community Involvement

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was updated in March 2018 and sets out the Council's commitment to working with the following Duty to co-operate bodies:

1. Environment Agency
2. English Heritage
3. Natural England
4. Civil Aviation Authority.
5. Homes and Communities Agency

6. Clinical Commissioning Groups.
7. NHS England
8. Office of the Rail Regulator
9. Highways Agency
10. Integrated Transport Authorities
11. Highway Authorities
12. Marine Management Organisation
13. Local Enterprise Partnerships
14. Neighbouring Local Authorities
15. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

It also sets the requirement to consult 'specific' and 'general' consultation bodies and other consultees including the community, business and third sector groups when consulting on planning policy documents. For more information see the SCI. We continue to liaise with these bodies as necessary throughout 2023/24 and beyond.

Other Cooperation

During 2021–2022, Sefton Council continued to undertake a range of activities relating to the Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities and other key stakeholders on strategic planning matters. This includes on-going liaison regarding preparation of their development plans and the city region Spatial Development Strategy. We continue to liaise with these bodies as necessary throughout 2023/24 and beyond.

Section D

Progress with Local Development Scheme

This section reports on the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was updated in August 2023.

Local Plan Review

The Sefton Local Plan was adopted in April 2017. In line with national guidance, it should be reviewed to see if all or part of it needs updating by April 2022. However, the emerging Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will introduce a new approach to local plan making. The government has indicated that, from November 2024, all local planning authorities who have a Local Plan older than 5 years and are not well advanced in the preparation of a replacement, should commence on a new style Local Plan under the reformed system.

As such, the Council did not think it expedient at this point to commence work on a replacement Local Plan until the reformed system was in place. Now the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act has received royal assent, and when the new plan-making regulations are published, the Council will set out a timetable once the expected timescales to do a new Local Plan become clear.

Bootle Area Action Plan

The Council have decided to produce an Area action Plan for Bootle. This was included in the 2021 Local Development Scheme. It was expected that Issues and Option consultation would happen during July to September 2021. This slipped a little and was undertaken November 2021 to January 2022.

Preferred Options consultation is was programmed to occur in August to November 2023. This slipped by one month. The LDS sets out the publication draft for May-June 2024. This is likely to slip one month due to the minor slippage of the Preferred Options. The AAP is timetabled in the LDS to be submitted for Examination in August 2024. This is likely to slip by approximately one month due the earlier minor delays as already indicated.

Neighbourhood Plans

See current position as set out in Section E below.

Section E

Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act 2011 gives local communities the right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan to develop a shared vision and shape the development and growth of their local area. The Council has a statutory duty to support this activity.

The process for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set out by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ('The Regulations') is subject to several key stages which include:

1. Designation of the neighbourhood plan area;
2. Pre-submission publicity and consultation;
3. Submission of the plan to the Local Planning Authority;
4. Consultation by the Local Planning Authority;
5. Independent Examination;
6. Referendum; and
7. Making the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. bringing it into force).

Four areas have been designated for neighbourhood planning purposes in Sefton - Formby and Little Altcar; Maghull; Lydiate; and Melling. The Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan area was approved in 2013, whilst the Maghull, Melling and Lydiate areas were approved in 2015. Progress in these areas is set out below and illustrated on the map on the next page. Once in force, Neighbourhood Plans form part of Sefton's development plan. They are used to help determine planning applications in the area they cover along with the Sefton Local Plan (2017) and Waste Local Plan (2013).

Lydiate

The Council 'made' (i.e. brought into force) the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 24 January 2019. Consultation on the submission version of the plan took place between June and July 2018. The Examiner's report was received on 18 September 2018. The referendum was held on 18 December 2018 and 715 residents (87%) of the local community voted in favour of the plan compared to 108 (13%) who voted against on a 16.36% turnout

Maghull

The Council 'made' (i.e. brought into force) the Maghull Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 24 January 2019. Consultation on the submission version of the plan took place between June and July 2018. The Examiner's report was received on 22 October 2018. The referendum was held on 18 December 2018 and 2,253 residents (86%) of the local

community voted in favour of the plan compared to 369 (14%) who voted against on a 16.04% turnout.

Maghull Town Council have indicated a wish to review their Neighbourhood Plan and the Council will work with them on this.

Formby and Little Altcar

The Council 'made' (i.e. brought into force) the Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 21 November 2019. Consultation on the submission version of the plan took place between 27 March and 15 May 2019. The Examiner's report was received on 12 August 2019. The referendum was held on 10 October 2019 and 2,601 residents (86%) of the local community voted in favour of the plan compared to 428 (14%) who voted against on a 16.02% turnout.

Melling

Melling Parish Council have prepared and gathered evidence with a view to undertaking pre-submission consultation on their draft Neighbourhood Plan. No progress was reported in 2022/23.

Section F

Progress on Infrastructure Working Group Recommendations

Infrastructure Working Group Recommendations

Infrastructure was one of the key concerns raised during the consultation on the Local Plan and, to help to alleviate the concerns Members and the public had with regards the provision of infrastructure, an Infrastructure Working Group was formed. One of the key roles of the group was to scrutinise the mechanisms for the provision of infrastructure. In this regard the group were informed by presentations from a range of Council Departments [such as education, leisure and housing] and external organisations [including the NHS, Merseytravel and United Utilities].

The Infrastructure Working Group comprised four Councillors [2 from Labour and one from each of the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives]. Following the series of meetings, held between April and August 2014 the group provided a detailed list of 18 recommendations. Upon request a report was provided in June 2015 setting out progress in meeting each of the recommendations. These are provided below with the exception of the response to recommendation 8 which has been updated to take account of later information.

At the meeting of Council of 20th April 2017 the following recommendation was approved:

‘the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) be requested to robustly and regularly monitor the implementation of the 18 recommendations proposed by the Local Plan Infrastructure Working Group and adopted by the Cabinet on 15 January 2017.’

Progress on Infrastructure Working Group Recommendations was reported in last year’s AMR and remain to current position.