

Local Plan Team
Knowsley Council
1st Floor Annexe
Municipal Buildings
Archway Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L36 9YU**Date**
October 28 2016**FINAL****Our Reference 60470919/47070949**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Letter to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Huyton Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document, Consultation Draft 2016

The submitted Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy¹ (referred to as the 'Plan') was subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in 2012². The HRA assessed a variety of impact pathways (including disturbance from recreational pressure and other activities causing disturbance, mechanical/abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment to habitats, loss of supporting habitat, atmospheric pollution, water resources, and water quality) linking the Plan to the following internationally designated sites:

- Mersey Estuary SPA/Ramsar Site
- Manchester Mosses SAC
- River Dee & Bala Lake SAC
- Sefton Coast SAC
- Dee Estuary SAC SPA & Ramsar site
- Mersey Narrows & North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site
- Liverpool Bay SPA
- River Eden SAC
- Martin Mere SPA and Ramsar site

Subsequent HRAs were undertaken of modifications to the Plan, the most recent being August 2014³. It is the Plan that sets out the spatial strategy for housing and development within the Knowsley Council area. Following the HRAs of the Plan, it was concluded that the Plan would not result in likely significant effects upon internationally designated sites alone or in combination with any other project or plan.

This document is the HRA for the Huyton Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Consultation Draft 2016 only. Background on internationally designated sites and potential impact pathways is not repeated within this document, but can be found within the 2012 Plan HRA document⁴. Figure A1 shows the location of Huyton Village in relation to European sites in the area.

¹ For ease, the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy and modifications documents are referred to as the 'Plan' throughout this document.

² URS (October 2012). Knowsley Borough Council Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment. http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD11_CoreStrategyHabitatsRegulationsAssessment.pdf [Accessed 14/10/2016]

³ AECOM (August 2014). HRA of Further Modifications to the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy August 2014. <http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/PDF/SD29b%20HRA%20of%20Modifications%20to%20the%20submitted%20Knowsley%20Core%20Strategy%20August%202014.pdf> [accessed 17/10/2016]

⁴ URS (October 2012). Knowsley Borough Council Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment. http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/SD11_CoreStrategyHabitatsRegulationsAssessment.pdf [Accessed 14/10/2016]

The SPD is a supporting document to the Plan, which is to be read in conjunction with the Plan and as such should be in conformity with the Plan. This SPD essentially provides guidance on how to interpret policies within the Plan relating to Huyton Village. The purpose of this SPD is to set out 'Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council's strategy for the development of Huyton Village. This masterplan SPD addresses the future of the village, setting out a new vision for until 2028.'

The SPD document contains both policies and chapters that set out a narrative on how to approach development within Huyton Village. To keep in line with the HRA for the emerging SPDs both chapters and policies will be assessed.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter outlines the background and purpose of the SPD, including that the SPD is a supplementary document to support the Plan. This chapter identifies the area that the SPD covers (i.e. Huyton Village) and identifies Plan policies of note: CS1 Spatial Strategy for Knowsley, CS4 Economy and Employment, and CS6: Town Centres and Retail Strategy. This chapter clarifies that this masterplan SPD does not 'allocate' land for development but provides guidance for investors, developers and decision makers. Whilst an increase in economy and employment could result in impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites, the quantum of development is not identified within this SPD, but within the Plan which has already been subject to HRA. There are no impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites present within this chapter.

Chapter 2: Understanding Huyton Village

This chapter places the context of the SPD in relation to the existing conditions within Huyton Village based on the findings of the Baseline Report. Specifically, this chapter:

- Identifies the impact upon the Village of the future development of the large Sustainable Urban Extensions designated by the Plan (including land South of Whiston and land South of the M62, as well as land at Knowsley Lane)
- Identifies the environmental strengths and weaknesses in the Village such as the presence of conservation areas in proximity to the Village, the identification of streets that require improvements,
- Discusses existing transport and movement infrastructure;
- Provides an overview of the commercial property market, including detail relating to existing good public transport accessibility, loss of expenditure to larger nearby centres and out of centre retailing; and the opportunity for the provision of residential development; and
- Identifies strengths and areas for improvement in the Village.

Since this sets out the existing baseline, there are no impact pathways present within this chapter linking to any internationally designated sites.

Chapter3: A Vision for Huyton Village

This chapter summarises the vision for Huyton Village which has emerged from the baseline analysis that underpins the masterplan proposals for the Village. This includes the strengthening of the Village's role as a civic hub within Knowsley; the ability of the Village to play a more prominent role in meeting the local shopping needs of a growing local population; and strengthening the economy of the town, supported by new mixed use development across a range of opportunity sites and an improvement in environment. This policy provides a broad vision. Quantum of development is not identified within this policy, and there is nothing inherent within the chapter that presents impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites.

Chapter4: A Strategy for Huyton Village

This chapter sets out the overall strategy and includes policies. These relate to improving routes and connections, focusing activities on key streets, improving the environmental quality and strengthening the local economy. Note that the overall quantum of development to be delivered at Huyton Village has already been addressed in the HRA of the Plan. The purpose of this SPD is to set out the layout for that development and how the development will be delivered and designed. The policies are assessed within the following text.

HV1 - Improved access and gateways	To improve access and visibility of Huyton Village the following interventions will be supported: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New gateway arrival points along Archway Road and Lathom Road.2. Remodelling junctions to improve pedestrian access with more regular
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crossings and reduce the severance caused by Archway Road.

3. New and improved signage within the town centre and surrounding area, in keeping with the conservation areas.
4. The design and maintenance of landscaping to allow views into Huyton Village.

This policy relates to the delivery of improved access and visibility to/from the Village, making it an easier and more attractive place to visit. This includes the provision of gateways, improvement to pedestrian access, new and improved signage, and improving landscaping and views into Huyton Village. There are no impact pathways linking policy HV1 to any internationally designated sites.

HV2 - An improved network of streets

The following interventions to create an improved network of streets will be supported:

1. Opportunities to create new through-routes for vehicles particularly through the extension of Civic Way to Archway Road.
2. Creating pedestrian routes through large urban blocks will be encouraged.
3. Improving the quality of pedestrian routes from Derby Road to Lathom Road and to the new civic core.
4. Creating a new cycle network along Archway Road, Poplar Bank and through Derby Road and Huyton Hey Road to Lathom Road.

This policy relates primarily to improving connectivity and environment of existing through-routes for vehicles, cycles and pedestrians. Whilst this policy does have potential to result in changes in traffic flows, the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is an existing urban area located 7.7km from the nearest European sites. As such, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking to internationally designated sites.

HV3 - Promoting good quality street frontages

1. Development in Huyton Village will be required to directly address the centre's streets and spaces. Building frontages including main entrances, doors and windows should directly face streets.
2. Blank frontages which do not add life to public streets and important routes should be avoided.
3. Servicing arrangements for commercial and other non-residential uses should be positioned in discrete locations which do not undermine primary building frontages and do not create poor quality environments on public routes. The Council will support shared servicing arrangements.

This is a development management policy providing for the promotion of good quality street frontages. There are no impact pathways linking Policy HV3 to internationally designated sites.

HV4 - Improving pedestrian routes and spaces

In order to raise the environmental quality of the village centre the following interventions will be supported:

1. Improvement along key routes in the village including improved street furniture, landscaping and surface improvements.
2. The creation of a new Civic Square centred on the War Memorial and taking advantage of existing mature trees.
3. Rationalising car parking and service yards to create new development opportunities, particularly on the south side of the duelled length of Archway Road.
4. Opening up and framing views north from Derby Road across Archway Road to Huyton Parish Church.
5. The enhancement of north-south connections between Huyton Hey Road and Derby Road (west) and Archway Road. The enhancement of east-west connections between Lathom Road and Poplar Bank.

This policy provides for improved pedestrian access to/ from the Village, including environmental improvements to existing routes. This policy also provides for the creation of spaces such as a Civic Square by taking advantage of existing green infrastructure such as mature trees, and the improvement of views. There are no impact pathways linking Policy HV4 to internationally designated sites.

HV5 - Strengthening Huyton Village's civic role

The following interventions will be supported in order to create a strengthened core of civic uses with Huyton Village:

1. The redevelopment of the Council's Yorkon and IT suite to provide a new 'front door' to the Council.
2. Locate new civic uses surrounding a new civic square.
3. Support existing uses such as the library by concentrating uses in this area.

This policy primarily relates to strengthening the civic role of Huyton Village. This includes providing a new 'front door' for the Council, and improving facilities. Whilst this policy does have potential to result in increased employment, the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is an existing urban area located 7.7km from the nearest European sites. As such, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking Policy HV5 to internationally designated sites.

HV6 - Strengthening Huyton Village's retail environment

- To strengthen the retail centre the following measures will be supported:
1. Concentrate retail activity to Derby Road and Cavendish Walk to support trade in these locations.
 2. Identify new opportunities for larger format retail within the centre of Huyton Village, particularly along Lathom Road, which will complement retailing along Derby Road.
 3. Support applications for restaurants, cafes and other evening economy uses to complement the retail offer broaden the centre's commercial offer.

This is a development management policy relating to measures that support the Villages' retail environment. This policy does have potential to result in increased employment; however, the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is located in an existing urban setting 7.7km from the nearest European sites. As such, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking Policy HV6 to internationally designated sites.

HV7 - Huyton village as a sustainable place to live

- Encourage new residential development within Huyton Village to regenerate key sites, bring more activity and life to the centre and support shops and businesses. Homes in Huyton Village should be at an appropriate density for the town centre, likely to be delivered as apartments.

This is a development management policy relating to sustainable residential development. By definition sustainable development would not result in likely significant effect upon internationally designated sites. Since the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is located in an urban setting 7.7km from the nearest European sites, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites within these other opportunity sites. It can be concluded that there are no impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites present within Chapter 4.

Chapter 5: The Huyton Village Masterplan.

This chapter sets out the spatial framework for the implementation of the vision and strategy for Huyton Village outlined in Sections 3 and 4 above. The full masterplan incorporates the identification of the key opportunity sites, public realm and movement improvements that are proposed for Huyton Village up to 2028. These are generally centred around two Action Areas; Lathom Road Action Area, and The Civic Core Action Area. It is noted that the masterplan is in line with Plan Policies CS2, CS6, CS8, CS17, CS19 and CS20. The chapter also includes design principles. Since the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is located in an urban setting 7.7km from the nearest European sites, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking this chapter to internationally designated sites.

Chapter 6: Lathom Road Action Area

This chapter identifies the location of the Lathom Road Action Area. It identifies existing features and future opportunity locations including: Sherborne Square (key site), Former InShops and MSCP and Huyton Hey Road Office site (key site), Police and Magistrates Court site, and Fire and Ambulance Station site, and key public realm and movement projects. The chapter provides development and design principles for each of the opportunity, along with preferred uses, but does not identify any quantum of development. This chapter also acknowledges that not all development opportunities may be available. Since the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is located in an urban setting 7.7km from the nearest European sites, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites.

Chapter 7: Civic Core Action Area

This chapter identifies the location of the Civic Core Action Area. It identifies existing features and future opportunity locations including: Archway Road car park and ASDA petrol station, Yorkon site and Civic Way IT suite, The Venue, Post Office/ Royal Mail Group, BT site, and key public realm and movement projects. The chapter provides development and design principles for each of the opportunity, along with preferred uses, but does not identify any quantum of development. This chapter also acknowledges that not all development opportunities may be available.

Since the quantum of development in the District has already been assessed in the HRA of the Plan and Huyton Village is located in an urban setting 7.7km from the nearest European sites, there are considered to be no impact pathways linking to any internationally designated sites.

There are no impact pathways present within the policies or chapters of this SPD that could result in likely significant effects upon any internationally designated sites. Since the SPD does not present any impact pathways, there is no scope for a likely significant effect on any European sites either alone or in combination with other projects and plans.

Yours sincerely,



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