



*Knowsley Council*

## **Knowsley Local Plan**

### **Draft Supplementary Planning Documents Pre-Production Statement of Consultation**

Design Quality in New Development SPD  
New Residential SPD  
Shop Front and Signage SPD

**September 2014**

# **Pre-Production Statement of Consultation**

## **1. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

- 1.1 This document identifies the pre-production consultation undertaken on the draft Supplementary Planning Documents (“SPDs”) which have been published for public consultation on 19 September 2014 for a period of four weeks. The SPDs provide formal design guidance to supplement policies in the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy, Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (“WLP”) and "saved" policies in the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (“UDP”). The titles of each SPD are listed below:
- Draft Design Quality in New Development SPD
  - Draft New Residential SPD
  - Draft Shopfronts and Signage SPD
- 1.2 The documents have been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

## **2. Purpose of the SPDs**

- 2.1 The Council's “Strategy for Knowsley” sets a vision for Knowsley to become the "Borough of Choice" by 2023. This will mean ensuring that Knowsley has a sustainable and diverse population, provides opportunities for positive lifestyle choices, maximises economic growth potential and addresses the causes of deprivation and disadvantage.
- 2.2 As part of the achievement of this vision the Council is currently producing the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy which will introduce new policies relating to design to complement those existing within the adopted WLP and saved policies in the UDP. The role of SPDs is to provide further detail to explain and assist interpretation of these policies.
- 2.3 The SPDs will therefore help deliver the key goals and outcomes which influence the achievement of the vision for Knowsley as ‘Borough of Choice’ by 2023 including: safe attractive sustainable neighbourhoods; quality infrastructure and environment; ensuring safer and more cohesive communities, vibrant and welcoming town centres and improving Knowsley the place. This will be achieved through the SPDs establishing high standards of design to assist policy implementation as part of planning decisions for different types of development. The specific purpose intended of each SPD once adopted is outlined in the following paragraphs.
- 2.4 The Design Quality in New Development SPD aims to provide the overarching context for design in the borough, and highlights borough wide issues which

should be taken into account in designing new development. This includes specific guidance relating to placing buildings, density and form, accessibility, landscaping, public open space, sustainable design, minimising crime and preserving built heritage. Other SPDs and best practice documents provide further guidance relating to specific development types or thematic issues.

- 2.5 The New Residential Development SPD aims to provide detailed guidance to developers on specific design issues related to residential development. This includes requirements relating to integration with existing development, defining the residential mix, layout and access, parking requirements, property security, public realm, waste management and adaptability to climate change. This SPD will be considered alongside the overarching design guidance for all development within the Design Quality in New Development SPD.
- 2.6 The Shop Front and Signage Design SPD aims to provide detailed guidance to developers on specific issues relating to design of and alteration to shop fronts and signage. This includes best practice on shop front composition, proportion, styles, materials, colours and security, together with requirements of signage in terms of types, position and illumination.
- 2.7 The guidance in the SPDs, once adopted will be a material consideration in determining planning applications and will apply where relevant to the scale and type of new development proposed in the Borough.

### **3. Preparation and pre-consultation stages of the SPDs**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Statement for Community Involvement, an early draft version of the Design Quality in New Development SPD was subject to an evidence gathering consultation from November 2010 until January 2011 involving stakeholders on the Local Plan database.
- 3.2 The Council decided following consideration of changes resulting from the ongoing preparation of the Local Plan: Core Strategy, responses received from stakeholders and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, that more detailed guidance relating to design and development was required than that reasonably capable of being accommodated within a single SPD. This decision has informed the format within which the current SPDs subject to consultation have been prepared. The Design Quality in New Development SPD establishes the broad design principles required of all proposals, with development specific design guidance offered in the form of the New Residential Development SPD and the Shop Front and Signage SPD. These three draft SPDs are intended to provide a suite of design guidance, with potential for further SPDs to be added in the future if required for other types of development.
- 3.3 To ensure that the SPDs have been subject to appropriate stakeholder engagement in advance of public consultation, the following Council service areas were consulted at pre-consultation stage and / or provided input into the production of the draft SPDs:
  - Arboriculture

- Asset Management
- Conservation
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Development Management
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Services
- Flood Risk
- Highways
- Public Health
- Policy Impact and Intelligence
- Strategic Investment
- Town Centres Investment
- Waste and Facilities Management

3.4 During the preparation of the draft SPDs there has been informal consultation via workshop meetings and an e-mail consultation undertaken in July 2014, prior to taking the SPDs to Cabinet. This led to revisions of the SPDs before the current versions which are being made available for public consultation.

#### **4. Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Consultations**

4.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 do not require a Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out on SPDs. However, under separate regulations the Council must formally consider (in a "screening document") whether each SPD requires a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) and/or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In response, formal screening documents have been prepared to accompany each of the draft SPDs. These documents conclude that none of the three proposed SPDs require a full HRA or SEA.

4.2 The following comments were received as part of the statutory requirement of consultation with the appropriate nature conservation bodies relating to the HRA screening:

- Natural England – response dated 17 July 2014 - Unlikely to be any significant effects on any European Sites (full response within Appendix of screening documents).
- Natural Resources Wales (includes responsibilities of Countryside Commission Wales) – response dated 18 July 2014 - Agree with the conclusion that the proposal is not likely to have a significant effect either on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC, Dee Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, or the Liverpool Bay SPA (full response within Appendix of screening documents).

## **5. Availability of Documents (Where and When)**

5.1 In accordance with Regulation 12(b), 13(c), 35 and 36 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the SPDs along with the pre-production consultation statement will be made available for inspection during four weeks of consultation period from 19 September 2014 until 12 noon on 21 October 2014 in the following forms:

- Online at: [www.knowsley.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/localplan);
- Hard copies at: One Stop Shop Receptions and Libraries

## **6. How to comment on the Draft SPDs**

6.1 The Council welcomes responses during the consultation period by the following methods:

In writing to: Local Plan Team  
Policy Impact and Intelligence  
PO Box 26  
Archway Road  
Huyton  
Knowsley  
L36 9FB

By Email to: [localplan@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@knowsley.gov.uk)

6.2 In accordance with Regulation 36 (3), the Council may make a reasonable charge if a request for hard copy of the Draft SPDs is made. No charges are incurred to download these documents from the website or inspect them in any of the locations mentioned above.

## **7. Next Steps**

7.2 Following the consultation on the draft SPDs, all comments received will be considered and reflected in the final SPDs where appropriate. The final documents will then be subject to Council approval for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPDs will then be used as part of the planning policy framework in the determination of planning applications. This Pre-Production Consultation Statement will be updated to form a Consultation Statement which will include a summary of responses received; this will be published alongside the adopted SPDs.