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Consultation

Sustainability Appraisal and
Strategic Environmental Assessment
for the

**Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area
Supplementary Planning Document**

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

April 2007

Tower Hill Supplementary Planning Document Sustainability Appraisal Contents

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1. Introduction

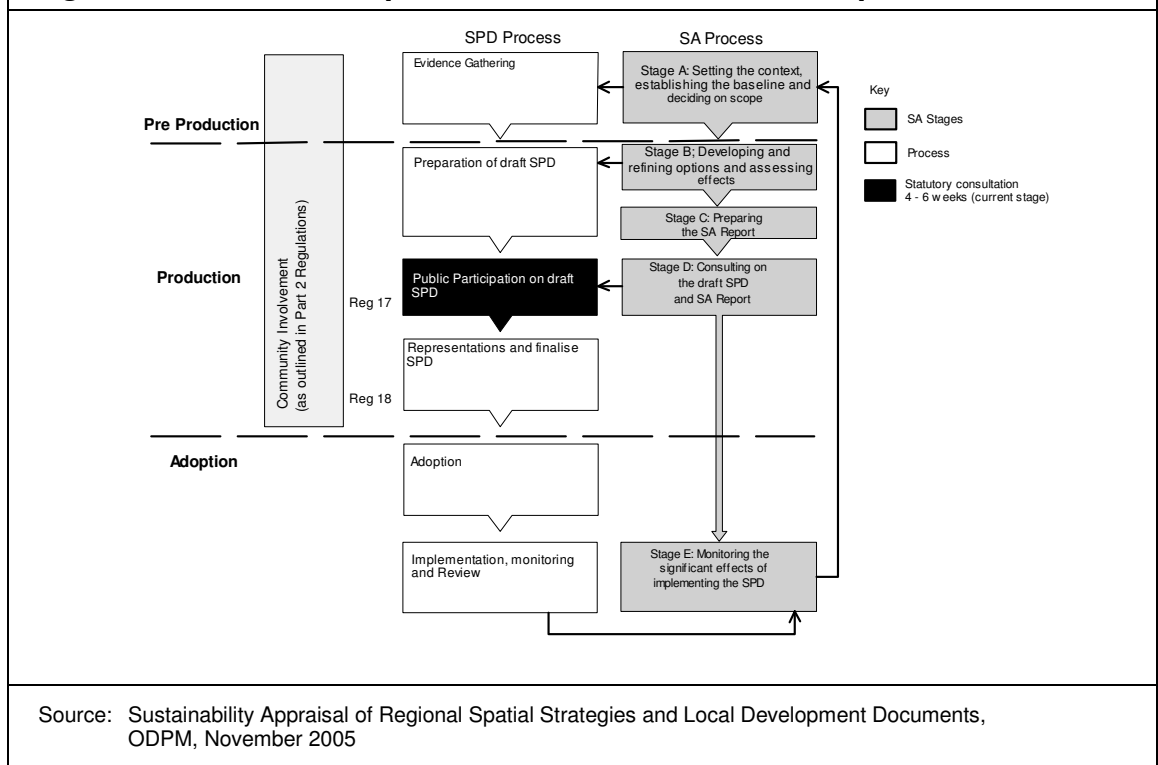
- 1.1 The purpose of the Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide additional detail to policy H3 of the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006). It will guide future development proposals for the area covered by the Action Area and will form part of the emerging Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 The vision for the SPD is to 'Put the Heart Back into Tower Hill'. Its main objective is to deliver a high quality, secure environment that has a unique identity.
- 1.3 The vision focuses on producing a new village centre that will act as a catalyst for a desirable and sustainable settlement. Housing that has been removed over the years needs to be rebuilt to create a viable and sustainable village for existing and future generations. It should provide a high quality residential environment that people can be proud of and choose to live in.
- 1.4 The SPD is part of the Knowsley Local Development Framework (LDF) but will not have development plan status. It will be one of the items taken into consideration when determining planning applications within the area covered by the Action Area.
- 1.5 This document is the joint report of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Supplementary Planning Document. It has been produced in line with the Scoping Report as amended by representations made as a result of the consultation exercise undertaken between 26 May and 30 June 2006. Comments received on SA / SEA scoping report are contained within Appendix 1. This SA/SEA has been further amended in line with representations made as a result of the consultation exercise undertaken between 13th November and 18th December 2006. The Council's response to representations made can be found in the document "Statement of Consultation Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area Supplementary Planning Document".
- 1.6 The purpose of this document is to evaluate the social, environmental and economic impact of the options contained within the SPD. It also identifies measurable indicators that enable effective monitoring of the SPD to take place so that, if necessary, the SPD can be amended.

- 1.7 The Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment report should be read alongside the Supplementary Planning Document for the Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.8 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) have to be produced for each level of development plan including Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 1.9 Sustainability Appraisals should ensure that plans and programmes are environmentally and sustainably sound. The SA should appraise plans in relation to the five principles of sustainable development contained within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs document *Securing the Future*. The aims are as follows:
- a. Living within environmental limits. Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.
 - b. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.
 - c. Achieving a sustainable economy. Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised.
 - d. Promoting good governance. Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy, and diversity.
 - e. Using sound science responsibly. Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.
- 1.10 Figure 1.1 demonstrates the relationship between the SA and SPD processes.

Figure 1.1 - Relationship between the SPD and the SA processes



Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.11 The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires that an assessment be made of the effects that certain plans and programmes will have on the environment. This is known as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and applies to a wide range of plans and programmes, including land use plans. The effect on the environment has to be significant before the directive applies. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council has determined that the scale of environmental change in Tower Hill will have a significant impact and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
- 1.12 The following criteria will be considered under the requirements of the SEA directive, defining the focus and scope for SEAs.
- a. biodiversity
 - b. population
 - c. human health
 - d. fauna and flora
 - e. soil
 - f. water

- g. air
- h. climatic factors
- i. material assets
- j. cultural heritage, and
- k. landscape.

1.13 The Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area SPD has been the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in addition to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The requirement to carry out a SA and a SEA are distinct but it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process if it considers social and economic factors as well as environmental issues. This is the approach that is being taken with the appraisal of the Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area SPD.

2. Background to Sustainability Appraisal

Introduction

- 2.1 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's document *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* defines a 5 stage process towards the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Each of these stages includes a number of tasks. The stages and tasks can be seen in table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Stages of the SA process.
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2: Collecting baseline information.
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
A4: Developing the SA framework.
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework.
B2: Developing the SPD options.
B3: Predicting the effects of the SPD.
B4: Evaluating the effects of the SPD.
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPDs.
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
C1: Preparing the SA Report.
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the SPD and SA Report.
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the SPD and the SA Report.
D2: Appraising significant changes.
D3: Making decisions and providing information.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD.
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2: Responding to adverse effects.

- 2.2 This report is Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report. It will form part of Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the SPD and SA Report. This report also contains details of the process so far - Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the

baseline and deciding on the scope (chapter 3) and Stage B:
Developing and refining options and assessing effects (chapter 4).

3. The Information Base and Policy Context

Introduction

- 3.1 Chapter 3 presents the results of Stage A of the SA process. It considers the baseline information and how that information relates to the sustainability issues for the Borough as well as national sustainability objectives and Knowsley Replacement UDP objectives.
- 3.2 The process of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal is outlined in Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) document *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*. The document splits the process into key stages and tasks. Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope; can be seen in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 - Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.

A2: Collecting baseline information.

A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.

A4: Developing the SA framework.

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.

- 3.3 The Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal identified policies, plans and proposals that the Supplementary Planning Document needed to take into consideration. Additional documents have since been identified and been taken account of. The Replacement Unitary Development Plan has been adopted since the Scoping Report was produced. The Knowsley Unitary Development Plan adopted in 1998 has therefore been removed. The 2001 version of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan has been superseded and has therefore been replaced in Table 3.2. The full list of documents that have been considered are contained within Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
EU			
European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. European Union, 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve flora and fauna of EU importance. • Establish a network of protected areas to maintain distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats. 	To identify and conserve relevant habitats and species.	www.europa.eu.int/
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice: The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community European Union, 2002	<p>Gives strategic direction to the commission's environmental policy and identifies four environmental priority areas for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change; • Nature and Biodiversity; • Environment and Health and quality of life; and • Natural Resources and Waste. 	It sets the priorities for sustainable development and the priority areas for action.	www.europa.eu.int/ www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/info/landfill/
Sustainable Development Strategy EU, May 2001.	<p>The strategy identifies unsustainable trends on which action needs to be taken. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy. • Improve public health while combating poverty and social exclusion. • Deal with economic and social implications of an ageing society. • Manage our natural resources responsibly. • Improve the transport system and land use management. 	Emphasises that action to promote sustainable development must be taken by all at all levels.	www.europa.eu.int/
European Council Directive 2000/60/EC- Integrated river basin management for Europe	<p>A single system of water management by river basin. Protection of aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water.</p> <p>A general requirement for ecological protection, and a general minimum chemical standard, introduced to cover all surface waters".</p>	To take a holistic approach to water management, preventing deterioration of aquatic ecology and restoration of surface and ground waters to good status.	www.europa.eu.int/

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Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
European Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste	To ensure that all necessary measures will be taken so that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes / methods which could harm the environment.	To ensure that waste material is recovered or disposed of in an appropriate manner.	www.europa.eu.int/
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	To establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, in order to prevent and reduce pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect the aquatic environment, improve the status of aquatic ecosystems and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.	Action Area Plan should minimise the risk of pollution and damage to surface and ground waters through careful location of infrastructure, roads and new development. It should also mitigate the effects of floods and droughts and seek to restore surface waters and groundwaters to "good status".	www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/wfd/index.htm www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/
<u>National</u>			
Securing the future - delivering UK sustainable development strategy. Defra 2005	Has five guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong healthy just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance; and • Using sound science responsibly. Four shared priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and • Sustainable communities. 	For the guiding principles to shape policy at a local level and the priorities to be reflected in the appraisal.	www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future. ODPM 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure tenants have decent homes to live in; • To ensure communities have a clean safe attractive environment to live in; • Focus on bringing back to life areas of low demand and abandoned houses; • Housing to be addressed by local partnerships; • Encourage environmental enhancement; and • Encourage restoration and enhancement of brown field land and green space networks. 	Creating a sustainable community involves considering more than just housing: It is also about creating; safe, clean, green areas that local people can feel proud of.	www.communities.gov.uk
Biodiversity Strategy for England. Defra 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure biodiversity considered in all main sectors of public policy; • Sets out a programme for the next five years to enhance nature and ecosystems; and, • Sets targets at a local level through Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species plans. 	BAP habitat and species plans to inform indicators for biodiversity.	www.ukbap.org.uk www.biodiversitynw.org.uk/audit
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve community facilities; • High quality and safe development; • Well integrated mixed use developments; • Should be in accessible locations; • Increase vitality and viability through promoting existing centres of commerce; • Ensure high quality design; • Protect and enhance the historic environment and landscape and townscape character; and • Promote design that is appropriate to its context. 	Forms the basis for creating communities that are sustainable.	www.communities.gov.uk
Consultation Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out how planning, in providing for the new homes, jobs and infrastructure, should help shape places with lower carbon emissions and resilient to the climate change. 	To ensure that development does not add to climate change.	http://www.communities.gov.uk

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
PPS3: Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the use of previously developed land; • Meet the housing needs of the whole community; • Provide choice through mix of type and tenure; • Encourage a good density of housing; and • Encourage development near transport links. 	To ensure that the right mix and density of housing is provided.	www.communities.gov.uk
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate bio and geo diversity with other considerations; • Conserve, restore and enhance diversity; and • Recognise the wider benefits of both social and economic biodiversity. 	Take into account the benefits of biodiversity for building a sense of well being in the community.	www.communities.gov.uk
PPS12: Local Development Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires LDFs to be prepared with a view to contribute toward sustainable development and to meet the requirements of SEA. 	Ensure plan fully integrates SEA in line with the directive.	www.communities.gov.uk
PPG13: Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more sustainable transport choice; and • Promote accessibility to amenities through public transport walking and cycling. 	Develop policies that support sustainable transport through the reduction in the need to travel by car.	www.communities.gov.uk
PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve quality of life; • Support urban renewal; and • Promote social inclusion and cohesion. 	Recognise the contribution open space and sport has to urban renewal.	www.communities.gov.uk
PPS22: Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target to generate 10% of all electricity by 2010 and 20% by 2020. • Develop renewable energy alongside improving energy efficiency of development. • Encourage small scale on site renewable energy production where viable. 	Ensure renewable energy objectives and targets are included within LDDs and SA. Erection of energy efficient houses.	www.communities.gov.uk

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality; • Protecting the water environment; • Water Quality; and • Carbon dioxide emissions. 	<p>The SPD will set out the criteria against which applications for potentially polluting developments will be considered.</p> <p>Pollution should be minimised.</p>	<p>www.communities.gov.uk</p> <p>www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northwest/850243/1130689/1134836</p>
PPS25: Planning and Flood Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the vulnerability of the country to the risk of flooding; • Guide development away from areas of flood risk; and • The use of a Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) is promoted. 	<p>The plan should make provision for a Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS). Development should be guided away from areas at risk from flooding and not increase the risk of flooding. Development will require a flood risk assessment to be undertaken prior to a planning application being submitted.</p>	<p>www.communities.gov.uk</p> <p>www.environment-agency.gov.uk/maps/info/floodmaps/</p>
Regional			
<p>Regional Planning Guidance 13: North West, ODPM, 2003 (This is the current Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports regeneration of existing housing stock and housing renewal throughout the North West. • Sets a target of 230 dwellings per year (net of demolition replacements) to be constructed in Knowsley from 2002. 	<p>Consult with indicators reported in RSS AMR. Focus on housing renewal and the contribution that the plan will make to the RSS target.</p> <p>To provide an average of 65% of housing on previously developed land.</p>	<p>www.nwra.gov.uk</p>

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved, sustainable economic growth • the reduction of economic, environmental, educational, health and other social inequalities between North West communities; • the protection and enhancement of the region's built and natural environmental assets, its coastal areas and unique culture and heritage; • the active management and prudent use our natural and man made resources, with fewer emissions of key greenhouse gases, and the most efficient use of infrastructure; and • the introduction of a safe, reliable and effective integrated transport network that supports opportunities for sustainable growth and provides better links with jobs and services. • support the concentration of most new development in the region within the urban areas of the Regional Centres, and Regional Towns and Cities. • Sets a target of 450 dwellings per year to be constructed in Knowsley, at least 90% of which should be on Brownfield land. 	<p>Consult with indicators reported in RSS AMR. Focus on housing renewal and the contribution that the plan will make to the RSS target.</p> <p>To provide an average of 65% of housing on previously developed land.</p>	<p>www.nwra.gov.uk</p>
Regional Sustainable Development Framework 'Action for Sustainability' (AfS)	<p>This contains a set of priorities and long term goals to deliver sustainability across the region. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable transport, production and consumption; and • An emphasis on social equity and biodiversity. 	<p>Indicators should reflect the long term goals of this document.</p>	<p>www.nwra.gov.uk</p>
Regional Housing Strategy 2005. North West Regional Housing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn around declining demand by 2010; • Reduce vacancy levels to 3% by 2021; • Ensure 30% homes are affordable; and • Ensure all social housing meets decency standards by 2010. 	<p>Contribute to meeting the target of reducing the amount of unfit homes and increasing decency standards.</p>	<p>www.nwra.gov.uk</p>

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
Investment for Health - Action plan for the North West. North West Regional Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce health inequalities between groups and areas in the North West. Priority groups include children and young people, older people, ethnic minorities and disabled people. 	Specific health indicators should be included.	www.nwra.gov.uk
The North West Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, 2004-2008. Sport England in the North West.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the part sport can play in social, mental, and physical well being. Key target of the plan is to increase participation in sport and physical activity. 	Should consider how the plan will contribute to increasing opportunity for sport by improving facilities.	www.nwra.gov.uk
The Green Infrastructure Guide for the North West, The North West Green Infrastructure Think Tank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to articulate and provide guidance on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy policy for green infrastructure. Sets out a widely agreed definition of green infrastructure for the NW region and provide guidance on the region's experience in developing an approach to green infrastructure planning. 	Should influence how the greenspace is developed.	www.nwra.gov.uk
The Countryside in and around Towns – a Vision for Connecting Town and Country in Pursuit of Sustainable Development, The Countryside Agency & Groundwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents a new vision for the countryside in and around towns and cities that respects local character and distinctiveness. 	Should influence how the greenspace is developed.	http://www.naturalengland.com
<u>Merseyside-wide</u>			
Local Transport Plan for Merseyside 2006 - 2011. Merseyside local authorities, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that transport supports sustainable economic development; and Moderate upward trend in car use and secure a shift to more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. 	Enable the transport needs of the local community to be met in the most sustainable way.	www.nwra.gov.uk
Merseyside "New Heartlands" Housing Market Renewal Initiative 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A major programme, set up under the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan, which aims to renew and regenerate housing in the "pathfinder" areas of inner Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral. 	The aims and objectives of this initiative should contribute to the SA.	www.nwra.gov.uk

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies priority habitats and species and sets actions for their preservation and enhancement. 	Include relevant objectives and indicators from species and habitat action plans.	www.nwra.gov.uk
Local			
Knowsley Community Plan, 2002-2012. The Knowsley Partnership, 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community plan vision is "...to encourage community well being by developing an economy that is vibrant with a wide range of job opportunities, where being a citizen is valued and lifelong learning and education is promoted. We wish to develop a Borough where the environment is safe, clean and attractive, where opportunity, health and social prosperity are available to all." 	Reflect the five key areas of economy and employment, housing and environment, community safety, health and healthy living, education and training.	www.theknowsleypartnership.org.uk
Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unitary Development Plan sets out 19 strategic objectives and policies for new development. Identifies Tower Hill as an Action Area suitable for comprehensive development, redevelopment or improvement. Proposals for Tower Hill include up to 300 new dwellings, clearance of existing unpopular or unsuitable housing, and better shopping, open space, leisure, health, schools, jobs, and training facilities. 	Contains several policies that should be considered; including policy H3 which specifically refers to Tower Hill.	www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk
"Knowsley's Tomorrow"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Agenda 21 strategy identifies key sustainable development targets for the Borough. 	Community goal priorities to inform SA and the setting of objectives and targets.	www.knowsley.gov.uk
Sustainability appraisal report for Knowsley replacement UDP. Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, December 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UDP was assessed using the North West integrated appraisal tool kit. This will be used to help generate objectives and targets for future SA work providing clarity and continuity. 	North West integrated appraisal tool kit will inform objectives and targets.	www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley AMR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual monitoring report 2005 establishes a baseline of data for the borough. 	Will feed into baseline information.	

Table 3.2 - Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives (Task A1)

Plans / Policies and Programmes	Key Objectives	Implications for SA	Web link
Knowsley MBC Corporate Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains how the delivery of Council services will be prioritised to help deliver the Community Plan vision. 	The corporate plan will inform objectives and indicators	www.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley MBC Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies housing needs and priorities and influences planning decisions relating to housing development. 	The plan will inform objectives and indicators	www.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley MBC Economic Development Plan	<p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote opportunity and social prosperity; Foster enterprise, sustainable economic and environmental development; and Encourage life-long learning. 	The plan will inform objectives and indicators	www.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley MBC Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies a range of actions to be taken by the Council and its partners to encourage citizenship and reduce incidences of crime and disorder in the Borough. 	The plan will inform objectives and indicators	www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley MBC Building Schools for the Future programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government funded programme under which seven new learning centres will replace Knowsley's existing 11 secondary schools. The Government aims for the first of the new centres to be built by 2007 and Knowsley aims to complete the whole programme by 2012. 	The programme will inform objectives and indicators	www.planning.knowsley.gov.uk
Knowsley Guide to Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to ensure that new development meet certain design standards. That new development takes into account the surrounding landscape, considers transport issues and creates a range of housing to meet people's needs. 	To cover the main aspects of this guide in its objectives.	http://planning.knowsley.gov.uk/design/knowsley_development_guide.pdf

Task A2: Collecting baseline information.

- 3.4 The collection of baseline information is a key part of the SA process. It is also a legal requirement of the SEA Directive. Assembling baseline information helps to identify sustainability problems and provide a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects that the SPD will have. The aim of task A2 is to assemble sufficient data on the current and likely situation that will enable the SPD's effects to be adequately predicted.
- 3.5 Paragraph 4.2.9 of the ODPM document *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* states that information collection needs to focus on the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the area that relate to the issues to be tackled in the SPD.
- 3.6 Table 3.3 contains the baseline information that has been selected for predicting and monitoring the effects that the policies of the SPD will have. It states a target for each indicator and details of where the information may be obtained. A blank column has been inserted to assist in the identification of trends over successive years.

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
To increase the choice of housing providing a good mixture of well designed high quality housing.	Provide a wider choice of accommodation creating a greater mix of tenure.	Dwelling stock by council tax band.	Total dwellings 1369 Band No. % A 1356 99.1 B 310 0.7 C 3 0.2 D 0 0.0 E 0 0.0 F 0 0.0 G 0 0.0 H 0 0.0	Total dwellings 62,783 Band No. % A 37911 60.4 B 11793 18.8 C 8122 12.9 D 3221 5.1 E 1368 2.2 F 236 0.4 G 113 0.2 H 17 0.0	Total dwellings 3,011,128 Band No. % A 1318643 43.8 B 567827 18.9 C 517736 17.2 D 290057 9.6 E 170426 5.6 F 83488 2.8 G 57190 1.9 H 5729 0.2			Valuation Office Agency Data.
		Tenure type	Total dwellings 1317 No. % Owned houses 391 29.7 Social rented 838 63.6 Private rented 35 2.7 Other 53 4.0	Total dwellings 60,553 Number % 37,372 61.7 19,089 31.5 2,558 4.2 1,534 2.5	Total dwellings 2,812,789 Number % 1,948,010 69.3 564,573 20.1 240,037 8.5 60,169 2.1	To increase the % of houses privately owned to the same as Knowsley.		National Statistics: Tenure Households (UV63).
	To increase the quality of housing by improving housing amenities.	Amenities	Total dwellings 1313 No. % Central heated 1,187 90.4 Without CH 126 9.6	Total dwellings 60,553 No. % 46,209 76.3 14,344 23.7	Total dwellings 2,812,789 No. % 2,480,143 88.2 332,646 11.8	To improve the % of houses with central heating to same as		National Statistics Dataset: Amenities (UV60).

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
						Knowsley.		
	To minimise resource and energy use when developing housing and the energy efficiency of housing.	Percentage of homes meeting decent homes standard.				100% of social housing must be 'decent' by 2010.		
		Percentage of homes meeting Eco Homes Standard Good / Very Good.				100% of new properties.		
To reduce poverty, ill health and social deprivation securing economic inclusion.	To improve the overall IMD rating of the lower level Super Output Areas that cover Tower Hill.	Lower SOA rankings.	N/A	Ranking in Knowsley (out of 99) SOA Rank E01006492 57 E01006493 6 E01006494 5 E01006495 12	Ranking in England (out of 32,482) SOA Rank E01006492 4015 E01006493 51 E01006494 50 E01006495 151	To improve the ranking in the index of multiple deprivation of the SOAs.		Index of multiple deprivation.
	To reduce the % of lower super output areas that are in the top 10% most deprived in England.	Lower SOA rankings.	75.0%	52.2%		To decrease the % of SOAs that are in the top ten % of most deprived in England.		

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
	To increase economic activity.		All persons aged 16-74 2,549	All persons aged 16-74 107,330	All persons aged 16-74 4,839,669	Increase the % of economically active people to North West rate.		National Statistics Dataset: Economic Activity UV28.
		active	No. 1,154 % 45.3	No. 61,157 % 57.0	No. 3,093,186 % 63.9			
		inactive	No. 1,395 % 54.7	No. 46,173 % 43.0	No. 1,746,483 % 36.1			
	To increase educational achievement.	Residents with no qualifications.	All persons aged 16-74 2,543	All persons aged 16-74 107,330	All persons aged 16-74 4,839,669	Increase the % of people with qualifications to that of Knowsley.		National Statistics Dataset: qualifications UV24.
			No. 1,399 % 55.0	No. 46,157 % 43.0	No. 1,543,524 % 31.9			
	To reduce unemployment.	Claimant count of persons of working age.	No. 185 % 4.9	No. 4,260 % 4.7	No. 119,965 % 2.9	Reduce unemployment rate to Borough level.		NOMIS (April 2006)
	To improve health, reducing long term illness.	Residents with long term illness	All persons 3,857 No. 968 % 25.1	All persons 150,459 No. 37,103 % 24.7	All persons 6,729,764 No. 1,394,609 % 20.7	To decrease the % of those who are long term ill.		National Statistics Dataset: Limiting long term illness UV22.

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
To improve the local environment making Tower Hill a safe, vibrant, attractive place to live.	To encourage sustainable transport use.	Method of travel to work	All working people	All working people	All working people	To maintain or increase the % of those using alternative methods of transport other than car.		
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		Work at home	38	4.2	2,966	5.5	242,474	8.4
		Metro or tram	3	0.3	108	0.2	15,955	0.6
		Train	38	4.2	2,204	4.1	54,356	1.9
		Bus	201	22.3	7,200	13.2	248,267	8.6
		Taxi	29	3.2	1,055	1.9	23,400	0.8
		Driving	388	43.1	29,320	53.9	1,694,380	58.4
		Passenger	93	10.3	4,886	9.0	217,559	7.5
		Motorbike	3	0.3	417	0.8	26,731	0.9
		Bike	27	3.0	904	1.7	65,961	2.3
		On foot	78	8.7	5,037	9.3	297,720	10.3
		Total	901	100.0	54,351	100.0	4,839,669	100.0
			Car ownership	All households 1310	All households 60,548	All households 2,812,789	To encourage alternative forms of transport.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	No car or van	770	58.8	25,287	41.8	849,769	30.2	
	1 Car	424	32.4	24,745	40.9	1,224,554	43.5	
	2 Cars	100	7.6	8,946	14.8	605,586	21.5	
	3 Cars	16	1.2	1,274	2.1	104,120	3.7	
	4 Cars	0	0.0	296	0.5	28,760	1.0	
	To reduce flood risk	Percentage of new development containing SUDS.	-	-	-	100%		

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
	To reduce derelict land.	Amount of PDL that is derelict.	0%	40.7%		- To assist in reducing the amount of PDL that is derelict.		
	To build new homes on previously developed land	New build on PDL.	-	-		- 65%		
	To increase the vitality of local shopping areas	No. of shops vacant	0	0		- -		
	To improve community facilities.	The amount of new or renovated facilities.	-	-		- To create or renovate facilities.		
	To reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 dwellings (2004-5)	211 (SOAs E01006492, E01006493, E01006494, and E01006495)	174		To reduce crime and the fear of crime.		Mott MacDonald MIS.
		Violent Offences committed per 1000 population (2004-5).	148 (SOAs E01006492, E01006493, E01006494, and E01006495)	165		To reduce crime and the fear of crime		Mott MacDonald MIS.

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
		Theft of a vehicle per 1000 population (2004-5).	81 (SOAs E01006492, E01006493, E01006494, and E01006495)	77		To reduce crime and the fear of crime.		Mott MacDonald MIS.
		% of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day.	Info currently unavailable for Tower Hill.	95.8%		To reduce crime and the fear of crime.		Audit commission.
		% of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark.	Info currently unavailable for Tower Hill.	62.7%		To reduce crime and the fear of crime.		Audit commission.
To preserve or enhance open space and areas of biological geological interest.	To provide the required amount of open space.	Amount of open space per 1000 people.						PMP Study.
		General Amenity	4.26			0.5 (Revised UDP)		
		Children's Play	0.05			0.2 (Revised UDP)		
		Playing pitches and other	2.48 (Kirkby)			1.85 (Revised)		

Table 3.3 : Baseline data and targets (Task A2)

SA objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator	Tower Hill	Knowsley	North West	Target	Trend	Source
		sporting facilities Allotments	0.03 (Kirkby)			UDP) 0.5 (Revised UDP)		
	To improve the quality of open space.	PMP study analysis.	Major open spaces scored average or poor quality for visual amenity criteria.			All open space to be good quality.		Open Space, Sport & Recreation Needs Assessment & Strategy. Resident's views.
	Improve the cleanliness of open areas.	% of space that is of a high or acceptable standard of horticultural maintenance	Information currently unavailable for Tower Hill.	73%		90%		KMBC corporate plan DEOS CO1 and DEOS.

Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.

- 3.7 Identifying the sustainability issues facing Tower Hill gives the opportunity to decide what the key issues should be for the SPD. It also helps to identify the sustainability objectives for the plan and a number of options for meeting the objectives.
- 3.8 Table 3.4 identifies the social, economic and environmental issues and problems specific to Tower Hill. These issues and problems have been identified through reviewing relevant policies, plans and programmes together with the baseline data.

Table 3.4: Sustainability Issues and Problems in Tower Hill	
	Policies, Plans Programmes and baseline information.
Social Issues	
Deprivation	<p>Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>UK Sustainable Development Strategy-securing the future.</p> <p>Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future.</p> <p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>Regional Planning Guidance 13. (This is the current Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West).</p> <p>Knowsley MBC Economic Development Plan</p> <p>Baseline data.</p> <p>Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p>
Poor mixture of housing	<p>Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future.</p> <p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>PPG3 Housing.</p> <p>Regional Planning Guidance 13. (This is the current Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West).</p> <p>Regional Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006).</p> <p>Knowsley MBC Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Valuation Office Agency and National Statistics: Tenure Households (UV63) indicates poor housing mix.</p>

Table 3.4: Sustainability Issues and Problems in Tower Hill

	Policies, Plans Programmes and baseline information.
Poor quality of housing	<p>Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future.</p> <p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>PPS3: Housing.</p> <p>Regional Planning Guidance 13. (This is the current Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West).</p> <p>Regional Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006).</p> <p>Knowsley MBC Housing Strategy.</p> <p>Additional baseline data demonstrates that a high proportion of housing lacks amenities. Highlighting the issue of poor quality accommodation.</p>
Educational achievement	<p>Knowsley MBC Building Schools for the Future programme.</p> <p>Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006).</p> <p>Baseline data: Over half of persons aged 16 to 74 in Tower Hill have no qualifications (2001 Census).</p>
Health	<p>Investment for Health Action plan for the North West.</p> <p>The North West Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, 2004-2008.</p> <p>The number of long term ill is above the national average (2001 Census).</p>
Crime	<p>Knowsley Community Plan, 2002-2012.</p> <p>Knowsley UDP (revised draft replacement plan 2004).</p> <p>Knowsley MBC Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005.</p> <p>Recorded Crime Data (Mott MacDonald MIS)</p>
Transport	<p>The Local Transport Plan for Merseyside 2006 - 2011.</p> <p>PPG13: Transport.</p> <p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities.</p>
Community facilities	<p>Knowsley Community Plan, 2002-2012.</p> <p>Knowsley MBC Building Schools for the Future programme.</p> <p>PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation.</p>

Table 3.4: Sustainability Issues and Problems in Tower Hill	
	Policies, Plans Programmes and baseline information.
Economic Issues	
Unemployment	UK Sustainable Development Strategy-securing the future. Knowsley Community Plan, 2002-2012. Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006). Knowsley MBC Economic Development Plan. Unemployment Statistics (NOMIS).
Economic inactivity	Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future. Sustainable Development Strategy. Baseline data demonstrates that more of the population are economically inactive than active (2001 Census).
Low income levels	Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future. Sustainable Development Strategy. High unemployment and low economic activity lead to low levels of income.
The commercial vitality of local shopping areas	PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities. Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006). The above documents encourage creating vibrant, sustainable communities by supporting local shopping areas. Baseline data demonstrates that there are no vacancies.
Environmental Issues	
Built Environment	Sustainable Communities Plan. Building for the future. PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities. PPS3: Housing. By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards a Better Practice. By Design - Better Places to Live by Design: a companion guide to PPG3. Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006). Knowsley Guide to Development. Knowsley MBC Housing Strategy. Knowsley Community Plan, 2002-2012. Knowsley MBC Building Schools for the Future programme.

Table 3.4: Sustainability Issues and Problems in Tower Hill	
	Policies, Plans Programmes and baseline information.
Quality of and access to, local open space.	<p>PPG17: Planning for Sport, Open Space and Recreation.</p> <p>Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (June 2006).</p> <p>The North West Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, 2004-2008 Sport England in the North West.</p> <p>Open Space, Recreation & Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP, April 2005.)</p> <p>The provision of open space in Kirkby as a whole falls below the standard required. The community has highlighted the issue of the quality of open space.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Guide for the North West.</p> <p>The Countryside in and around Towns – a Vision for Connecting Town and Country in Pursuit of Sustainable Development.</p>
Quality of SGIs	<p>EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategy for England. 2002.</p> <p>PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</p> <p>North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>A stream, Kirkby Brook waterfall, is a Site of Geological Interest and is adjacent to the Action Area.</p>
Flooding	<p>PPS25: Planning and the Floodplain.</p> <p>A small part of the Action Area, including 4 houses, falls within the floodplain (Environment Agency flood map).</p>
Amount and type of car use.	<p>The Local Transport Plan For Merseyside 2006 - 2011.</p> <p>The majority of households in Tower Hill do not own a car. Economic growth often increases car ownership and the provision of sustainable transport is suggested to counter this trend.</p>

- 3.9 The requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Environmental Assessment are distinct but it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process. Table 3.5 shows how this is to be achieved and what the SPD should and can seek to achieve.

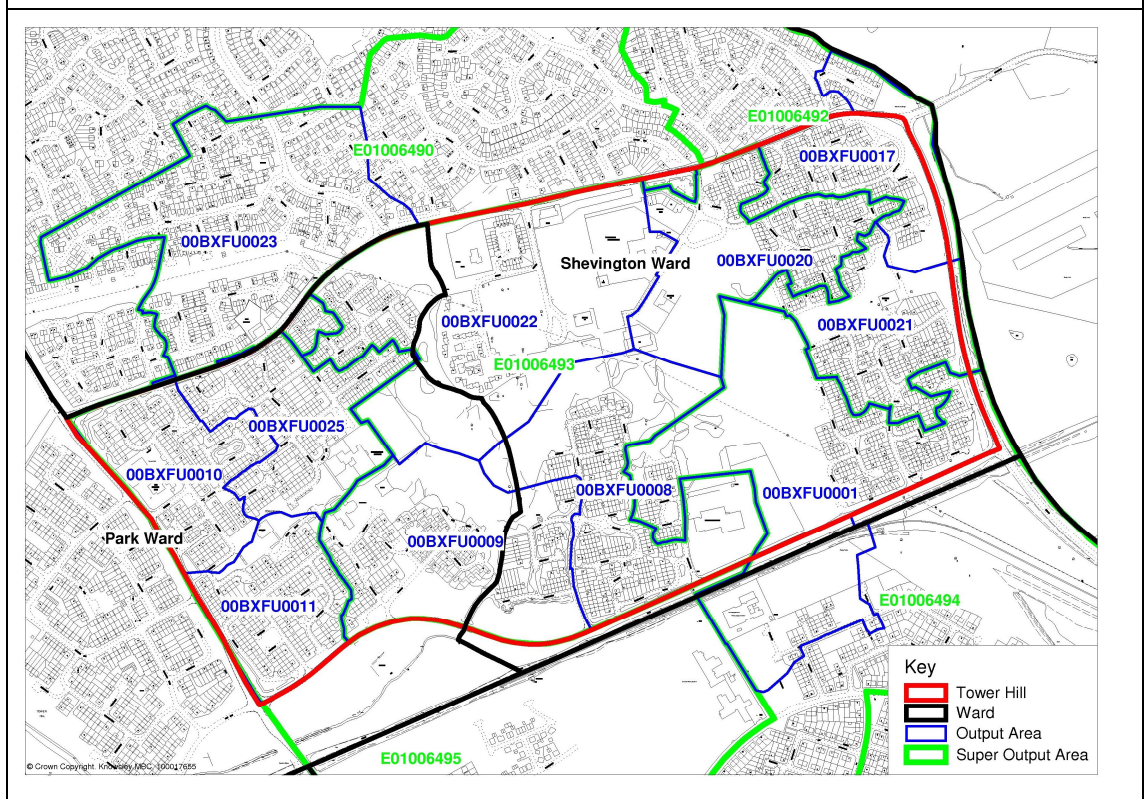
Table 3.5 – SA Objectives and SEA Criteria		
National Sustainability Objectives	SEA Criteria Covered	What the SPD should/can seek to achieve
Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment	Population Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage increased economic activity. • Reduce high levels of deprivation.
To Promote Inclusive Communities	Human Health Population Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve schools. • Improve housing mix. • Improve housing standards for all housing.
To Develop and Maintain an Effective Transport System	Material Assets Human Health Population Climatic Factors Water Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport. • Ensure the location of new facilities is easily accessible by foot, cycle and public transport. • Maintain high levels of bus usage.
To Enhance the Natural Environment	Fauna and Flora Soil Water Air Landscape Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the environmental quality of parks and open spaces. • Improve access to parks and open spaces. • Provide better quality and access to recreation and play facilities. • Improve biodiversity.
To Protect and Enhance the Borough's Cultural Heritage.	Cultural Heritage Material Assets Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an attractive built environment. • Improve design quality of housing, open space and community facilities.
To Protect Our Natural Resources	Fauna and Flora Soil Water Air Material Assets Climatic Factors Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance SBIs. • Protect the quantity and quality of surface, and ground waters. • Manage flood risk.

Data Collection Limitations of Tasks A1 - A3

- 3.10 The main limitation, when collecting data for the area covered by the Tower Hill Action Area SPD, comes from its boundary. Tower Hill is defined as an action area by Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan. The boundary of the Action Area does not correspond to boundaries for which data is usually collected.
- 3.11 This presents a problem when trying to find accurate information for the area. The Boundary spans two wards - Shevington and Park. It also spans five Super Output Areas (SOA) at the lower level, and eleven Output Areas. The best fit for the Action Area is Output Areas where

nine of the eleven Output Areas are totally within the Action Area. Figure 3.6 shows the boundaries.

Figure 3.6 - Boundaries



- 3.12 The problem with Output Area data is that it only relates to the 2001 Census, now five years out of date. Data will only be included from the 2001 Census for baseline and monitoring purposes when it is not available from other sources.
- 3.13 The Office for National Statistics are in the process of moving from data released at ward level to data released at Super Output Level. For baseline and monitoring purposes, both the Sustainability Appraisal and Supplementary Planning Document will use Super Output Areas where information is available at that level.
- 3.14 Of the 5 SOAs at lower level covering the Tower Hill Area, only one (E01006493) is contained totally within the Action Area. Table 3.7 shows the approximate percentage of the SOAs within the Action Area.

Table 3.7 – Super Output Areas (lower level) covering the Tower Hill Action Area		
SOA	Approximate Percentage within Action Area	Comments
E01006493	100%	
E01006494	24%	The area of the SOA inside the SOA is similar to that outside the SOA.
E01006492	50%	The area of the SOA inside the SOA is significantly different to that outside the SOA. The difference will have the effect of making the area within the Action Area appear to be less deprived than it actually is.
E01006495	28%	The area within the Action Area contains approximately 64% of the SOAs housing.
E01006490	2%	The majority of this SOA is outside of the Action Area and is significantly different in character from that inside. SOA E01006490 will therefore not be used for baseline or monitoring purposes.

- 3.15 Issues such as biodiversity and open space have no regular monitoring systems in place. This makes it more difficult to gain reliable baseline data. Isolated 'one off' studies and surveys can be useful but the fact these studies are single snap shots of data should be taken into account when monitoring takes place. Any future work should use similar data collection and analysis methods to ensure that the data can be compared.

Task A4: Developing the SA framework.

- 3.16 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework has been described as a 'toolkit' that can assess the sustainability of plans like the Tower Hill Action Area SPD. The 'toolkit' can be found in table 3.8.
- 3.17 The 'toolkit' includes the following elements:
- SA objectives
 - SA sub-objectives
 - Indicators
 - Evidence Base
 - Targets

SA Objectives

- 3.18 The SPD proposals will be appraised by the SA objectives to decide how sustainable the proposals are.

- 3.19 The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service has produced a comprehensive set of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators for Merseyside (see the first four columns of Appendix 2).
- 3.20 The comprehensive list of objectives has been refined using the following information:
- The scope of the SA defined in section 2 of the Scoping Report;
 - The objectives of the relevant plans and programmes defined in task A1;
 - The baseline characteristics of Tower Hill defined in Task 2; and,
 - The environmental and sustainability issues and problems in Task 3.
- 3.21 The justification for the refining the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Sustainability Appraisal Objectives is contained within column 6 of Appendix 2.
- 3.22 Following this process, the SA objectives to be used are:
1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.
 2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.
 3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.
 4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.
 5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.
 6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.
 7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.
 8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.
 9. To support voluntary and community networks, secure social inclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.
- 3.23 The SA objectives are listed in table 3.8

SA sub-objectives

- 3.24 Sub-objectives have been identified for each SA objective. This has been done to assist in determining how the plan objectives are to be achieved and which baseline indicators should be used.
- 3.25 The sustainability objectives and sub-objectives can be found, together with the indicators, in table 3.8.

Table 3.8 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework		
SA Objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator
1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.	To improve the overall IMD rating of the lower super output areas that cover Tower Hill.	Lower level SOA multiple deprivation rankings.
		% of population living in 10% most deprived SOAs nationally.
		Annual population change.
		Median full time weekly earnings.
		Average annual household income.
		Annual % change in total claimant count for Job Seekers Allowance.
2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.	To provide the required amount of open space.	Amount of open space per 1,000 people. ⁴
	To improve the quality of open space. Improve the cleanliness of open areas.	% of space that is of a high or acceptable standard of horticultural maintenance. ⁵
		Number of identified sitings of invasive weeds.
	Where possible preserve and enhance natural habitats.	Applicable North Merseyside BAP targets for species and habitats in SBIs.
		Number of regionally important habitats.
		Number of habitats considered to be priority habitats as defined within the local biodiversity action plan.
		Number of bats recorded.
		Number of nesting birds.
		Number of regionally important plant species.
		Number of locally rare plant species.
To reduce derelict land and buildings.	Amount of previously developed land and built structures that are derelict.	
To build new homes on previously developed land.	New build on previously developed land.	

Table 3.8 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework		
SA Objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator
3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.	Manage flood risk.	Number of properties in flood zone 2 and flood zone 3. ⁶
	Improve water quality and protect water resources.	Water quality (chemical and biological) classification of river.
	Improve air quality.	Estimated carbon emissions.
4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	To improve health, reducing long term illness.	No and % of residents with limiting long term illness. ²
		Years of healthy life expectancy.
5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.	To reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households. ³
		Violent offences committed per 1,000 population. ³
		Theft of a vehicle per 1,000 population. ³
		% of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day ³ .
		% of residents surveyed who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside after dark ³ .
		Number of recorded fly tipping incidents.
6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	Provide a wider choice of accommodation creating a greater mix of tenure.	Dwelling stock by council tax band. ¹
		Tenure type (Owned houses & Social rented) ² .
		Average house prices.
	To increase the quality of housing by improving housing amenities.	Number and % of homes with central heating ² .
		Percentage of homes meeting decent homes standard.
	To minimize resource and energy use when developing housing and the energy efficiency of housing.	Percentage of homes achieving Eco Homes rating Good / Very Good.
Thermal efficiency of housing stock (average SAP rating of authority dwellings).		
7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.	To encourage sustainable transport use.	Method of travel to work.
		Level of car ownership.
		Public transport users in households with and without a car or van.

Table 3.8 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework		
SA Objectives	SA Sub objectives	Indicator
8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.	To increase economic activity.	No and % of residents who are economically active/inactive ² .
	To increase educational achievement.	No and % of residents with no qualifications ² .
9. To support voluntary and community networks, secure social inclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.	To improve community facilities.	The amount of new or renovated facilities.
Sources: (1) Valuation Office Agency Data (2) National Statistics (3) Audit commission (4) Open Space, Recreation and Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy (PMP) (5) KMBC corporate plan (6) Environment Agency		

Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

- 3.26 Consultation on the scope of the SA is necessary to ensure that the approach to the SA and SEA is comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD.
- 3.27 Knowsley MBC sought the views of the four statutory environmental consultation bodies (the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency) on the scope of the SA. Comments received from each of the Agencies are contained in Appendix 1.

4. Options and Assessing the Affects

Background

- 4.1 The process of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is outlined in Office for the Deputy Prime Minister document *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*. The document splits the process into key stages and tasks.
- 4.2 This chapter presents the results of Tasks 1-6 of Stage B of the SA process. It appraises, in broad terms, the effects of strategic options and then, in more detail, the effects of the preferred options.
- 4.3 Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing their effects can be seen in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 - Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.
Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal framework.
Task B2: Developing the SPD options.
Task B3: Predicting the effects of the draft SPD.
Task B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD.
Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPDs.

Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal framework.

- 4.4 The objectives of the Tower Hill Action Area SPD must be in accordance with sustainability principles. To achieve this, the SPD objectives must be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. Observations, in turn, helped refine the SPD objectives and identify options.
- 4.5 In order to test the objectives of the SPD, a scoring system has been developed taking into account:
- The principles behind the SPD and SA objectives.
 - The baseline situation in Tower Hill related to the objectives.
 - The sustainability issues and problems in Tower Hill.
- 4.6 The scoring mechanism is contained in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Supplementary Planning Document Scoring	
++	Likely to be a very positive impact / highly compatible.
+	Likely to be a positive impact / compatible.
0	Likely to be a neutral impact / neither compatible or incompatible.
-	Likely to be a negative impact / conflict.
--	Likely to be a very negative impact / strong conflict.
?	Impact not known / unclear.

4.7 Table 4.3 illustrates the results of the appraisal. The SA objectives are set out down the vertical axis of the table and the SPD objectives across the horizontal axis. The table confirms that the objectives of the SA and SPD are, by and large, highly compatible.

Table 4.3 Appraisal Matrix

SA Objectives	SPD Objectives											
	To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement.	Significant qualitative improvements to greenspace.	To provide a single, positive identity for the whole area that retains, enhances, and nurtures distinctive elements of Tower Hill's physical and natural environment.	To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing.	To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure.	To create an attractive, safe, and well designed series of neighbourhoods that are well connected.	To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential.	To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of.	To create a neighbourhood for future generations .	To create a location where people will choose to live and work.	To regenerate suburban living.	To promote sustainable transport options.
1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.	+ Comprehensive redevelopment may indirectly help to reduce poverty, ill health and social deprivation. As a result of comprehensive redevelopment, new jobs maybe generated in the community.	+	0	+ A choice and quality of housing is likely to have an indirect positive outcome.	+ Good quality community facilities will create a more inclusive community and improve cohesiveness.	0	++ In order for people to achieve their potential, it will depend upon the ability to reduce overall poverty, ill health and social deprivation.	++ Reduced poverty and social deprivation, combined with high and stable levels of employment are key to a sustainable community.	++ Future generations will aspire to live in a place where poverty, ill health and social deprivation are low.	++ People will chose to live in places where poverty and social deprivation are low. People will choose to move to areas with high and stable employment levels .	++ A regenerated suburbia will have low levels of poverty and social deprivation.	++
2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.	++ Comprehensive development will allow open space to be preserved through the recycling of Brownfield land.	++ Improvements to greenspace will improve landscapes, local environment, and character.	+ Improved landscapes, and environmental quality, will enable distinctive elements to be enhanced.	+ New housing may contribute to enhancements of existing open space.	++ Good community facilities will include quality areas of open space.	0	0	++ A sustainable neighbourhood must protect and enhance existing biodiversity.	++ The protection of biodiversity will ensure it is available for future generations .	++ People like living in an attractive environment, with good access to open space and where nature can exist in harmony with other uses.	++ Regeneration will require the enhancement of open space and areas of biological interest.	0

Table 4.3 Appraisal Matrix

SA Objectives	SPD Objectives											
	To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement.	Significant qualitative improvements to greenspace.	To provide a single, positive identity for the whole area that retains, enhances, and nurtures distinctive elements of Tower Hill's physical and natural environment.	To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing.	To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure.	To create an attractive, safe, and well designed series of neighbourhoods that are well connected.	To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential.	To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of.	To create a neighbourhood for future generations .	To create a location where people will choose to live and work.	To regenerate suburban living.	To promote sustainable transport options.
3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.	++ Comprehensive redevelopment will need to meet strict Environment Agency standards. This will lessen the impact on natural resources and the environment.	0	++ An improvement in the local water, air and soil quality will ensure existing natural habitats are retained and enhanced.	0	0	0	0	++ Low impact on the natural environment and resources are key to sustainability.	++ Future generations will depend on the protection of natural resources and the environment.	0	0	0
4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	+ Comprehensive redevelopment may indirectly help to reduce poverty, ill health and social deprivation.	+ Use of improved greenspace and children's playgrounds will improve health.	0	+ A choice and quality of housing is likely to have an indirect positive outcome.	+ The provision of good community facilities are fundamental to improving health.	0	++ People in good health are more likely to be able to achieve their potential.	++ A healthy living environment will contribute to creating a sustainable community.	++ Future generations will aspire to a place which boosts a good standard of health and well being.	++ People will be attracted to locations offering good health facilities.	++ A regenerated suburbia will have better living conditions.	+ Reduction in car use will improve health.

Table 4.3 Appraisal Matrix

SA Objectives	SPD Objectives											
	To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement.	Significant qualitative improvements to greenspace.	To provide a single, positive identity for the whole area that retains, enhances, and nurtures distinctive elements of Tower Hill's physical and natural environment.	To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing.	To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure.	To create an attractive, safe, and well designed series of neighbourhoods that are well connected.	To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential.	To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of.	To create a neighbourhood for future generations.	To create a location where people will choose to live and work.	To regenerate suburban living.	To promote sustainable transport options.
5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.	++ Comprehensive redevelopment will concentrate on an improved local environment that has natural surveillance. New development will be built to higher security standards.	++ Greenspace to be designed to reduce crime.	0	++ Diversification of the socio-economic profile through a wider choice of housing is likely to have a positive impact upon levels of crime.	+ Well designed and run community facilities are likely to have an indirect positive impact upon crime.	+ Design to reduce crime.	++ For a neighbourhood to be viable, levels of crime must be low and individuals must feel safe.	++ A safe, crime free environment is a key component of a sustainable community.	++ Future generations will continue to live in areas that are considered to be safe neighbourhoods.	++ More people will decide to live and work in areas with low levels of crime and fear of crime and here they do not feel intimidated.	++ A regenerated suburbia will promote a safe environment.	0
6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.	++ Comprehensive redevelopment will deliver a diverse mix of high quality housing.	0	+ New housing will give the opportunity to establish a positive identity.	++ A key component of transforming the housing market will be the provision of good quality affordable and resource efficient housing.	0	0	++ The provision of resource efficient housing will create sustainable neighbourhoods where people are more likely to achieve their potential.	++ People will be proud of well designed, quality housing.	++ Future generations will benefit from a mix of well designed, high quality housing.	++ Neighbourhoods with a good choice of well designed housing of different types and tenure will appeal to a wider cross section of people.	++ Suburban living will be regenerated by well designed high quality housing.	0

Table 4.3 Appraisal Matrix

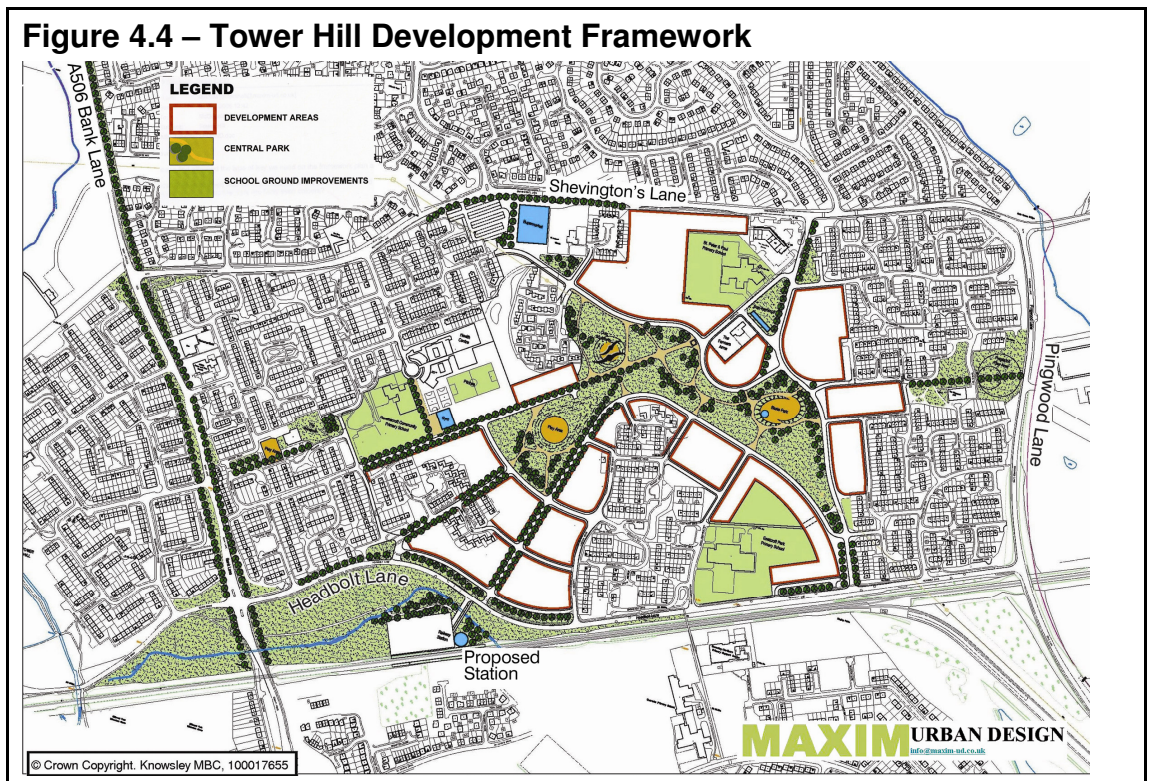
SA Objectives	SPD Objectives											
	To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement.	Significant qualitative improvements to greenspace.	To provide a single, positive identity for the whole area that retains, enhances, and nurtures distinctive elements of Tower Hill's physical and natural environment.	To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing.	To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure.	To create an attractive, safe, and well designed series of neighbourhoods that are well connected.	To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential.	To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of.	To create a neighbourhood for future generations .	To create a location where people will choose to live and work.	To regenerate suburban living.	To promote sustainable transport options.
7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.	+ Comprehensive redevelopment will deliver a series of new routes through the area, enhancing connectivity and reducing community severance.	0	- Improved accessibility to the natural environment, may lead to the better care and understanding of the resource by the local community, however, increased access may lead to some destruction of natural habitats.	0	+ Access to the provision of essential community facilities will depend upon good accessibility.	++ Neighbourhoods that are well connected will reduce community severance.	++ Good access to services and facilities is critical to creating a sustainable neighbourhood.	++ Good access to services and facilities and the utilisation of more sustainable transport modes are key components of a sustainable community.	++ Future generations will benefit from improved connectivity throughout the area.	++ Good connections with local facilities will have a positive impact upon increasing the number of people who wish to live in the area. This will consequently help to sustain the housing market.	++ A regenerated suburbia will promote good local accessibility.	++ More sustainable transport modes are key components of a sustainable community.
8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.	0	0	0	0	++ Education is an essential community facility.	0	++ Good educational attainment and training opportunities will help people to achieve their potential.	++ Good educational attainment is an essential element of a sustainable community.	++ Future generations will be attracted to areas with good education and training opportunities.	++ People will be attracted to areas with good educational facilities, especially schools.	++ The provision of better education will help to regenerate the area.	0

Table 4.3 Appraisal Matrix

SA Objectives	SPD Objectives											
	To deliver comprehensive development, redevelopment and improvement.	Significant qualitative improvements to greenspace.	To provide a single, positive identity for the whole area that retains, enhances, and nurtures distinctive elements of Tower Hill's physical and natural environment.	To achieve a wider choice of popular and quality housing.	To incorporate and facilitate essential community facilities, services and infrastructure.	To create an attractive, safe, and well designed series of neighbourhoods that are well connected.	To create a viable neighbourhood where people achieve their potential.	To create a sustainable neighbourhood that people are proud of.	To create a neighbourhood for future generations .	To create a location where people will choose to live and work.	To regenerate suburban living.	To promote sustainable transport options.
9. To support voluntary and community networks, secure social inclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.	+ Comprehensive redevelopment will provide a series of opportunities for engaging the public in how they think their community should be.	0	+ Community involvement should allow people a chance to nurture the physical and natural environment.	+ Through the provision of a wide range of housing tenures, it is likely that it will help address the issue of social exclusion.	+ The provision of good quality community facilities will provide increased opportunity for voluntary and community groups to operate.	0	+ If a viable neighbourhood is to be created, individuals must have an equal opportunity to engage in decision making.	+ Support of community involvement will create a sense of ownership, which will support long term sustainability.	+ Future generations will benefit from opportunities for involvement in decision making.	+ People will choose to live in areas where there is a sense of ownership and they feel they can make a difference.	+ Community involvement in decision making will regenerate the area.	0

Task B2: Developing the SPD options.

- 4.8 Through the 1980's and 90's, a considerable capital investment was made in Tower Hill. Its purpose was to change and improve the living environment on the estate. The most recent initiative was an Estate Action Programme that spent in excess of £26m re-structuring the housing areas. The programme improved a number of negative physical aspects on the estate but failed to completely address the urban design needs of the community. A number of multi-storey towers were demolished as part of the programme but it was not possible, at that time, to attract private sector partners to assist in the redevelopment of the area. The non-replacement of dwellings increased the space at the heart of the estate. Problems caused by the uncontrolled increase of the open space can now only be solved by a comprehensive approach.
- 4.9 There has been considerable additional investment in the area during the last few years. Since 2002, Knowsley Housing Trust has invested £12.7m in elemental renewal programmes. By the end of their investment programme, in April 2007, they will have invested £20m. Also since 2002, four Sure Start nurseries have opened, 3 multi games areas have been provided and a new health and community centre has been completed.
- 4.10 An Urban Design consultant has been working with a Stakeholders Group to help develop a broad outline for development in Tower Hill. The Stakeholders Group has representation from elected members, council officers, local clergy, head teachers, emergency services and young people. The group is influencing how investment is to be made in the area. It also communicates progress to a resident's Focus Group.
- 4.11 The residents of the Tower Hill estate have had an active role in helping to shape the estate. They have been kept informed concerning the regeneration of the area through the existing community networks.
- 4.12 A "soft consultation" took place with the focus group in November 2005 followed by formal consultation with residents in January 2006. The formal consultation took place over a 5 day period with details of the proposals also being available in Knowsley Housing Trust's office at Tower Hill for a further week. Figure 4.4 shows the layout suggested in the consultation exercise.



4.13 The following options were contained within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report:

Option 1: Minimal Change

A wider choice of housing accommodation will be given through the erection of 300 new dwellings (including 50 demolitions). This is in accordance with the Revised Draft Replacement Plan. Ten percent of new housing to be in low cost ownership.

Option 2: Residents Supported option

A wider choice of housing accommodation will be given through the erection of 300 new dwellings. Ten percent of new housing to be in low cost ownership.

Improvement to open space.

Improvement and erection of children's play areas.

Erection of a retail unit.

4.14 The erection of a retail unit will require a Retail Impact Assessment that will include evidence of need. A third option is therefore included that excludes the retail unit.

Option 3

A wider choice of housing accommodation will be given through the erection of 300 new dwellings. Ten percent of new housing to be in low cost ownership.

Improvement to open space.

Improvement and erection of children's play areas.

Task B3: Predicting the effects of the options.

- 4.15 The purpose of task B3 is to predict the social, environmental and economic effects of the options being considered in the SPD.
- 4.16 The evidence base within the SA 'Toolkit' provides a snapshot of what Tower Hill is today as well as how it has evolved over the last few years. This allows a judgement to be made as to how existing plans are influencing the area and how new plans may alter this situation.
- 4.17 The prediction has been made by assessing each option against the sustainability objectives and the evidence base and targets that supported them. In making the prediction, the changes that would occur to the existing baseline situation as a result of implementing the plan has also taken into consideration.
- 4.18 The scoring system which identifies whether certain options are likely to have a positive, negative or neutral impact in terms of sustainability is detailed in table 4.2.

Task B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD.

Table 4.5 - Appraisal of Strategic Options			
SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1. To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion; and to maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long term unemployment.	+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of persons in poverty in the estate as a whole.	+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of persons in poverty in the estate as a whole. + Erection of a shop unit may have a little positive impact on poverty reduction and economic inclusion.	+ Increased number of owner occupiers will reduce the proportion of persons in poverty in the estate as a whole.
Score	1	2	1
2. To protect, manage and enhance biodiversity, habitats, endangered species, and sites of importance; and to improve landscapes, local environmental quality, and local character.	- There will be a loss of open space.	+ There will be a loss of open space but the quality that which remains will be greatly enhanced.	+ There will be a loss of open space but the quality that which remains will be greatly enhanced.
Score	-1	1	1

Table 4.5 - Appraisal of Strategic Options			
SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
3. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland water and local air and soil quality; and to mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.	0 New houses will not be built in flood plain.	0 New houses will not be built in flood plain.	0 New houses will not be built in flood plain.
Score	0	0	0
4. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	0	+ Improved open space and erection of children's play spaces should improve health.	+ Improved open space and erection of children's play spaces should improve health.
Score	0	1	1
5. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.	+ New high quality housing, especially those providing natural surveillance to the open space, will contribute to a safer, vibrant, attractive place to live.	++ New high quality housing, especially those providing natural surveillance to the open space, will contribute to a safer, vibrant, attractive place to live. + Improved open space will increase the attractiveness, and number of persons using it, will increase it further.	++ New high quality housing, especially those providing natural surveillance to the open space, will contribute to a safer, vibrant, attractive place to live. + Improved open space will increase the attractiveness, and number of persons using it, will increase it further.
Score	1	3	3
6. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.	++ 10% of new houses will be for low cost ownership. + Housing designed to CABE standard will ensure high quality.	++ 10% of new houses will be for low cost ownership. + Housing designed to CABE standard will ensure high quality.	++ 10% of new houses will be for low cost ownership. + Housing designed to CABE standard will ensure high quality.
Score	3	3	3
7. To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities; to reduce community severance and reduce the need to travel by improving choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.	0	+ Erection of a shop unit may have a little positive impact on the environment of a small part of Tower Hill.	0
Score	0	1	0

Table 4.5 - Appraisal of Strategic Options			
SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
8. To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.	0	0	0
Score	0	0	0
9. To support voluntary and community networks, secure social inclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.	0	+ Improvement to open space and erection of children's play areas will secure social inclusion.	+ Improvement to open space and erection of children's play areas will secure social inclusion.
Score	0	1	1
Total	4	12	10

- 4.19 Table 4.5 shows that Option 3 scores highly against sustainability objectives but Option 2 is marginally higher. Option 1 scores significantly lower.
- 4.20 Options 2 and 3 have the benefit improving the remaining open space both visually and from a safety aspect.
- 4.21 The only negative impact that Options 2 and 3 have is the loss of open space; but the quality of open space lost is considered to be not very high and the remaining open space will be greatly enhanced.

Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.

- 4.22 Options 2 and 3 perform well against all sustainability objectives. The only adverse effect being in respect of quantity of open space.
- 4.23 Policy OS3 of the Replacement Unitary Development Plan states that no Substantial Residential Area should have less than 0.5 hectares per thousand residents for general amenity use, and 0.2 hectares per thousand residents for children's play. It also states that all households should have access to amenity greenspace, allotments and children's play space within a catchment distance that is appropriate for the users.
- 4.24 In order to ensure that the quantity of open space is sufficient for Tower Hill, planning obligations will be sought to secure new or improved provision and contributions towards future maintenance.

- 4.25 In order to ensure that development will improve access by public transport, walking and cycling, a Transport Assessment with a Travel Plan will be required.
- 4.26 An ecological assessment should be made for the area affected by development within the Action Area. The report should contain an assessment of the impact that the development will make, mitigation measures to be incorporated, and long term maintenance and management arrangements for all open spaces.
- 4.27 If a Retail Impact Assessment determines that a further retail unit is required, impact on existing and proposed residential properties should be taken into account in the location and design of the retail unit.

Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD.

- 4.28 In order to determine the effect that the SPD has had, the indicators for each SA objective should be monitored and compared to the baseline data. The SA framework outlined in task A4 provides a base from which a monitoring system can be developed. Monitoring of the plan will be used to test the assumptions and predictions made during the SA process. It will also be used to highlight changes that will have to be made to the SPD in order to rectify any of its unforeseen negative impacts. This will be reported in the Local Development Framework's Annual Monitoring Report.

5. Quality Assurance

Introduction

- 5.1 Quality assurance is an important element of the appraisal process; it helps to ensure that the SEA requirements are met and shows how effectively the appraisal has integrated sustainability considerations into the emerging SPD.
- 5.2 Appendix 9 in the ODPM publication *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive* suggests a quality assurance checklist, based on the guidance, be used to help test whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met. The checklist, and where the requirements have been met, is contained within Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 – Quality Assurance checklist	Location
<p>Objectives and context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan's or programme's purpose and objectives are made clear. • Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. • SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained. • Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described. 	<p>Paragraphs 1.1, 1.2</p> <p>Table 3.2</p> <p>Table 3.3</p> <p>Table 3.2</p>
<p>Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. • Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. 	<p>Paragraph 3.26</p> <p>Paragraph 3.8</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.10, 3.11</p> <p>Paragraph 4.22</p>
<p>Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. 	<p>Paragraphs 4.12 - 4.14</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. • The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. • Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. • Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	<p>Paragraphs 4.13 - 4.14</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.19 - 4.23</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.19 - 4.23</p>
<p>Baseline information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan or programme are described. • Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan. • Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<p>Paragraph 3.9</p> <p>Table 3.4, 3.8</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.10, 3.11</p>
<p>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate. • Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects is addressed. • Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable. • Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable. • The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds. • Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<p>Paragraph 3.9</p> <p>Paragraph 4.7, 4.18</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6</p>
<p>Mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme are indicated. 	<p>Paragraphs 4.22 - 4.27</p>
<p>The Environmental Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified. 	<p>Chapter 6 of SPD</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate. • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA. 	
<p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process. • Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report. 	
<p>Decision-making and information on the decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan or programme. • An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. • Reasons are given for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	
<p>Monitoring measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA. • Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan or programme to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA. • Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) • Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects. 	

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Table 6.1 outlines the consultation stages of the SPD and SA / SEA process.

Table 6.1: Next Steps.
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the SPD and SA Report.
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the SPD and the SA Report.
D2: Appraising significant changes.
D3: Making decisions and providing information.

- 6.2 Public consultation on both the draft Supplementary Planning Document and the SA / SEA report commenced on 13th November 2006 and finished on 18th December 2006, during which fourteen representations were received.
- 6.3 The relatively modest number and scope of the representations received can be explained by the fact that there was wide publicity given to the Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area proposals during the replacement Unitary Development Plan processes. This was over a period of more than two years prior to drafting the SPD and nothing in the draft SPD conflicted with the proposals.
- 6.4 As a result of representations made during the consultation exercise, a number of minor amendments were made to the SPD and the SA/SEA. The preferred option, however, remained the same. The Council's response to representations made can be found in the document "Statement of Consultation Tower Hill (Kirkby) Action Area Supplementary Planning Document".

7. Monitoring

- 7.1 Table 7.1 outlines the consultation stages of the SPD and SA / SEA process.

Table 7.1: Monitoring.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD.
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2: Responding to adverse effects.

- 7.2 The effect of the development in Tower Hill will be monitored in accordance with this document and will be reported upon in the Local Development Framework's Annual Monitoring Report.

Appendix 1: Comments on SA / SEA Scoping Report

The consultation period for the SA / SEA Scoping Report was from 26 May 2006 to 30 June 2006 during which the following representations were made.

The Environment Agency.

Kirkby Brook (main river) runs to the south west of the action area. Development should be prevented from encroaching the brook. Any development within 8m of the main river will require consent from the Environment Agency under the Water Resources Act 1991.

Simonswood Brook runs to the north east of Tower Hill. This area is shown to be located in Zone 2, the flood plain as delineated on the Environment Agency's Flood Zone Maps. A small amount of the flood plain falls into the Tower Hill area.

One or more landfill sites have been identified within 250 metres of the Tower Hill area. If it is proposed to dig piling foundations for future development then the risk of gas migration should be considered.

Sustainability Appraisal

Table 3.1

The Environment Agency would like to see the inclusion of PPS25 and the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West included within the list.

A2 - Baseline Information

Please find enclosed a list of potential indicators and objectives which the Environment Agency would recommend for consideration.

Table 5.2 - Issues and Problems

With regards to the sustainability objective of enhancing the natural environment the SPD is seeking to enhance any open space. The river corridor of Kirkby Brook provides recreational opportunities and at the moment remains open. The masterplan in figure 4.2 demonstrates that development could encroach onto the river corridor and the Environment Agency may object to any such development.

If the corridor was to remain untouched as open space it would help achieve this objective and also provide an area for recreation.

Table 6.1

We are pleased that the issue of flood risk and contaminated land have been considered. The Environment Agency would also recommend the inclusion of improving water quality/protecting water resources within the sub objectives.

The Countryside Agency.

The Countryside Agency's key environmental interest, in the context of Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA) are landscape character and quality; visual amenity and enjoyment of the countryside; recreational opportunities; and enjoyment of access land or a public right of way. The subject matter covered by the SPD is largely redevelopment of an urban area and therefore unlikely to affect any of the Agency's main environmental interests. The Agency does not wish to comment on the document.

We should explain that the absence of comment is simply an expression of our remit and priorities, and should not be taken as implying a lack of interest or indicating either support for, or objection to, the plan.

English Heritage.

At paragraph 4.12 you describe one of the objectives for the regeneration of Tower Hill as "retaining, enhancing and nurturing distinctive elements of its physical and natural environment" and that they will be used to determine baseline information collection. However the un-numbered table on page 27 does not include any SA sub-objective or information relating to local distinctiveness.

The following is suggested;

- Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.

Table 5.1 sets out sustainability issues and problems and it is surprising given that the area is identified in the UDP for comprehensive development, redevelopment or improvement that the section on environmental issues does not identify issues relating to the built environment. Table 5.2 states that Tower Hill does not contain any significant historical building, landmarks or cultural heritage. It is not clear from the report whether any character based assessment has been made of the area to establish this. Additionally the SEA directive describes cultural heritage as including archaeological heritage. It is not clear if any assessment has been made of archaeology. The table says that the SPD should concentrate on making the area an attractive place to live creating a better urban form. This could be informed by historic landscape characterization or similar character based assessment.

English Nature.

English Nature is satisfied with the report and has no further comments to make.

Appendix 2 - Merseyside Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators – October 2005

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators <i>(The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate)</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
1	To use energy, water and mineral resources prudently and efficiently and increase energy generated from renewable sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average energy & water consumption per capita/household (if figures can be obtained, e.g. from utility companies?) • Number of existing large scale renewable energy schemes (by type) and quantity of electricity generated from each (N4) • Use of mineral aggregates and proportion of primary aggregates used (D9, S14) 	Climatic factors Material assets Soil	√ see objective 12.	The residential focus of the SPD will mean that the prudent use of resources is attributed to housing; this is covered in objective 12.
2	To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total annual volume of waste generated and volume of waste per household (H15, A4) • Proportion of waste recycled/disposed by method of disposal (H15, A5) • Number and type of waste handling, treatment & disposal sites, including area of active landfill operations 	Soil Material assets	√ see objective 12.	The residential focus of the SPD will mean that waste production and recycling is attributed to housing; this is covered in objective 12.
3	To reduce poverty and social deprivation and secure economic inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices of multiple deprivation ranking (E2) and proportion of population in the most deprived 10% (or 25%?) of wards nationally • District earnings (e.g. Merseyside Economic Review fig. 3.33) • Percentage of population (or numbers) receiving state benefits and percentage of children under 16 in households claiming benefits 	Population Human Health	√	Combined with objective 19. This is a key issue for the Tower Hill SPD.

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators <i>(The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate)</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
4	To preserve, enhance and manage Merseyside's rich diversity of cultural, historic and archaeological buildings, areas, sites and features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and reported condition of designated heritage sites Number of listed buildings and percentage on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register (K5) Number and total area of conservation areas and % with current character appraisals. 	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	X	As identified in scoping study this is not a major issue in Tower Hill.
5	To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity, the viability of endangered species, habitats and sites of geological importance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation & geologically important sites and reported condition (S6) Progress against Biodiversity Action Plan targets (S4) Number (and area) of locally designated nature conservation sites 	Biodiversity Fauna Flora	√	Combined with objectives 6 and 9. The area does not contain any Sites of Biological Interest. There is a Site of Geological Interest on land adjoining the Action Area. This will need to be protected.
6	To protect, enhance and manage the local character and accessibility of the landscape across the sub-region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total area of publicly accessible non-urban open land/ green space (S8) Total area of publicly accessible urban green space (K7) Extent of Green Belt and areas of designated* landscape value/importance (S7) Total area of woodland 	Landscape	√	Combined with objectives 5 and 9.

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators (<i>The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate</i>)	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
7	To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality (chemical & biological) classification of rivers, canals, estuaries and coastal waters and percentage lengths in different classes (<i>H12, R1</i>) Extent of wetland/water dependent sites/habitats of designated nature conservation importance (derived from national and local site lists in 5 above) 	Water	√	Combined with objectives 8, 15 and 16. These are all wider environmental concerns and must be addressed as major issues. However, they are combined as the SPD can only deal with them in broad terms.
8	To protect, and where necessary, improve local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background pollutant concentrations (<i>P1</i>) Number of 'air pollution days' (<i>H10</i>) Annual quantity of emissions by sector (<i>P2, P3</i>) Number and total area of Air Quality Management Areas and population living in AQMAs Number of significant 'point' sources – Part A processes Traffic volumes (annual average daily and peak hour) on main (principal ?) roads (<i>H11</i>) 	Air Human Health	√	See 7.
9	To protect, manage and, where necessary, improve local environmental quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of residents' satisfaction survey about their neighbourhood Number of complaints about disturbance due to noise and type of noise causing complaint Percentage of population exposed to noise levels above acceptable thresholds (to be derived from Defra noise mapping in future) (<i>K8</i>) 	Population Human Health	√	See 5.

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators <i>(The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate)</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
10	To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years of healthy life expectancy (H6) • Mortality (standardised mortality ratios) by main cause (F1) • Proportion of population overweight 	Human health	√	This is an integral part of a sustainable community.
11	To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of people killed/seriously injured in traffic accidents • Numbers of children killed/seriously injured in traffic accidents • Recorded crimes per 1,000 population (H8) • Number of people reporting fear of crime (K9) 	Population Human health	√	This is an integral part of a sustainable community.
12	To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population in different housing types (owner occupied, rented private sector, rented public sector, social landlord etc.) • Percentage of properties classed as 'unfit' (H7) (data probably only available for Council and social housing stock) • Percentage of new homes achieving 'Good' or better score in "EcoHomes" rating scheme 	Material assets	√	This is a key priority for the SPD.

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators <i>(The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate)</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
13	To improve local accessibility of goods, services and amenities and reduce community severance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government defined indicators for access by public transport to education, work, health care and shopping centres <i>(J1)</i> Indices of deprivation– access score ranking 	Population Material Assets	√	Combined with objective 14. The use of other modes of transport to the car is an integral part of a sustainable community, especially one with low car ownership. Any change to services and transport within Tower Hill should not harm the cohesion of the community.
14	To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of more sustainable transport modes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal travel – distances, purposes and modes <i>(G1, G3)</i> Travel to school by mode <i>(G2)</i> Bus and rail patronage Quality of bus fleet (age/engine standard) 	Population Air Material assets	√	See 13
15	To mitigate and adapt to climate change including flood risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated greenhouse gas emissions by sector <i>(H9)</i> Extent of flood risk areas – riverine and coastal Proportion of new development incorporating SUDS Number of planning permission proceeding against EA advice to refuse on flood risk grounds 	Water Climatic factors	√	See 7

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators (<i>The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate</i>)	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
16	To protect, manage and restore land and soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural land quality classification • Location and extent of potentially contaminated land • Proportion of development (residential and commercial) on previously used land (<i>H14</i>) 	Soil	√	See 7
17	To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business, exploit the growth potential of business sectors and increase the number of new businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GVA per capital and city region comparator</i> • <i>Floor space (minimum 2500 sq m) of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) new retail development ii) new office development iii) new leisure development • VAT registered businesses and business survival rates 		X	The SPD considers the erection of one shop unit; however as the area is mainly residential this is not a major concern for the SPD.
18	To enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proportion of vacant street level property in town centres</i> 		X	There are six shops within the area with consideration given for a further unit. A retail impact assessment will be undertaken as part of any planning application.

Number	Proposed SEA/SA Objective	Potential Indicators <i>(The reference number for the national sustainable development indicator is given where appropriate)</i>	Strategic Environmental Assessment issues	Used	Reason
19	Maintain high and stable levels of employment and reduce long-term unemployment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Amount of land developed for employment (in schemes of more than 1000 sq m B1 – B8)</i> • <i>Loss of employment land (by LA area and by regeneration area- SIAs/Pathfinders or others as defined by LA)</i> • <i>Population in employment</i> • <i>Net employment change by LA area (e.g. fig 3.23 in Merseyside Economic Review)</i> • <i>Job Density</i> 		√	Combined with objective 3 since a reduction in long term unemployment will reduce poverty and social exclusion.
20	Develop and market the image of Merseyside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of visitors</i> • <i>Visitor spend</i> 		√ see objective 3 and 12.	This objective will be indirectly covered by objectives 3 and 12.
21	To improve educational attainment, training and opportunities for lifelong learning and employability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>% of pupils in school maintained by the local education authority achieving level 5 or above in key stage 2: English and Maths</i> • <i>% of 15 yr olds in school maintained by LA achieving five or more GCSE's at grades A-C or equivalent</i> • <i>% of working age population receiving training in the last 13 weeks</i> • <i>% of adults educated to NVQ level 3 or higher</i> 		√	This is an integral part of a sustainable community.
22	To support voluntary and community networks, assist social exclusion and ensure community involvement in decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No. of groups/individuals involved in decision making</i> • <i>No. of new community facilities developed</i> 		√	Community involvement has been an integral part of the process and the SPD should continue this.

Appendix 3 – Bibliography

A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005)

By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards a Better Practice (DETR and CABE, 2000)

By Design - Better Places to Live by Design: a companion guide to PPG3 (DETR and CABE, 2001)

Knowsley Guide to Development (Knowsley MBC and BDP, 2005)

Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (Knowsley MBC, 2006)

Merseyside Environmental Objectives and Indicators for SEA/SA (Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, 2005)

Open Space, Sport & Recreation Needs Assessment & Strategy (Knowsley MBC and PMP, 2005)

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)

Consultation Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS1 (DCLG, 2006)

Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (DCLG, 2006)

Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM, 2005)

Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (PPG13). (ODPM, 2001)

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. (ODPM, 2002)

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (DCLG, 2006)

Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (Submitted Draft) (North West Regional Assembly, 2006)

Regional Planning Guidance for the North West (RPG13) (ODPM, 2003)

Securing the Future (DEFRA, 2005)

Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

A Sense Of Place - design guidelines for development near high voltage overhead lines (National Grid UK, 2006)

Urban Design Compendium (English Partnerships and The Housing Corporation, 2000)

Appendix 4 - Glossary

Annual Monitoring Report	A document produced annually that assesses the extent to which the policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	The government department which has responsibility for planning and local government.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	A portfolio of documents that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Local Development Scheme, • a Statement of Community Involvement, • a Core Strategy, • Development Plan Documents, for example housing and employment land allocations, • Supplementary Planning Documents, • a Proposals Map, and • an Annual Monitoring Report.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)	The government department which had responsibility for planning and local government until May 2006 when responsibility was given to the Department for Communities and Local Government.
Output Areas (OAs)	This is the smallest area for which tables of results are published in the 2001 Census. Output Areas have an average of 125 households.
Scoping Report	A Report that describes the scope and the methodology to be used in the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires that an assessment be made of the effects that certain plans and programmes will have on the environment.
Super Output Areas (SOAs)	Super Output Areas (SOAs) were created by the Office for National Statistics to provide an improved basis for comparison of statistics across the country. There will be three sizes of Super Output Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower level built up of 4 to 6 Output Areas. This level will be used for most purposes. ▪ Middle level – built up of 4 to 6 Lower level SOAs ▪ Upper level – boundaries not yet determined but will comprise 4 to 6 Middle level SOAs.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Supplementary Planning Document cover a wide range of issues on which the council wishes to provide policy guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in development plan documents.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	A document produced to ensure that development proceeds in a sustainable manner through the improved integration of

Appendix 4 - Glossary

	sustainability issues into the plan making process. At the heart of the idea of sustainable development is the principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations.
Unitary Development Plan (UDP)	A borough-wide statutory development plan which that Council was required to prepare under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It sets out the Council's proposals for the development and use of the land. The current UDP was adopted on 14 June 2006.