**Knowsley Local Development Framework
Core Strategy**

Issues and Options: Report of Consultation

March 2010

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Please note that these Appendices A – F have not been included with the Cabinet version of this Report of Consultation but will be available to view online. This is due to their length.

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1   Introduction

1.0.1   Welcome to the Report of Consultation for the Issues and Options Consultation on the Core Strategy, part of Knowsley's Local Development Framework. This document is being published subsequent to the Issues and Options consultation period, and summarises the process involved in preparing and conducting the consultation, as well as summarising the results of the consultation to feed back to participants, and for use in subsequent stages of Core Strategy preparation.

1.1   What is the Issues and Options Paper?

1.1.1   The Issues and Options Paper was the first stage of preparation of the Knowsley Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the central document within the Knowsley Local Development Framework (LDF), which is the new system of spatial planning introduced by the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. Once completed, the Core Strategy will provide the overarching strategy for the development of Knowsley up to 2026 and beyond, and along with the other documents to be produced as part of the LDF, will replace Knowsley's existing development plan (the Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan, completed in 2006).

1.1.2   As the first stage of preparation of the Core Strategy, the Issues and Options Paper presented what the Council considers to be the key issues affecting Knowsley both now and in the future, and discusses broad options for tackling these issues. Being published for a period of public consultation, the Issues and Options Paper represented the first opportunity for people living and working in Knowsley to have their say on the development of the Borough, and particularly about the issues and options presented by the Council. As explained in this document, the process of consultation is critical to the Local Development Framework process, allowing for community involvement in spatial planning and helping those with an interest in Knowsley to understand and help to shape the Council's vision for the Borough.

1.2   Purpose of the Document

1.2.1   The purpose of this document is to fully explain the processes involved with the Issues and Options consultation, and to make clear how and why the consultation is a valuable process. The document is also intended to summarise the results of the consultation, including the main points raised by those participating in and contributing towards the consultation. In doing this, the Council will be able to demonstrate that points raised have been considered, summarised and accounted for and hence that the consultation has been a helpful and worthwhile exercise. Finally, this document will play an important role in supporting the development of subsequent stages of the Knowsley Core Strategy,

notably the forthcoming Preferred Options stage, which will be shaped by consultation responses received at the Issues and Options stage. This report will feed into a wider "Developing the Knowsley Core Strategy" document, which will explain how the Core Strategy has been developed through different stages towards completion.

1.3 Summary of Content

1.3.1 This document includes the following sections:

- **Preparation for consultation:** This includes a summary of work undertaken in preparation for the commencement of public consultation, including informal consultation exercises with Council officers and partners.
- **Public consultation process:** This includes a detailed discussion of all of the activities involved in conducting the public consultation, including events and presentations, publication of materials and information dissemination.
- **Collecting and acknowledging representations:** This includes a summary of the different ways in which responses to the consultation were submitted to the Council, how these were acknowledged and how these were sorted into a database.
- **Analysing representations**: This section involves a discussion of how many of the different types of representations the Council received and how these were analysed to ensure that the main points raised were accounted for.
- **Results of consultation – summary of main issues raised:** This involves the presentation of the results of consultation, in the form of a summary of the main issues raised. This is presented by topic, demonstrating which of the issues which were particularly commented upon during the consultation and which of the points were raised numerous times.
- **Lessons learnt:** This section explores the successes and shortcomings of the consultation, and explains how the Council proposes to improve upon its consultations for subsequent stages of Local Development Framework preparation.
- **Next steps**: This includes the outlining of the tasks to be completed to ensure that the results of the Issues and Options Consultation are fully considered as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy Preferred Options report. The section also briefly explains how and when subsequent stages of consultation will take place, as the Core Strategy progresses towards completion.

1.3.2 This document is supplemented by several appendices, which contain much of the detailed and technical content required to support the report. The appendices include the following:

- **Appendix A: Statement of Compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement:** This technical appendix sets out how the Issues and Options Consultation complies with the Council's

Statement of Community Involvement, adopted as part as the Local Development Framework.

- **Appendix B: Cabinet Agenda, Agenda Pack and Minutes:** This appendix sets out the papers related to the Cabinet meeting at which the Issues and Options paper was given approval for consultation.
- **Appendix C: Publicity Materials:** This appendix sets out copies of publicity materials used during the Issues and Options consultation, including newspaper articles, letters and website screenshots.
- **Appendix D: Agendas, Notes and Minutes from Consultation Events and Presentations:** This appendix includes available materials from the events and presentations held during the Issues and Options consultation, including papers from meetings, notes from presentations, etc.
- **Appendix E: Standard Issues and Options Presentation:** A copy of a standard presentation used for a number of the Issues and Options consultation events is contained within this appendix.
- **Appendix F: Web Link to Report of Consultation (Limehouse):** This web link allows access to the Council's consultation portal, hosted on the Council's website, where all of the comments received during the Issues and Options consultation can be viewed in full.

1.3.3   Throughout this document, signposts are provided using an "arrow" symbol, referring to data contained within the Appendices.

2   Preparation for Consultation

2.1   Drafting Research and Evidence Collection

2.1.1   The first stage of preparation of the Core Strategy involved conducting widespread research of the current situation in Knowsley. This involved reviewing existing material held by the Council and its partners and also involved commissioning studies and evidence to support Core Strategy development. The following exercises were undertaken:

- The Council commissioned consultants to undertake data and analysis for the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership to help them plan their forthcoming activities (including the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Development Framework and Economic Regeneration Strategy). This was the **Knowsley MBC: Core Evidence Base report** and was completed in November 2007.
- In addition to the exercises described above, a **review of existing evidence and local policy** was undertaken. This included existing policy documents and studies held and commissioned by the Council.
- As a result of this research, it was necessary for the Council to undertake or commission **additional research and evidence** for use in the development of the Core Strategy to Issues and Options stage and beyond. In some cases, this research was supplementary to existing information held by the Council and involved an update of research; in other cases this was new work required as part of the Local Development Framework process. Where appropriate, the Council sought to undertake studies jointly with neighbouring authorities within the Liverpool City Region area. These documents are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Evidence Base Documents Produced for Issues and Options Consultation	
Document	**Description**
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Undertaken by White Young Green on behalf of Sefton, West Lancashire and Knowsley Councils. This study is an assessment of the position of the Borough in terms of availability of land for housing over a 15 year period. National planning policy states that all local authorities must undertake such assessments.
Town Centres and Shopping Study Part 1	Undertaken by Roger Tym and Partners on behalf of Knowsley Council. This study is a review of the Borough's town and local centres, shopping facilities and the needs and habits of those who live within Knowsley and use its centres.
Employment Land and Premises Study (ELPS)	Undertaken by BE Group on behalf of Halton, Sefton, West Lancashire and Knowsley Council. This study is a review of existing employment land uses in the area,

	and estimates the need for new employment land for each Borough.
Housing Needs Survey and Update	Undertaken by David Couttie Associates on behalf of Knowsley Council. This study assesses in detail the housing needs of Knowsley, including in terms of quantity, type and tenure.
Knowsley Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Options Study	Undertaken by Arup on behalf of Knowsley Council. This study assesses the capability of Knowsley to accommodate renewable energy development.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	Undertaken by Atkins on behalf of Sefton and Knowsley Councils. The study demonstrates an assessment of flood risk across the area, in order that development may be directed away from areas facing the greatest risk of flooding.
Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)	Undertaken by 20/20 Knowsley on behalf of Knowsley Council. The study identifies and describes the special character of the Borough's rural landscape, leading to the classification, naming and description of landscape character at the local authority scale.
Open Space, Recreation and Sports Needs Assessment and Strategy	Undertaken by PMP on behalf of Knowsley Council in 2005. The study identifies the needs for different types of open space in the Borough and standards of provision which are required.

2.2   Review of Existing Material

2.2.1   As part of the preparation of the Issues and Options paper and as a basis for the further development of the Core Strategy, a comprehensive assessment of existing policy and strategy was undertaken. This involved looking at several spatial levels of policy documentation, ranging from the high level national planning policy provided by the Planning Policy Statements (PPS), down to existing policy at the local level, including that already adopted by the Council, such as the Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy. This process was extremely important in establishing the policy context in which the Core Strategy should be prepared, both in terms of the content and direction of existing policy statements as well as the processes and regulations for Local Development Framework preparation outlined by national and regional government. Examples of strategy and policy reviewed are given in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Examples of Strategies and Policies reviewed as part of the Issues and Options consultation	
National Policy	Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), Minerals Policy Statements (MPS), Minerals Policy Guidance (MPG), National Policy Statements (NPS), Legislation, Circulars
Regional Policy	The North West Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS) and its predecessor Regional Planning Guidance (RPG13), Regional Economic Strategy (RES), Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)
Sub-regional Policy	Liverpool City Region Development Plan (LCRDP) and Housing Strategy (LCRHS), Multi-Area Agreement (MAA), Merseyside Local Transport Plan (LTP2)
Local Policy	Development Plan including Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan (RUDP), Existing LDF documents including Supplementary Planning Documents and process documents, Sustainable Community Strategy, Future Schools documents, Council leisure and economic strategies.
Other Documents	CLG Plan Making Manual and Practice Guidance

2.3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

2.3.1 The Council appointed consultants Urban Vision to undertake work on the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal for the Core Strategy and the wider Local Development Framework. The role of this document was to establish the type and scope of sustainability issues affecting Knowsley or likely to affect Knowsley in the future, including social, economic and environmental issues. This document also established a Sustainability Appraisal Framework and objectives, which will be used in assessing the sustainability impacts of policies and strategies within the Local Development Framework, including draft Core Strategy policies. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was prepared during early 2009, and was subject to consultation with the specific consultation bodies (Government Office for the North West, English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England). The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was completed in May 2009 and later revised in October 2009, to be made available at subsequent stages of public participation on the Core Strategy, and in the appropriate Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal report.

2.4 Meetings and Informal Consultation

2.4.1 An extended series of meetings and discussions was critical to the development of the Issues and Options Report and to the development of a programme of public consultation on the content of the document. These meetings included the following:
- **Team meetings**: The Local Development Framework Team of officers within the Council met weekly during the preparation of the

Issues and Options Report, to discuss progress with the document and its supporting evidence base, and to resolve policy- and process-related issues arising during the preparation of this material.

- **Officer meetings**: An officer level stakeholder event (involving officers from the Council and partner organisations) took place on 18th March 2008 to scope out initial issues to be addressed. The officer-level Local Development Framework Steering group met fortnightly during the preparation of the Issues and Options Report, and received reports regarding progress on the Core Strategy and the wider Local Development Framework, giving a management-level steer for the development of planning policy and consultation materials.

- **Member meetings**: Members of Knowsley Council were involved in the preparation of the Issues and options paper in a number of different ways.
    - Local Members were invited to and participated in the "Plan Knowsley" workshops in 2008 (see paragraph 2.5.1 below)
    - On 13 June 2008 the Economic Development and Environment Scrutiny Committee identified the LDF as one of its key work areas. On 4th September 2008, the Town Centres Working Group of that Committee received a presentation from Roger Tym and Partners about the issues facing Knowsley's town centres.
    - On 17th November 2008, the Economic Development and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered and commented upon the findings of initial "Plan Knowsley" stakeholder engagement workshops. On 27th April 2009 the Committee received an update report on the LDF. A further report was presented to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 29th April 2009 which agreed to set up a cross cutting Working Party (also involving the Chairs and Vice Chairs of other Scrutiny Committees) to sit on an occasional basis to consider issues as the LDF develops further. On 17th August 2009 that Working Party considered the emerging findings of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the Employment Land and Premises Study.
    - Council Leadership received a presentation on the LDF Issues and Options Paper on 7th October 2009.

2.5   Stakeholder / External Consultation

2.5.1   In addition to internal meetings and discussions, the Council sought to engage in discussions with key external partners regarding the development of the Issues and Options Paper. These discussions enabled an outside perspective to be gained on the content of the Paper as well as the processes involved in the preparation of the Core Strategy and the wider Local Development Framework.

- The Council commissioned consultants to undertake a series of interactive stakeholder engagement workshops, known as **Plan**

Knowsley. This involved four area-specific workshops in each of the Area Partnership Board areas (with Huyton North and South and Kirkby North and South being combined) as well as one borough-wide workshop. The consultants, Vision Twenty One, reported the findings of the workshop within a report completed in November 2008.

- The Council secured support for the development of the Issues and Options Paper from **Planning Officers Society** Enterprises (POSE). This useful exercise meant that a member of the Society read and gave critical advice on the emerging document, giving an outside perspective to the development of the document, particularly in terms of legal and soundness requirements. This advice was relevant for both the Issues and Options Paper and also for future development of the Core Strategy.

- Informed consultation was undertaken with **Government Office for the North West** regarding the preparation of the Issues and Options paper.

2.6   Interim Sustainability Appraisal

2.6.1   The Council appointed consultants Urban Vision to complete a sustainability appraisal to support the Issues and Options Paper. This appraisal reviewed the Strategic Spatial Options, Scale of Future Growth and Development Options and Township Priorities against available baseline data and sustainability objectives. The baseline data and sustainability objectives were developed in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report of May 2009. The aim is that the recommendations of this report, which critiqued the developing Issues and Options report, will be incorporated into the Preferred Options Report, and hence into the adopted version of the Core Strategy. It should be borne in mind that a further Interim Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken on subsequent stages of the Core Strategy, including the preferred policy options contained within the Preferred Options Report. It will be extremely important for the Council to demonstrate how policy options have been scrutinised in terms of their sustainability and hence how sustainability considerations have been taken into account within the development of the Core Strategy, and also within the wider Local Development Framework.

2.7   Planning for the Issues and Options Consultation

2.7.1   The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is the document that explains how the Council will involve the community in planning issues. Community involvement has a vital role to play in planning decisions; improving community participation is a central aim of the new planning system – the Statement of Community Involvement sets out in detail how this will be conducted. The production of the Statement of Community Involvement itself involved community involvement, with the Community Engagement Steering Group (part of the Knowsley Partnership), which enabled research to be undertaken around how

people would like to be consulted during the process of development plan preparation. It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce and adopt Statements of Community Involvement; Knowsley's Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by the Council and published in May 2007.

2.7.2   The Statement of Community Involvement explains the Council's preferred processes of consultation for Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and planning applications. It also sets out standard methodologies and consultation groups which will be utilised during consultation periods. Having produced and adopted the Knowsley Statement of Community Involvement, it is the Council's responsibility to ensure that the process of Local Development Framework production is fully compliant with the measures proposed therein. This is a critical element of ensuring that Local Development Framework documents, including the Core Strategy, are sound and eventually appropriate for adoption as the Council's development plan.

> **Appendix A** states how the Council has complied with the Statement of Community Involvement during the Issues and Options consultation.

2.7.3   The consultation for the Issues and Options paper and the preparation of the paper itself was subject to a detailed project planning process undertaken by the Council's Local Development Framework team. This included planning the completion of the document as well as its supporting information and evidence base, for political approval and subsequent publication. It also involved a detailed scheduling process for the consultation period, including the arrangement of meetings and drop-in events, the preparation of the online consultation portal and the printing of relevant materials, all ready for the commencement of the consultation itself.

2.8   Political sign-off

2.8.1   The Issues and Options paper was given political approval at the Knowsley Council Cabinet meeting of 14 October 2009 to be published for an 8-week period of public consultation in late 2009 / early 2010.

> **Appendix B** shows the minutes of the Cabinet meeting which gave the approval for the publication of the Issues and Options paper for a period of public consultation.

3   Public Consultation Process

3.0.1   The Issues and Options paper was subject to an 8-week period of public consultation from **27 November 2009 until 22 January 2010**. In accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement, the consultation was wide-ranging, in an effort to involve as many of those living in and working in Knowsley as possible. Methods of consultation included events and presentations, information dissemination and web-based consultation and also involved measures such as making sure that the consultation was widely accessible. These are summarised as follows.

3.1   Events and Presentations

3.1.1   A number of meetings, workshops and presentations were undertaken to promote the Issues and Options consultation. These included:
- Presentations to Area Partnership Boards, with accompanying workshop discussions
- Public drop-in sessions at Council One Stop Shops, leisure centres and libraries (these were advertised through the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet) (see **Figure 1** which shows images from these sessions)
- Presentation and workshops at a Knowsley Council member event
- Presentations to Town Councils
- Presentations to specialist groups including: Knowsley Youth Parliament, Knowsley Disability Partnership, Knowsley Older People's Voice, Knowsley Housing Partnership
- Presentations to Knowsley Council officers including: Women's Operational Workers Group, Black and Minority Ethnic Workers Group, Disability Workers Group, Multi Faith and Belief Workers Group
- A sub-regional partners workshop for neighbouring authorities and regional and sub-regional agencies

3.1.2   Where presentations were given, these were tailored to the specific needs and interests of the group receiving the presentation. For example, the Area Partnership Board events received a presentation which focussed on the implications of the Issues and Options report for the relevant geographic locality concerned, and the Youth Parliament received a presentation that was focussed on encouraging children and young people to get involved in the consultation process. Where events contained a discussion element, these were also directed towards the particular interests of attendees, for example the Knowsley Housing Partnership discussions focussed upon issues of housing delivery and housing land.

Figure 1 – Photographs from consultation events

Halewood One Stop Shop

Kirkby One Stop Shop

Stockbridge Village Library

3.1.3 A proportion of the consultation events, including those undertaken at Council One Stop Shops and libraries, were filmed by the Council for inclusion within a later film presentation for the Core Strategy. At some of these events, members of the public were filmed, with their consent, asking to give their views on the future of Knowsley and also about the consultation process.

3.1.4 A full list of events and presentations undertaken as part of the Issues and Options Consultation is given below (shaded events undertaken during formal consultation period).

Table 3: Events and Presentations Undertaken as Part of the Issues and Options Consultation	
Date	**Event / Presentation**
02.09.09	Departmental Leadership Team Presentation
09.09.09	Policy Practitioners Group Presentation
15.09.09	Corporate Management Team Presentation
24.09.09	Senior Management Group Presentation
07.10.09	Knowsley Leadership Presentation
13.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (Halewood)
21.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village)
14.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (South Huyton)
15.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (North Huyton)
20.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (South Kirkby)
22.10.09	Area Partnership Board Initial Briefing (North Kirkby)
19.11.09	Knowsley Youth Parliament Presentation
20.11.09	Knowsley Local Strategic Partnership Executive Presentation
20.11.09	Whiston Town Council Presentation
23.11.09	Area Partnership Board Event (Kirkby – North and South Combined)
24.11.09	Briefing of Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee
26.11.09	Area Partnership Board Event (Huyton – North and South Combined)
26.11.09	Prescot Town Council Presentation
30.11.09	Knowsley Children and Young Peoples Partnership Presentation
30.11.09	Cronton Parish Council Presentation
02.12.09	Kirkby Leisure Centre Drop-in Event
03.12.09	Area Partnership Board Event (Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village)
03.12.09	Knowsley Council Multi Faith Group Presentation
04.12.09	Huyton One Stop Shop Drop-in Event
07.12.09	Knowsley Council Members Event
08.12.09	Prescot One Stop Shop Drop-in Event
09.12.09	Huyton Leisure Centre Drop-in Event
09.12.09	Town Centre Committee Presentation

| Table 3: Events and Presentations Undertaken as Part of the Issues and Options Consultation ||
Date	Event / Presentation
10.12.09	Knowsley Council Women's Operational Workers Group Presentation
10.12.09	Halewood Leisure Centre Drop-in Event
11.12.09	Halewood One Stop Shop Drop-in Event
14.12.09	Kirkby One Stop Shop Drop-in Event
14.12.09	Knowsley Housing Partnership Event
15.12.09	Prescot Library Drop-in Event
16.12.09	Area Partnership Board Event (Halewood)
17.12.09	Knowsley Health and Well-Being Partnership Presentation
17.12.09	Halewood Town Council Presentation
18.12.09	Stockbridge Village Drop-in Event
11.01.10	Tower Hill Community Centre Drop-in Event
12.01.10	Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village Neighbourhood Network Meeting
13.01.10	Knowsley Economic Partnership Board Presentation
28.01.10	Bowring Residents' Association Presentation
02.02.10	Cronton Neighbourhood Network Meeting Presentation
04.02.10	Knowsley Older People's Voice Presentation
09.02.10	Knowsley Disability Partnership Presentation
23.02.10	Sub-regional Partner Workshop

3.1.5 Unfortunately, two further events were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in early January 2010. These were:
- Whiston Library Drop-in Event (scheduled for 8 January 2010)
- Delph Residents Action Group Presentation (scheduled for 12 January 2010)

3.2 Publication of Materials

3.2.1 On 27 November 2009, the Council made publicly available the Issues and Options paper, supporting Sustainability Appraisal and Summary Leaflet. These documents were made available to the public through the following methods for the period until 22 January 2010:
- Publication of all materials on the Council's website (including versions to be downloaded and the use of the Council's consultation portal). This included up-to-date evidence used to support the development of the Issues and Options papers. Screenshots of the Council's website and consultation portal are shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure 7** respectively.
- Supplying publicly accessible deposit locations, including Council One Stop Shops and libraries with the relevant materials (including reference copies of the Issues and Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal, and copies of the Summary Leaflet and response form which could be taken away). Front covers of the Issues and Options paper and Summary Leaflet are shown in **Figure 3**.

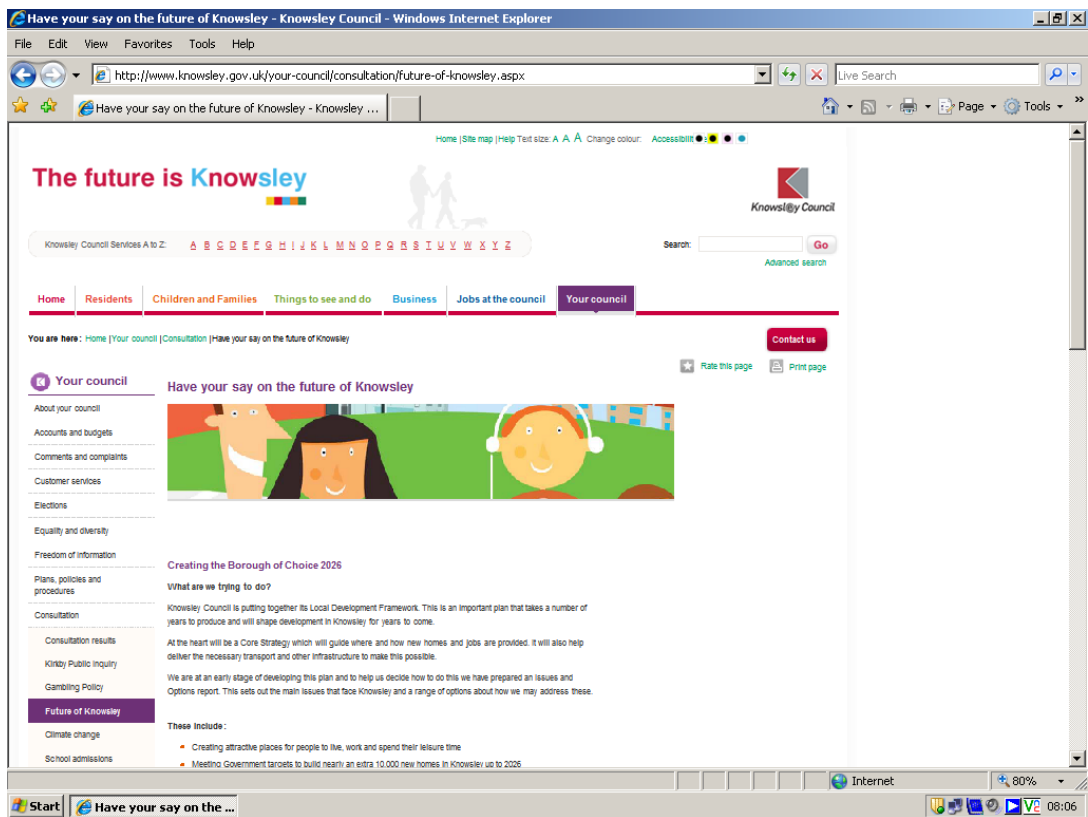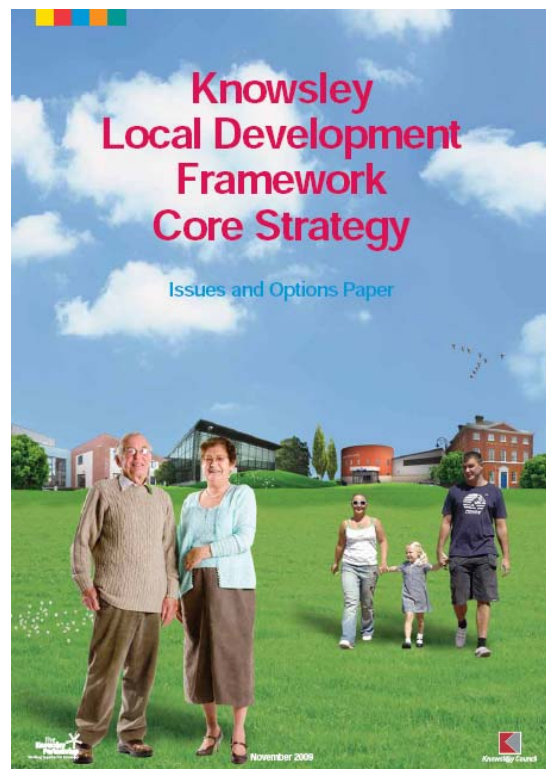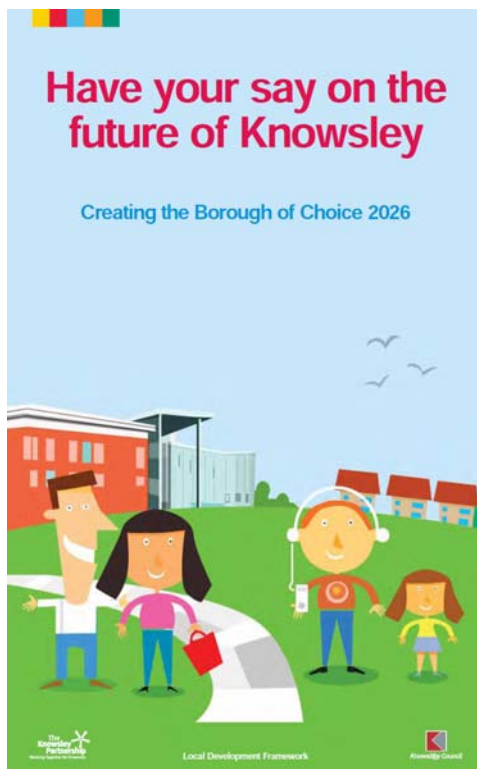**Figure 2 – Screenshot of the Council Local Development Framework webpage**

Figure 3 – Front covers of Summary Leaflet (left) and Issues and Options Paper (right)

3.3   Information Dissemination (Public)

3.3.1 The Council made every effort to ensure that information about the public consultation on the Issues and Options paper reached as many of those living in and working in Knowsley as possible. This included the following methods:

- Public notice in the local press
- Sending a paper copy of the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet to each household in the Borough
- Electronically circulating a copy of the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet to business in the Borough
- Circulating posters advertising the consultation to public buildings, including libraries, One Stop Shops, Leisure Centres
- Contacting those on the Local Development Framework consultation database by email
- Updating the Council's website with the relevant information, including a front-page link to the Local Development Framework page which hosted all related documents (as above) and links to web-based consultation (using Limehouse software)
- Utilisation of "Facebook" and "Twitter" social networking sites to promote the consultation, including linking to existing Knowsley-based networks
- Dissemination of information to Knowsley Council officers through briefings, blogs, intranet updates, posters and leaflets
- Circulation of summary leaflets and posters to Primary Care Trust premises in the Borough (including health centres and doctors surgeries)
- Local press articles including those placed by the Council and those reported by the media.

Figure 4 – Issues and Options Consultation Poster

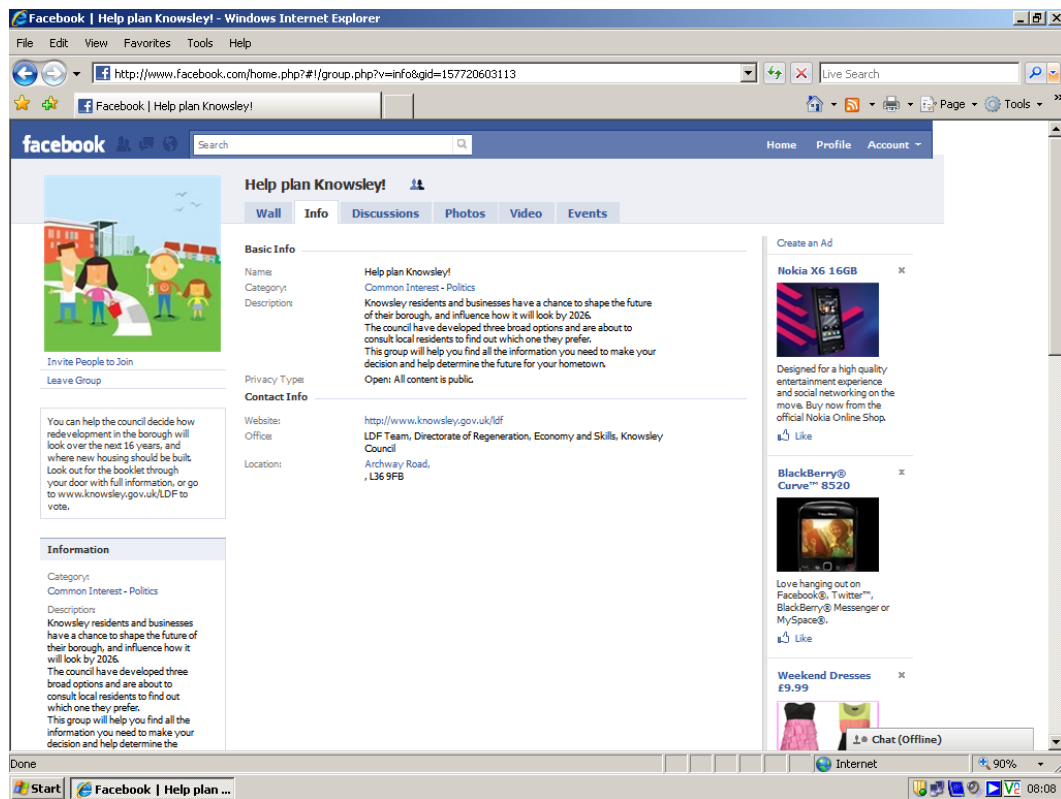**Figure 5 – Screenshot of Facebook Page**

Figure 6 – Example of Local Press Article (Knowsley News)

3.4   Information Dissemination (Specific Consultation Bodies and Members)

3.4.1   In addition to making members of the public and other interested parties aware of the public consultation for the Issues and Options paper, the Council also disseminated information about the public consultation to specific consultation bodies which the Council is obliged to consult in a particular way, as these bodies will have a particular interest in the Knowsley Local Development Framework. These bodies received a consultation letter accompanied by a paper copy of the Issues and Options paper at the commencement of the consultation period. This action was taken in accordance with the Knowsley Statement of Community Involvement.

> ➢   **Appendix A** states how the Council has complied with the Statement of Community Involvement during the Issues and Options consultation.

3.4.2   Knowsley Council members also received a specific package of consultation materials at the commencement of the consultation period, including a paper copy of the Issues and Options paper and copies of the Summary Leaflet prepared for the consultation period.

3.5   Web-based Consultation

3.5.1   The Council has developed an online consultation system using "Limehouse" software, in order that representations on the Issues and Options consultation can be submitted quickly and easily. The Issues and Options paper was uploaded onto this system for the consultation period, which then presented opportunities to comment on the content of the papers at different junctures. The use of this web-based method for submitting consultation responses was encouraged during the Issues and Options consultation period.

3.5.2   Two clear paths were available for those who wished to submit their views online. Respondents could either comment on the full Issues and Options paper, with the capability through the consultation software to comment on each specific paragraph, table or map within the document, or they could complete a shorter questionnaire, with five questions or components, based on the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet. Submitted comments through the consultation website required individuals to "log in" to the system with a unique username and password, to ensure that multiple versions of the same comments were not submitted by one person.

3.5.3   Since the Council's website also hosted supporting documents for the Issues and Options consultation, including the Sustainability Appraisal which accompanied the Issues and Options Paper as well as the full suite of available evidence supporting the development of the Issues and Options, it was possible for consultees to view and comment on

this documentation. This was particularly relevant for those consultees who wished to comment on a particular aspect of the document which was strongly related to or relied on supporting evidence.

Figure 7 – Screenshot of the Council's consultation portal
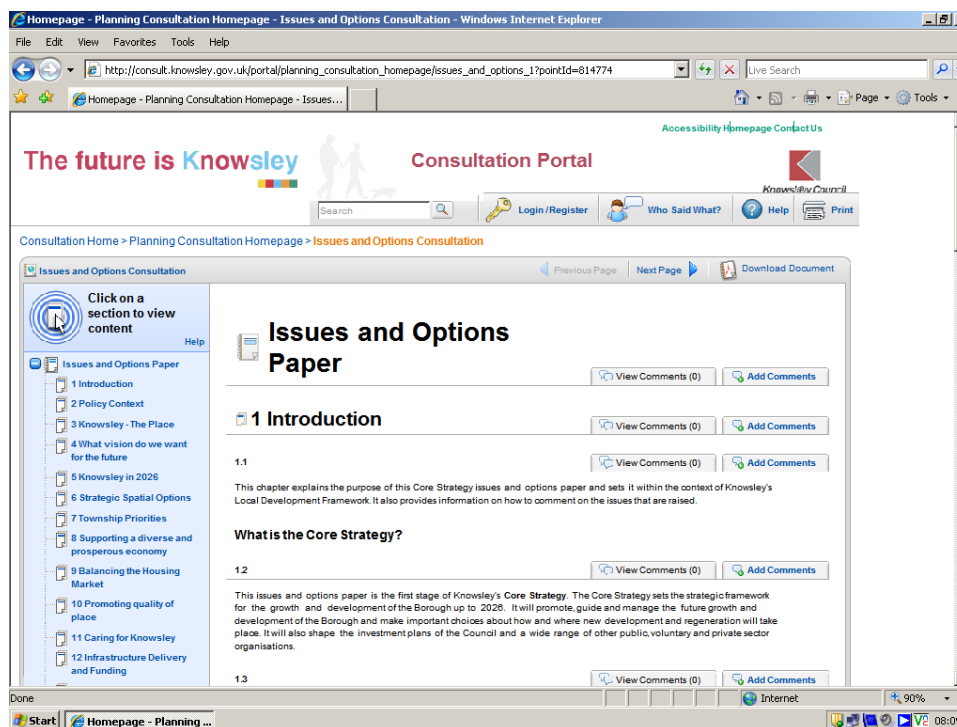
3.6   Making the Consultation Accessible

3.6.1   The Council recognised that even at the initial Issues and Options stage of the preparation of the Core Strategy, some of the content contained in the Paper was complex and sometimes difficult to understand. The Council therefore ensured that measures were taken to simplify materials and provide succinct summaries, which would allow members of the public and other stakeholders to practically engage with the consultation. A major component of this effort to ensure that the consultation was accessible to a wide number of people was the production of the Summary Leaflet, mentioned earlier. This leaflet presented a strategic part of the Issues and Options Paper – the three spatial options – in a simplified way, and asked for comments on what people liked and disliked about each option. Included within the leaflet was information for those who wanted to know more about the consultation, including links to the Council's website, and also information about the public drop-in events taking place during the consultation period. Respondents were able to return their responses to the leaflet to the Council via a Freepost tear-out slip. To support the publication of the leaflet, the Council made available an online version of the questions posed within the leaflet, which meant

that those wishing to submit their comments online had the choice of reading the full Issues and Options paper and commenting on this, or just commenting on the content of the leaflet, i.e. the three spatial options central to the Issues and Options consultation.

3.6.2   In addition to the Summary Leaflet, other measures included in the Issues and Options consultation to attempt to make the materials published more accessible and easier to understand included:

- The ability to provide large-print, Braille, audio and other language versions of materials where requested
- The ability to contact Council officers by telephone, email, post or in person (at drop in events) to discuss the consultation and any problems arising
- A comprehensive glossary included in the full Issues and Options Paper, explaining specialist terms and acronyms
- A concerted effort to engage with minority and hard-to-reach groups through presentations, workshops and drop-in events
- Tailored presentations for specialist and interest groups to highlight relevant issues and sections of the Issues and Options paper

4   Collecting and Acknowledging Representations

4.1   Collecting Representations

4.1.1   The Council made arrangements that representations and comments on the content of the Issues and Options papers could be returned to the Council in a variety of ways.
- Firstly, they could be made using the online consultation system as described above; this included an ability to comment on the full version of the Issues and Options Paper as well as a shorter version, based on the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet.
- Paper copies of response forms were made available, notably as part of the Summary Leaflet, which could be returned to the Council via a Freepost tear-out from the leaflet.
- Longer forms were made available at deposit locations, which could be returned at any One Stop Shop or library or alternatively returned by post. These longer paper forms also included the ability to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal which accompanied the Issues and Options Paper.
- Respondents were also able to write to the Council, for example in letter form, attaching or including their representations within this correspondence.

4.1.2   The Council requested that all representations on the Issues and Options paper were made in writing. However, the Council also had resources available to ensure that representations could be made in other ways, for example for partially sighted respondents, or for those who had problems with writing. On consultation materials, it was explained how comments would be used in the subsequent preparation of the Knowsley Core Strategy.

4.1.3   Further to those representations received by the Council, information was also gathered from the various events and presentations undertaken to promote the issues and options consultation. This includes notes taken at workshops and formal minutes of meetings. These resources proved to be a valuable method of collecting feedback from those attending and participating in discussions at these events.

4.2   Acknowledging Representations

4.2.1   It was important to ensure that those submitting comments on the Core Strategy Issues and Options papers were made aware that their comments had been received by the Council. This was achieved in the following ways:
- The Council's online consultation system automatically generates an acknowledgement of receipt of a representation for those responding online.

- Where representations were received via email or writing, the Council acknowledged these with a short written response.
- Where representations were received which wholly or partially did not relate to the Issues and Options consultation, the Council returned to the respondent its interpretation of the comments for mutual agreement.
- Where representations were not relevant to the Issues and Options consultation but were relevant to another area of Council service, these comments were passed on to the relevant party.
- Where representations were not relevant to the Issues and Options consultation and also contained offensive or abusive content, these were discounted from the process.
- In addition, where respondents requested to be kept informed of subsequent stages of preparation of the Core Strategy (through commenting on the full version of the Issues and Options paper), their contact details were added to the Local Development Framework consultation database.

4.3   Inputting / Writing Up Representations

4.3.1   All of the handwritten representations received by the Council through the method of returning the Freepost tear-out leaflet from the Summary Leaflet were inputted to the online Limehouse system. This meant that a full catalogue of all of the responses received from the Issues and Options consultation could be collected in a database for interpretation and used in the development of the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report. To overcome the issue associated with the need for individuals to log in, the comments received by post were inputted onto the Limehouse system through an administrative account, with the clear statement that these comments were submitted by post, using the tear-out response form from the Issues and Options Summary Leaflet. All of the original versions of the response forms returned by post and submitted onto the Council's system were coded, kept on record and made available to view on request.

4.3.2   In addition to the formal representations received, it was important to collate and write up all the notes and minutes taken at the various events and presentations undertaken to promote the Issues and Options consultation. These were documented variously by members of the Local Development Framework team (e.g. at the Area Partnership Board events), or by parties responsible for formal minute taking at the meeting or event (e.g. at the Children and Young People Partnership Board presentation). Where appropriate, a standard template was used for note collation, for example with common headings, to make easier the process of analysis of the discussions which had taken place.

5   Analysing Representations

5.0.1 After the completion of the Issues and Options consultation, work began on analysing the representations received.

5.1   Quantity of Representations Received

5.1.1 In total, the Council received 222 responses to the Issues and Options consultation. The breakdown of methods of responses that were used is shown in the **Table 4** below.

Table 4 – Methods of Consultation Response	
Method of Response	**Quantity**
Full Report – Limehouse	6
Full Report – Letter	4
Full Report – Email	26
Full Report – Response Form	0
Leaflet – Limehouse	29
Leaflet – By Post	157
Total	**222**

5.1.2 Of the consultation responses received, some were received from specific consultation bodies, and some were received from members of the public and other organisations. The breakdown of the responses received into those from specific consultation bodies, and those from non-specific consultation bodies is shown in the **Table 5** below.

Table 5 – Type of Consultee	
Type of Consultee	**Quantity**
Specific Consultation Body	18
Non-Specific Consultation Body	204
Total	**222**

5.2   List of Specific Consultation Bodies and Non-specific Consultation Bodies Responding

5.2.1 Of the 18 specific consultation bodies responding to the full document version of the Issues and Options consultation, the following bodies were included:

- 4NW: The North West Regional Leaders' Forum
- Coal Authority
- Environment Agency
- Government Office for the North West

- Halewood Town Council
- Highways Agency
- Knowsley Housing Trust
- Lancashire County Council
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport
- Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
- Merseytravel
- Mobile Operators' Association
- North West Regional Development Agency
- Sport England
- St.Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- Traveller Law Reform Project
- United Utilities Property Solutions (two responses)
- West Lancashire District Council

5.2.2 In addition to the above specific consultation bodies responding to the full document version of the Issues and Options consultation, a further 17 organisations and individuals responded. These can be considered to be "non-specific consultation bodies". These were:

- Amalcroft Properties
- Bellway Homes
- Commercial Development Projects Ltd
- Grosvenor
- Mill Properties
- Mr and Mrs Owen
- Mr Adrian Jones
- Mr Harrison
- Mr J Williams
- Mr J Webster
- Mrs G Webster
- Orbit Investments
- Owner of Bank Lane, Kirkby
- Peel Energy
- Redrow Homes
- The Stanley Estate
- WM Morrison

5.3 Notes of Comments Received from Events and Presentations

5.3.1 As outlined in **Chapter 3** of this report, a number of events and presentations were held as part of the Issues and Options consultation, some of which involved workshops and discussion sessions around the content of the Issues and Options paper. The discussions undertaken and the points raised therein were documented in the form of minutes and detailed notes of the meetings, in order that these may be fed into the consultation process. The following events / presentations were recorded in such as way:

- Kirkby (North and South Combined) Area Partnership Board Event
- Huyton (North and South Combined) Area Partnership Board Event
- Prescot, Whiston, Cronton & Knowsley Village Area Partnership Board Event
- Halewood Area Partnership Board Event
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership Presentation
- Knowsley Council Members Event
- Children and Young People Partnership Presentation
- Housing Partnership Presentation
- Women's Operational Workers Group Presentation
- Knowsley Economic Partnership Board Presentation
- Knowsley Older People's Voice Event
- Knowsley Disability Partnership Event
- Sub-regional Partners Workshop Event
- Kirkby One Stop Shop Drop-in Event

> **Appendix D -** Agendas, Notes and Minutes of Consultation Events and Presentations give more detail of the notes and minutes available from these meetings.

5.4   Analysing Written Responses

5.4.1   The most important way of analysing the representations received was to consider responses received by the Council during the consultation period. This included, as explained in the previous section, both responses received online and on paper, both in response to the full document and to the leaflet-based consultation.

5.4.2   The basic methodology for analysis included the following measures:
- Completing a proforma of main issues raised for each response received
- Coding responses by type of response and topic raised
- Looking for and grouping together similar issues and comments
- Summarising the main issues raised overall

5.4.3   **Chapter 6 Section A** sets out the **main issues raised** by those submitting written or online responses to the Council.

5.4.4   For the purposes of presenting all of the comments fully, the process of inputting all responses into the Council's Limehouse system was undertaken. This important process meant that all detailed comments relating to specific paragraphs or issues could be fully recorded in an accessible manner.

> **Appendix F** gives a link to the full report of consultation, as generated by the Limehouse software employed by the Council and hosted online on the Council's website.

5.5   Analysing Notes / Minutes Taken

5.5.1   As part of the analysis of representations received during the Issues and Options consultation, it was important to consider the informal responses received, and the content of the discussions which took place during the consultation events, as listed in **Chapter 3**.

5.5.2   In addition to setting out the main issues raised by those submitting written responses to the Council, **Chapter 6 Section B** includes the **main issues raised** as part of the consultation events undertaken as part of the Issues and Options consultation.

5.5.3   For the purposes of presenting all of the issues raised at the consultation events fully and as previously mentioned, discussions were recorded at the events. This was also an important process so that it is possible for those participating in events to see how they were recorded.

> **Appendix D** - Agendas, Notes and Minutes of Consultation Events and Presentations give more detail of the notes and minutes available from these meetings

5.5.4   In addition to this, for the Area Partnership Board events, the Older People's Voice and the Sub-regional Partners Workshop, the success of the events was monitored through the collection of feedback forms at each event, giving participants the opportunity to share their views about the format, content and quality of the presentation given and associated discussions. This is discussed within **Chapter 7**, among commentary about how the consultation process could be improved.

6 Results of Consultation – Summary of Main Issues Raised

6.1 Section A – Written And Online Responses To Issues And Options Paper And Summary Leaflet

6.1.1 This section summarises the main issues raised through the analysis of written and online representations received during the Issues and Options consultation, as outlined in **Chapter 5**. This section is sub-divided into broad areas about which representations were received. Some topics and areas of the Issues and Options Paper received more attention and hence more responses than others; a notable example was the strategic spatial options, reflecting the important role of the Summary Leaflet in the consultation, as this focussed on the three spatial options presented rather than other details of the Issues and Options Paper.

6.1.2 Due to the differing views and competing interests of those responding to the Issues and Options consultation, some of the main issues raised are directly contradictory to each other. However, it is important that these issues are raised regardless, to demonstrate the competing views of those responding, and to ensure that where argument over a particular issue or option exists, both sides are able to air their views.

6.1.3 Within the Issues and Options Paper, there are several points at which specific questions were asked about the preference of respondents in terms of policy approaches for dealing with the issues presented in the paper. Broadly, these can be considered to be asking respondents to select the option which they think would best tackle the issue presented. Due to the varying interests of those responding to the Issues and Options consultation, there is an uneven coverage as to which questions were answered and which questions were not. To reflect this, in the following paragraphs, there are tables included which present the preferences expressed where applicable.

6.1.4 A standard format for included tables was adopted and is set out as follows:

Issue STX			Issue Totals
(Question asked within Issues and Options paper)	**STX.1:** (First answer to the question)	**STX.2:** (Second answer to the question)	
Supportive Comments	X	X	X
Other Comments	X	X	X
Non-Option Specific	-	-	X
Total Comments	X	X	**X**

% Supportive per Option Comments	X	X	
% of Overall Options Supported	X	X	
% Total Comments / ST1 Total	X	X	

6.1.5   To complete the above table, each of the detailed responses were considered, assessed and subdivided into appropriate categories in terms of whether they were supporting or advising on a specific option or just commenting on an issue in general. In this regard, the 'other comments' sub category includes a comparative level of responses that could not be categorised as specifically supportive. This avoids specifically denoted the comments as impartial, advisory or negative, which if subdivided would not offer a level that would be statistically significant or interpretable. This approach therefore offers a more accurate context for the proportion of overall responses received per issue.

6.1.6   Although the overall response levels per issue and option are in most cases relatively low, a percentage based statistical analysis still offers the potential for useful correlation formulation of the preferred thematic and spatial options for each issue, together with an indication of issues that appear subject to most discussion. In this regard it was decided that percentages of comparative support to overall comments, comparative support across the options and total comments within the issue, were the most useful methods of analysis to allow further interpretation.

6.1.6   It is extremely important to emphasise that this section of the Report of Consultation is a "summary of the main issues raised", and hence there is no presentation in this document of the exact responses submitted to the Issues and Options consultation. However, for those interested in viewing the full, un-summarised and unabridged consultation responses, these are available on the Council's consultation portal.

➢ **Appendix F** gives a link to the full report of consultation, as generated by the Limehouse software employed by the Council and hosted online on the Council's website.

6.2   Process and Consultation Methodology

6.2.1   The following points were raised about the process of consultation and methodology used to collect representations during the Issues and Options consultation.

• Some respondents will need to comment on **individual site allocations** and development sites throughout the Local

Development Framework process, notwithstanding comments submitted relating to the Core Strategy.

- There is no reference to the **Ensuring a Choice of Travel Supplementary Planning Document** being developed across Merseyside. It should be expected that Core Strategies would adopt and implement this SPD to create a consistent approach across the sub-region.
- Merseytravel would **expect formal consultation** on development around all medium and major transport nodes and interchanges.
- Concerns raised that this consultation is taking place after the **Destination Kirkby decision** but prior to any further consultation / explanation of the way forward with this project. Specifically, the strategic spatial options A, B and C are each dependent (to varying extents) on the nature of development which now takes place in Kirkby. This will make it difficult for respondents to conclude which option should be pursued, since no-one is any the wiser about the exact nature of the latest discussions.

6.3 Introduction, Policy Context And Knowsley – The Place (Issue ST1)

6.3.1 The following points were raised about the first section of the Issues and Options Paper, which describes the policy context for the Core Strategy and also describes Knowsley's attributes.

- The Core Strategy **plan period should be changed** to account for the period up to 2027 rather than 2026.
- **Sustainability Appraisal** and **Habitats Regulation Assessment** interim conclusions and a list of Replacement Unitary Development Plan **policies which will be deleted** by Core Strategy policies at the point of adoption should be included in the next version of the Core Strategy.
- Introduction would benefit from clarification as to whether Core Strategy **includes development management policies** or whether they will form a separate Development Plan Document.
- Reminder that the **single Regional Strategy**, when formally approved by the Secretary of State, will replace the Regional Economic, Spatial and Housing Strategies.
- **Supplementary Planning Documents** must be linked to Development Plan Document policy. This could be generalised criteria-based policy for transport/design issues.
- Sub-regional influences such as the **Multi-Area Agreement** and **Liverpool Airport** should be accounted for.
- Emphasis should be added regarding the need to increase substantially the **range and choice of employment sites** in the Borough, especially quality sites capable of attracting growth sectors and inward investment. Further emphasis could be added that the employment land offer in Knowsley has become

increasingly restricted as existing sites have been developed and not been replaced.

- Support the **strategic opportunity** to increase the number of jobs and businesses within the Borough and also strongly agree that the there should be support for development proposals for Knowsley's existing business parks. If an increase in demand for land for business and office use does occur in future years in the Borough - would like to see the prioritisation of development into existing business areas, where possible, before seeking to expand or develop new sites.
- There are significant **regeneration and redevelopment opportunities in Prescot** focusing upon the town's heritage and the redevelopment of the former BICC Cables works on the south side of town.
- **Slowing completion rates** of housing developments and a **shortage of affordable housing** are key issues.
- A review of the relevant **policy context** should include documents relating to flood risk assessment, biodiversity, waterbody management and Green Infrastructure.
- **Water quality** should be identified as a strategic challenge. Development within Knowsley must not cause deterioration of the existing ecological status or compromise the benefit from actions that may be taken to improve ecological status on nearby waterbodies.
- The issue of **efficient use of resources**, including use of water, should be mentioned, particularly due to the challenges posed by climate change. Use of water resources more wisely will enable greater protection of important water resource sites and sources of water supply. This is also an important contributor to achieving sustainable development.
- **Maintaining public water supplies** is extremely important and should have a high priority.
- **Protected species** make a valuable contribution to biodiversity and local ecology, particularly where they could be affected by developments on Green Belt sites. There are numerous watercourses within the Knowsley area that would benefit from habitat enhancement and water quality improvements. River restoration which would improve fisheries interests would also have recreational benefits.
- The scale of **comparison retail development** permitted in Kirkby Town Centre should be of appropriate size and scale. The retail element of any regeneration proposal should be commensurate in scale with the role and function of Kirkby under Policy W5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and should not have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any retail centres
- There is a clear opportunity to create **mixed tenure neighbourhoods** and to incorporate a housing offer in the development and regeneration of town centres.

- The **imbalanced housing stock** in Knowsley presents a key challenge. There is a limited range of affordable housing and insufficient high end accommodation, despite the attractive geography of the area and access to transport links offered.
- The problem associated with the **lack of quality housing** for those high-skilled and professional workers necessary to drive forward the sub-regional and local economies should be highlighted. The lack of aspirational housing has also contributed to unbalanced housing markets.
- Add emphasis on the need for more **specialist accommodation** for the elderly and vulnerable residents
- There is a challenge posed by the constraints that **reduced land values** has had on regeneration initiatives.
- It is important to recognise the **expansion of the Airport** as a 'strategic opportunity' for the borough, alongside the Liverpool Super port concept. Also recognise references to 'excellent road link' to the Airport, and the benefits to Halewood from its proximity to the Airport.
- Consider it important that there remains in place a **telecommunication policy** within the emerging Local Development Framework. Local plans should set out criteria based policies to guide telecommunications development and that whilst regard should be had to siting and design considerations, operational efficiency should not be inhibited. Criteria should be flexible enough to allow for the efficient development of the network and the demands imposed by the technology.
- Suggest that **regeneration of Kirkby** should not include the option of a football stadium in the future.
- The Knowsley Sustainable Community Strategy centres very much on **economic and social concerns** but does not refer to the landscape or other aspects of the natural environment like landscape and townscape, geology, soils, water courses and biodiversity.
- There should be reference to the multiple benefits for **green infrastructure** for biodiversity, amenity, health and wellbeing and recreation, with emphasis placed upon strengthening green infrastructure by establishing green links/networks between urban 'greenspace' and peripheral countryside.
- Support Council's **review of leisure facilities** and agree that the Authority should seek to promote and develop new leisure facilities to encourage people to take up sport and exercise. Unclear as to what the scope of the Leisure Facilities Strategy is at the moment.
- Note there is a need to improve the **quality of gateways** to the borough which will help to give a positive and more welcoming impression, encourage investment and improve the quality of life for existing residents.
- Welcome and support the identification of the **need to tackle climate change** as one of the key strategic challenges and opportunities facing the Borough.

- There is little on issues of quantity and accessibility of **open space, sport and recreation facilities**.

6.3.2 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST1: Knowsley as it is Today**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST1			Issue Totals
Do you agree that this chapter accurately describes Knowsley and the strategic challenges and opportunities facing the Borough?	ST1.1: Yes, this chapter accurately describes Knowsley and the strategic challenges and opportunities facing the Borough.	ST1.2: No, this chapter does not accurately describe Knowsley and the strategic challenges and opportunities facing the Borough.	
Supportive Comments	3	2	5
Other Comments	1	0	1
Non-Option Specific	-	-	1
Total Comments	4	2	**7**
% Supportive per Option Comments	75	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	60	40	
% Total Comments / ST1 Total	57	29	

6.4   Vision And Objectives (Issue ST2)

6.4.1 The following points were raised about the overall vision and objectives presented within the Issues and Options Paper.

- The Regional Spatial Strategy **development principle policies** are key.
- The vision recognises the importance **of biodiversity and the natural environment** but this is not carried through to the draft strategic objectives, which appear to focus on the social and economic factors.
- The Core Strategy objectives could be more **spatially related** to Knowsley and local issues.
- Key issues within the '**Transport Requirements'** section of vision should be delivered within subsequent stages to ensure that any impact emanating from the emerging Core Strategy does not impact upon the Strategic Road Network.
- It is important that town centres will have **defined and enhanced roles**, be regenerated, etc, but efforts should be made to ensure that the retail element of any regeneration proposal should be commensurate in scale with the role and function of the town centre under Policy W5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy and should not have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any other retail centres.
- An additional objective should be **addressing gaps in the range of affordable housing** including supported provision and addressing gaps at the higher end of the owner occupied market.

- Amendments could be made to place greater emphasis on the need to **supply a wide choice of housing** to attract new residents to the area. This will better accord with the Sustainable Community Strategy aspirations.
- **Residential development** can play a role in the regeneration of Knowsley's town centres.
- The Core Strategy's vision and objectives should be fully interlinked with the Merseyside **Local Transport Plan 2** (as well as emerging Local Transport Plan 3) and provide for the integration of land use and transport planning.
- There is potential for alteration to place emphasis on the need to ensure that the **range of employment land** available meets needs and creates a balanced portfolio of opportunities.
- Would welcome reference to the **provision of open space** within new housing development. Some of the Strategic Objectives could also be strengthened by additional references to the importance of open space provision.
- There is a need for a comprehensive additional endorsement of the **conservation and enhancement** of specific environmental assets including biodiversity, geodiversity and the landscape.
- Concern that two of the three spatial options are reliant on a significant share of Knowsley's housing and employment needs being met in **neighbouring districts** - if the Core Strategy does not provide sufficient land to meet the Borough's longer term development needs it is unlikely that it will fully deliver the Vision's desired outcomes on housing, the economy and reducing deprivation. Reminder that the Regional Spatial Strategy allows districts to work with neighbouring authorities to meet housing requirements but that this 'is only practicable if neighbouring districts have the capacity and in better locations than those that exist in Knowsley' - the Issues and Options paper offers no evidence to suggest that this is the case.
- The Core Strategy's strategic objectives should specifically encourage the development of **local energy generation facilities** to meet local renewable energy targets.
- Creating a more **active and healthy population** through protection, enhancement and provision of opportunities for sport should be reflected in planning policy. Support the spirit of the Vision and the explicit recognition of the links between open space, sports and leisure facilities with **active and healthier lifestyles** - central role in quality of life and contribution to creation of more sustainable communities.
- Planning Policy Guidance 17 offers protection to existing **open spaces, sports and recreation facilities** - local planning policies based on audits and assessments of needs required to ensure that provision is appropriate to need, deficiencies / surpluses are addressed, spaces / facilities of high quality or value are protected, and appropriate developer contributions can be sought.

6.4.2   As part of the presentation of Issue **ST2: Proposed Vision and Strategic Objectives**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST2			Issue Totals
Do you agree with the proposed vision and strategic objectives for the Core Strategy which is set out above?	ST2.1: Yes, I agree with the proposed vision and strategic objectives for the Core Strategy which is set out in the Issues and Options paper.	ST2.2: No, I do not agree with the proposed vision and strategic objectives for the Core Strategy that is set out in the Issues and Options paper.	
Supportive Comments	4	2	6
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	1
Total Comments	4	2	**7**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	67	33	
% Total Comments / ST2 Total	57	29	

6.5   Knowsley In 2026 (Issues ST3 To ST7)

6.5.1   The following points were raised in relation to the "Knowsley in 2026" section of the Issues and Options Paper, which described the scale of development required over the plan period in order to meet Knowsley's needs as well as regional and sub-regional targets.

- Sources of **land supply limitations** should be recognised. Windfall allowances need to be justified as per Planning Policy Statement 3.
- Identifying **additional 'previously developed' sources of land** and buildings within the urban area should be encouraged not only to meet the Government's target of 60% of housing on brownfield land but also to provide an opportunity to deal with the legacy of land contamination. It will also minimize pressure on greenfield sites and the Green Belt.
- There are **high costs** associated with building on previously developed land as compared to Greenfield sites, and hence this affects the viability of development and the ability of them to contribute towards affordable housing provision.
- **Allowances for housing demolitions** should be fully supported by evidence. Also the requirement of the Regional Spatial Strategy is to produce net additions to the housing stock. It is therefore not sufficient only to take into account programmed demolitions: all losses have to be considered, including through changes of use.
- The Council may struggle to meet Regional Spatial Strategy targets by developing solely within the confines of the existing urban area and hence the only feasible option is to consider **development outside the urban area,** including consideration of the redevelopment of sustainable locations within the Green Belt. An

expansion into areas currently designated as Green Belt appears the most suitable solution to address the shortfall providing they are in a sustainable location.

- By expanding into Green Belt areas, the **integrity and character of the existing urban areas** can be better safeguarded. In addition, necessary community and other infrastructure required to support the new housing can be provided.

- A priority should be to provide a **wide choice of housing required**, especially housing for families and aspirational households. Not doing this will exacerbate the deficiencies of the existing housing stock which is already dominated by relatively small, low-value properties.

- With regard to meeting future housing needs in the Borough, developing at **higher densities** is not a suitable or sustainable approach to apply holistically. Other Local Authorities have placed excessive onus on high density residential development, much of which is unlikely to come forward as there is no longer market demand for such developments.

- Housing is just one element of many that go towards creating **sustainable communities**. All the various elements, e.g. health, education, shops, community facilities, etc are of equal importance. Delivering only housing will lead to greater commuting and longer distance commuting, which will have implications for transport infrastructure.

- Some **diversity of uses**, particularly in locations closest to Kirkby town centre, could assist in meeting some of other objectives, such as those regarding the provision of sport, leisure and health facilities or the provision of some retail uses that could help fill the capacity void left by the failed "Destination Kirkby" project. Such facilities would also be of major benefit to the employees of this vast employment area, who are at present ill served by such facilities

- Concern that pressure for housing land means that land with transport potential is often released for housing, thus causing opportunities for **transport improvements** in the longer term to be lost. A mechanism could be put in place to ensure that this doesn't happen.

- Directing development to neighbouring districts could dilute Knowsley's **opportunity to regenerate** and meet gaps in provision. This option could not be justified as: there is no evidence from the Joint Employment Land and Premises Study or elsewhere that there are sustainable sites available within reasonable travel distance of Knowsley; it would not accord with the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Spatial Vision which emphasise the need to create a diverse and prosperous economy in the Borough; and it would result in unsustainable travel patterns including greater use of the private car, longer journeys-to-work distances, and less use of public transport, walking and cycling.

- **Competition for development sites** for residential use does not appear to be accounted for in the Core Strategy

- **Remodelling and re-evaluation of industrial parks** and **developing in sustainable locations in the Green Belt** are the most appropriate strategies for addressing the shortfall of employment land. Deliverability of the option to remodel industrial areas would have to be fully investigated and proven. The process would need to account for problems associated with land assembly and ownerships, monies and funding.
- There should **not be development on urban greenspaces**, which provide an important resource in terms of quality of life, recreation and climate change mitigation.
- **Township designations** need to be justified by Knowsley's research and 4NW should be consulted. Town centre development needs to be in a manner which complements and does not harm other towns and district centres in adjacent authority areas. Support improving the design and layout of centres.
- It is agreed that Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot/Whiston and Halewood should be identified as **'larger suburban centres'** and in these areas new development should be encouraged. In particular it is considered that new residential growth should be directed to available sites within the Halewood/Woolton area, as this is already a successful and thriving residential area with significant services and infrastructure. In addition, the development and expansion of Prescot in particular would support the strategic objectives of the Core Strategy.
- **Liaison is required with 4NW** regarding, employment land provision, new Planning Policy Statement 4 and site phasing, sustainability of housing locations and employment land supply. In particular there is a good opportunity to plan for Kirkby Town Centre with reference to evidence base and new national guidance.
- A **combination of the strategies presented** to deal with housing requirements is required, including identifying previously developed sources of land and buildings within the urban area and developing in sustainable locations within the Green Belt.
- The findings of the **Employment Land and Premises Study** will influence the maximisation of employment opportunities within Knowsley and hence support the economy.
- The Economic Land and Premises Study is projecting future needs for economic growth, but the findings seem at odds with the high **vacancy rates** found in some of the town centres, such as Prescot.
- The current approach in the Employment Land and Premises Study ignores the need to plan for an **increase in take-up and for flexibility**, as required by the Regional Spatial Strategy. These are very important factors which should be included within any assessment of future employment requirements over and above past take-up. Taking this into account, the Core Strategy should instead be based upon a need to find an additional 185 ha of employment land.
- It should be a priority to ensure **sufficient and deliverable land and sites** for economic growth and support for business and jobs.

- The current allocation of the **Pirelli site** in Prescot should be reconsidered to allow for appropriate use of the site, including residential development.
- The Regional Spatial Strategy aims to focus new retail development primarily into **larger centres.** The Council should take this into account when directing investment into suburban centres such as Kirkby.
- The **retail element** of any regeneration proposal should be commensurate in scale with the role and function of town centres under Policy W5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Changes to the status of existing centres which are of more than local importance should be addressed initially at the regional level.
- The bulk of large scale development should be directed towards **Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot** as these are more sustainable locations for development than Halewood.
- Increasing the **diversity of uses** in town centres and improving design and layout of town centres will be beneficial.
- To improve the viability of town centres, **diversification of use** would seem to be the most sustainable way forward and by encouraging a mixture of uses, this should increase the demand for small retail premises to serve other needs. This would also be the most sustainable option from a transport perspective as town centres tend to be the hubs for public transport.
- Generally supportive of the protection of **Green Belt land**, as these areas can provide valuable open space on the urban fringe with associated benefits including recreation, human health / enjoyment and biodiversity conservation. However, recognise that some Green Belt land is of poor quality and that a stringent policy avoiding any development on Green Belt land can increase pressure for development elsewhere, on land that may be more environmentally sensitive. Some Green Belt land can and should be enhanced to provide more greenspace benefits - where Green Belt is to be reviewed there should be no net loss and that development on any areas removed should itself provide greenspace, thereby providing net gain.
- Any **Green Belt changes** to meet development needs should only be considered after a Merseyside Green Belt review that will consider impacts on the authority area, neighbouring authorities and Merseyside as a whole. The cumulative impact of non-strategic Green Belt release should also be considered. The definition of strategic and non-strategic should be determined though consultation with Government Office for the North West, 4NW and neighbouring authorities.
- Would welcome an additional objective for new development within the four main townships to ensure new **development is well related** to the landform, natural systems and processes, landscape setting and characteristic scale, form, materials and detailing of the settlement.

- Support the reuse of previously developed land and buildings as proposed, however brownfield land can often harbour **valuable biodiversity assets** and we would look for any development to adequately conserve or replace these.
- Support for the **improvement of design and layout** of town centres, and strongly advocate the use of sustainable design and construction techniques in new development.
- Reminder that the **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment must to be reviewed annually** in collaboration with developers to closely monitor changes in the deliverability / developability of sites. The preferred spatial option must also provide flexibility to take into account changing circumstances e.g. increased housing requirements.
- In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 17, sites including playing fields or other land used for sport and recreation **should not be built upon** unless an assessment has been undertaken which has shown the land or buildings to be surplus to requirements.
- Support **building on green spaces** if they are proven to be surplus to requirements. However, consideration should be given to their contribution to meeting the needs of residents in neighbouring districts such as St.Helens.
- Reference to the need for **higher value / occupier housing** - suggest that to meet housing needs it would be appropriate to consider land adjoining Home Farm Road, Knowsley Village as suitable for development.
- In general **development on green space is not supported** as parks and open spaces are an important aspect of delivering sustainable communities. Suggest an exception to this at Walton Farm Waste Water Treatment Works.
- Suggest that Core Strategy and a Green Belt review should be **undertaken concurrently** in order to identify relevant sites for sustainable urban extensions.
- West Lancashire **has no identified land** to meet either Knowsley's housing or employment needs. Through further work this position may change but at this point the Borough has significant issues meeting its own development targets for both housing and employment.
- The part of the **Knowsley Town Centre and Shopping study** (i.e., second volume) which will identify the level of need for new floorspace for town centre uses has not yet been completed or published, and thus it is impossible to identify an appropriate strategy for the future of the Town and District centres in Knowsley. It is considered appropriate that the level of need for new town centre floorspace should be identified before the type of development envisaged in the Strategic Options is finalised. This will help identify appropriate locations for and levels of development throughout the Borough

6.5.2 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST3: Future Role of Knowsley's Townships**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST3			Issue Totals
Do you agree that Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot/Whiston and Halewood should each be identified as "larger suburban centres" within which new development and interventions will be encouraged as set out above?	**ST3.1:** Yes, Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot/Whiston and Halewood should each be identified as "larger suburban centres".	**ST3.2:** No, Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot/Whiston and Halewood should not be identified as "larger suburban centres".	
Supportive Comments	4	0	4
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	1
Total Comments	4	0	**5**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	100	0	
% Total Comments / ST3 Total	80	0	

6.5.3 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST4: Meeting Knowsley's Housing Requirements**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST4						Issue Totals
Which of the following approach or approaches do you think should be used to meet Knowsley's housing requirements as identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West, i.e. 9,989 additional net dwellings between 2008 and 2026	**ST4.1:** Building at higher densities.	**ST4.2:** Identifying additional "previously developed" sources of land and buildings within the urban area.	**ST4.3:** Development on greenspaces within the urban area.	**ST4.4:** Development in sustainable locations within the Green Belt.	**ST4.5:** Development in neighbouring districts.	

Supportive Comments	2	7	0	4	0	13
Other Comments	3	4	7	4	5	23
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	-	4
Total Comments	5	11	7	8	5	**40**
% Supportive per Option Comments	40	64	0	50	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	15	54	0	30	0	
% Total Comments / ST4 Total	13	28	18	20	13	

6.5.4 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST5: Future Needs for Economic Development**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST5			Issue Totals
Do you agree with the findings of the Draft Employment Land and Premises Study i.e. that a further 95 to 111 hectares of additional land for economic development needs to be provided in Knowsley up to 2026?	**ST5.1:** Yes I agree with the findings of the Draft Employment Land and Premises Study.	**ST5.2:** No, I do not agree with the findings of the Draft Employment Land and Premises Study.	
Supportive Comments	4	2	6
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	4
Total Comments	4	2	**10**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	67	33	
% Total Comments / ST5 Total	40	20	

6.5.5 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST6: Meeting Knowsley's Economic Development Requirements**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST6				Issue Totals
Which of the following approach or approaches do you think should be used to	**ST6.1:** Re-modelling of Knowsley's Industrial Parks.	**ST6.2:** Development in sustainable locations within the Green Belt.	**ST6.3:** Development in neighbouring districts.	

provide additional land to meet Knowsley's economic development requirements between 2008 and 2026?				
Supportive Comments	4	5	1	10
Other Comments	3	3	4	10
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	2
Total Comments	7	8	5	**22**
% Supportive per Option Comments	57	63	20	
% of Overall Options Supported	40	50	10	
% Total Comments / ST6 Total	32	36	23	

6.5.6 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST7: Town Centres** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST7					**Issue Totals**
Which of the following approach or approaches do you think should be used to provide additional land to meet Knowsley's economic development requirements between 2008 and 2026?	**ST7.1:** Enhance the retail function of the town centres within the Liverpool City Region	**ST7.2:** Increase the diversity of uses in the town centres to include more uses less commonly associated with town centres such as residential, educational or employment uses.	**ST7.3:** ST7.3: Improve the design and layout of the town centres.	**ST7.4:** If you consider that neither ST7.1, ST7.2 nor ST7.3 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternatives.	
Supportive Comments	3	4	4	0	11
Other Comments	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	4
Total Comments	3	4	4	0	**15**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	27	36	36	0	
% Total Comments / ST7 Total	20	27	27	0	

6.6   Strategic Spatial Options

6.6.1   This section presents the points that were raised about the three strategic spatial options presented within the Issues and Options Paper. This includes points raised within responses to the Summary Leaflet in relation to questions 2 – 5, which asked respondents to identify which aspects of the three options that they liked or alternatively, those they disliked. This also includes the questions raised in relation to issues **ST8: Urban Concentration**, **ST9: Focused Urban Regeneration** and **ST10: Criteria for Green Belt Release** and **ST11: Sustainable Urban Extensions**.

6.6.2   This section is split into the following sub-sections:

- Overall Preferences for Options (Full Document and Leaflet)

- Issues raised relating to the Options (Leaflet)
    - Option A: Urban Concentration
    - Option B: Focused Urban Regeneration
    - Option C: Sustainable Urban Extensions
    - Combination of Options
    - Other Comments

- Issues raised relating to the Options (Full Document)
    - Option A: Urban Concentration (Issue ST8)
    - Option B: Focused Urban Regeneration (Issue ST9)
    - Option C: Sustainable Urban Extensions (Issue ST10 and ST11)
    - Combination of Options
    - Other Comments

6.6.3   **Overall Preferences for Options (Full Document and Leaflet)**

6.6.4   Overall, assessing preferences for one (or more) of the three strategic options, or a mix of these options, resulted in the outcomes shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Preferences for the Three Strategic Options							
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Mix / Combination of Options	No Preference	Total
Leaflet	No	41	41	61	23	20	186
	%	22	22	33	12	11	100
Full Document	No	0	1	10	0	25	36
	%	0	3	28	0	69	100
Total	No	41	42	71	23	45	222
	%	**18**	**19**	**32**	**11**	**20**	**100**

6.6.5 Overall there were **222 individual responses** in total (36 individual respondents to the full Issues and Options paper and 186 individual leaflets returned).

6.6.6 The option preferences expressed for the combination of leaflet and full document responses were as follows:
- 18% favoured option A "Urban Concentration"
- 19% favoured option B "Focussed Urban Regeneration"
- 32% favoured option C "Sustainable Urban Extensions"
- 31% expressed no overall preference or preferred a combination of options

6.6.7 In the context of the above, it should be noted that the overall results are heavily influenced by the leaflet responses. However this method of survey is also considered to be the most reliable for the purposes of statistical analysis, given that the Issues and Options paper had a much lower overall number of responses received (less the 20% of the total of leaflet responses) and noting that the report did not specifically request responses per option in the same manner. This was reflected in the fact that a significant proportion of respondents to the Issues and Options paper (almost 70%) either didn't express a preference, chose to focus their responses on specific issues or provided advice on the spatial options that cannot reasonably be categorised as a preferred selection. As a consequence the sample size and response numbers to the full document cannot be considered statistically significant when assessed in isolation. Nevertheless there remains a general preference for option C that accords with the significant outcome of the leaflet responses and the overall option preferences. The majority of the 521 detailed responses to the Issues and Options paper add alternative value to the consultation process in terms of their thematic and / or spatial topic focus.

6.6.8 **Issues Raised Relating to the Options (Leaflet)**

6.6.9 The following sections set out the main issues raised in relation to each of the three strategic options presented in the leaflet. These sections focus initially on the positives identified for each of the options (i.e. the "likes") and then on the negatives identified (i.e. the "dislikes"). Finally this section includes a summary of some of the suggestions of how a combination or mix of the options might work better than pursuing one option only, as well as a list of some of the other comments made in response to the leaflet.

6.6.10 **OPTION A: Urban Concentration**

Positives
- No loss of Green Belt land
- Employment focus on vacant sites in existing areas, i.e., South Prescot
- Regeneration focus on existing areas - North Huyton and Tower Hill

- Increased density of living accommodation
- Does not pursue unrealistic Government targets
- No radical change / least disruptive
- Transport links / infrastructure already in place
- Land available for housing / industry that can be used more efficiently
- Retains a good mix of urban and rural space
- Revitalises town centres

Negatives
- Loss of urban green spaces
- Increased density of housing / no market for more apartments / limited housing choice
- Inability to provide housing requirement target
- Inability to provide employment requirement target
- Limited scope of industrial regeneration and growth
- Other surrounding Boroughs accommodating our deficit in housing provision / potential for reduced Council tax revenue
- Transport links / infrastructure may require upgrade
- Need for consideration of re-use / improvement of existing housing stock rather than new housing
- Overdevelopment in existing towns
- Doesn't address housing regeneration needs of Kirkby or North Huyton
- Impact upon wildlife / environment
- Increasing resident numbers requires job creation
- Does not remodel Kirkby Industrial Park
- Overcrowding of Kirkby
- No mention of Halewood
- Postponing the inevitable
- Absence of phasing timescales
- Depends on location of development
- Contributes to a North / South divide in Knowsley
- Impact upon health through loss of recreation space
- Not radical enough

6.6.11 OPTION B: Focused Urban Regeneration

Positives
- No loss of Green Belt land
- Remodelling of industrial areas
- Regenerates existing areas / increasing area of regeneration
- Balanced distribution of development / regeneration across the Borough
- Development of land of mixed use houses / employment opportunities, with some references to South Prescot specifically
- Provides more housing than Option A

- Plenty of land available for housing / industry that can be used more efficiently
- Increased density of living accommodation
- Less green space development than Option A
- Developing / encouraging young people to start small business / small units
- Revitalises town centres
- Sustainability of option
- Preferable to Option C

Negatives
- Loss of urban green spaces
- Inability to provide housing requirement target
- Potential for excessive densities
- Inability to provide employment requirement target
- Other surrounding Boroughs accommodating our deficit in housing provision / potential for reduced Council tax revenue
- Too many new houses
- Need for consideration of re-use / improvement of existing housing stock rather than new housing
- Overdevelopment in existing towns
- Mixed regeneration in South Prescot
- Need to focus on improving existing facilities before new development
- Impact upon health through loss of recreation space
- No mention of Halewood
- Too much emphasis upon Kirkby regeneration
- Impact upon wildlife / environment
- Not all Green Belt land is of sufficient quality to justify protection
- Not radical enough
- No mention of town centre regeneration
- Only partnerships benefit, not locals
- Not enough amenities to support housing growth
- Postponing the inevitable
- Absence of phasing timescales
- Need for more balanced social mix
- Not radical enough

6.6.12 **OPTION C: Sustainable Urban Extensions**

Positives
- Less likely to lose urban green space
- Only option suitable for providing Knowsley's future development needs
- Focus of development in existing town areas during early part of plan period
- Redevelopment of industrial areas
- Continued regeneration of North Huyton and Tower Hill

- Less likely to increase housing density
- Sustainable
- Phased expansion of urban areas
- Suitable areas of Green Belt of limited value exist and can be developed
- Best of a bad set of options

Negatives
- Loss of Green Belt land / impact upon Green Belt
- Land in existing towns needs to be used more efficiently first
- Cannot see necessity for providing more housing without the potential for creation of more jobs
- Phasing time span is too long
- No mention of Halewood
- Rather rely on neighbouring districts to accommodate development
- Fails to tackle key areas like 'focused' development
- Enough vacant industrial buildings – need to revive and maintain existing
- More strain on existing resources (schools, service, etc)
- Constraints of flood plain
- Not enough information on the areas affected
- Precedent for the future
- Accommodating existing Government targets that are too high and may soon change
- Overdevelopment
- Dislike phasing
- Too passive – need a big change
- Not enough new homes in Kirkby
- Knowsley won't exist in ten years, it will be divided amongst Liverpool, St. Helens and Sefton

Suggestions for Improvement
- Need to ensure loss of Green Belt is minimal / review
- Would be improved by addition of remodelling Kirkby Industrial Park
- Need for infrastructure investment
- Need for good public transport links
- Need for eco friendly build

6.6.13 Combination of Options

- Mix of Options A & B
- Option C without expansion into the Green Belt
- Mix of Options B & C, excluding Green Belt expansion
- Focus on regeneration and sustainable developments
- Option C plus remodelling of industrial areas
- Mix of Options A & C

- Mix of point 2 in Option A, point 3 in Option B and points 1 and 2 in Option C
- Mix of options B & C
- Additional consideration of Halewood development opportunities
- Focus on affordable housing delivery and employment regeneration regardless of location

6.6.14 **Other Comments**

- More background information required to inform choices
- Need to improve public transport
- Anti social behaviour needs to be addressed / increased police presence required
- Need to improve infrastructure
- Need for mix of regeneration and redevelopment of existing land / areas
- Options are too similar / needs a fourth option 'none of the above'
- Town centres regeneration / redevelopment focus required
- Need for more information on vacant properties? Could these areas be remodelled and used more efficiently to reduce pressure on open space?
- Potential for Merseylink expansion to Halewood and Kirkby
- Limited mention of Halewood
- South Huyton / Roby is once again ignored
- Need to improve the amenities within the town centres / diversification of uses
- No information on housing needs or why Knowsley has to provide 10,000 houses
- Kirkby town centre needs new and better shops
- Need for additional landscaping
- Access between townships is difficult / poor accessibility between Kirkby and Halewood
- Positive comments for Knowsley Council
- Need for a trampoline and bouncy castle at Halewood leisure centre
- Like the idea to regenerate town centres with houses / apartments
- Need to limit the number of supermarkets within the borough to encourage small traders back to the high street
- Need to protect local shops in Prescot
- Options put forward are then negated by the implications
- Understand Government targets and need for new housing
- Poor presentation of options
- Not enough information on loss of green space
- Appears to be a surplus of vacant industrial units existing
- Realism regarding employment provision and uses is required
- Tesco has destroyed viability of shops on Eccleston Street in Prescot
- Absence of Tesco in Kirkby has helped existing shops in town centre

- Leave green spaces alone
- Need for local benefit in terms of developers and workforce
- Need for better recreation facilities for older children
- Need for public toilets, particularly in Huyton
- Need for central / civic area in Huyton
- Northwood is neglected, why?
- Positive comment for Kirkby transport
- Limited leisure options for young people – need for improvement
- No A, B or C in my leaflet
- More of Kirkby needs to be on the map
- Poor amenities for older people in Kirkby
- Need for more leisure facilities
- Need to lower speed limit on Boundary Drive, Hunts Cross
- Kirkby needs a new supermarket
- positive comment for overall strategic planning process
- Keep the Golf Course
- Provide bungalows for the old and disabled
- Employment development should be prioritised over new housing
- Prescot needs a decent leisure centre
- Need a BMX park
- Encourage 'community' culture
- Reduce immigration
- Safe places – well planned schools and leisure spaces
- Allotments should be provided for residents

6.6.15 **Issues Raised Relating to the Options (Full Document)**

6.6.16 The following sections present a summary of the main issues raised in response to each of the three strategic spatial options within the Issues and Options report. This section also presents, where applicable, the answers given to the specific questions posed in the Issues and Options paper regarding each of the spatial options, i.e. answers given in relation to Issues **ST8: Urban Concentration**, **ST9: Focused Urban Regeneration** and **ST10: Criteria for Green Belt Release** and **ST11: Sustainable Urban Extensions**.

6.6.17 **OPTION A: Urban Concentration (Issue ST8)**

- This option is relatively **in line with the Regional Spatial Strategy** in relation to policy RDF1, however also noted that this would not deliver the employment land and targets.
- Whilst this Option is **an admirable aspiration**, given Knowsley's shortage of available sites for development, Option A is considered unrealistic if pursued in isolation. This option would not meet the development needs of the Borough beyond 2018.
- The townships, with the exception of Halewood, are situated in close proximity to the **Strategic Road Network** and any significant

development in these locations may adversely impact upon the capacity, operation and safety of the network. Accompanying public transport services, routes and infrastructure will have to be put in place to ensure the expanded townships can be accessed by residents of Knowsley in a sustainable manner.

- Support for the **efficient use of land and increased accessibility** associated with Option A, but recognise that there is a limited choice of sites and failure to focus on deprivation.

- Support for building employment areas on **existing sites**, as there are plenty of brownfield sites in Knowsley that can be utilised for this purpose.

- There are not many plus points for option A, however; a **high utilisation** of existing facilities and infrastructure together with encouragement of some new development on brown field sites is to be welcomed.

- This Option is not radical enough and will result in the **underachievement** of housing and employment land targets. Assumptions and aspirations of high density developments does not afford the policies of "choice" "balanced housing stock" "higher value owner occupation" "high quality" as stated and cannot possibly be achieved with high density planning policies. There is no evidence to base that such assumptions are achievable or indeed desired even though some 65% of the target requirements is expected from such allocations.

- Meeting the shortfall by increasing the density of development on currently identified sites, would lead to **over-intensification of sites**, the construction of further smaller houses and flats which are not desirable forms of development and would contribute further to the lack of availability of quality homes and development sites within Knowsley

- Regarding the focus on **brownfield development**, there is no evidence to show that people aspire to and wish to live in brownfield locations, and there is little evidence that developers would be attracted to brownfield sites given planning constraints.

- It is not clear whether an increase in **multi-storey building** means more tower blocks or just more apartment complexes 3-5 storey high.

- It is not clear whether this Option **can be delivered** or whether it would mean the Council fails to meet targets in Planning Policy Statement 3 for proximity of homes to open space. Increasing housing density could mean a greater percentage of homes are within easy reach of the existing open space, but if that is being reduced to provide housing land then the trend could move in the opposite direction.

- There are questions around the extent to **which neighbouring local authorities are self-sufficient** in terms of employment land provision, due to uncertainty leading from the lack of disaggregation of employment land targets to the district level. There are also questions around social equity of relying on job creation in

neighbouring districts, when Knowsley residents may not be able to access them.

- The scope for **increasing densities** on housing sites is very limited if the wide range of housing needs and requirements are to be met, including houses for families and aspirational households. The additional capacity in the regeneration areas must also be limited.

6.6.18 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST8: Option A - Urban Concentration** within the full Issues and Options consultation, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST8					Issue Totals
Do you broadly prefer Option A to the other Options?	**ST8.1:** which aspects of Option A do you like?	**ST8.2:** Which aspects of Option A do you dislike?	**ST8.3:** Yes, I broadly prefer Option A to the other strategic spatial options.	**ST8.4:** No, I do not broadly prefer Option A to the other strategic spatial options.	
Supportive Comments	-	-	0	6	6
Other Comments	3	5	1	1	10
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	5
Total Comments	3	5	1	7	**21**
% Supportive per Option Comments	-	-	0	86	
% of Overall Options Supported	-	-	0	100	
% Total Comments / ST8 Total	14	24	5	33	

6.6.19 **OPTION B: Focused Urban Regeneration (Issue ST9)**

- There is **capacity for remodelling** of some existing industrial land, but this would have to be in appropriate locations.
- **Higher density** building will result in not meeting Regional Spatial Strategy targets. This could result in an even greater shortfall in housing delivery.
- The **integrated approach** to urban regeneration, tackling deprivation and community cohesion associated with this option is to be commended.
- This Option is not radical enough and will result in the **underachievement** of housing and employment land targets. Assumptions and aspirations of high density developments does not afford the policies of "choice" "balanced housing stock" "higher value owner occupation" "high quality" as stated and cannot

possibly be achieved with high density planning policies. There is no evidence to base that such assumptions are achievable or indeed desired even though some 65% of the target requirements is expected from such allocations.

- Regarding the focus on **brownfield development**, there is no evidence to show that people aspire to and wish to live in brownfield locations, and there is little evidence that developers would be attracted to brownfield sites given planning constraints.

- Development within Knowsley's townships will be beneficial as this is where **public transport options** are more widely available and there is **better access** to key services, employment and leisure opportunities. However, this could cause accessibility problems for rural residents and could increase traffic congestion in townships. Detailed modelling work will be required part of the transport evidence base, which should identify any such issues.

- Investment in **public transport and travel demand management** associated with the regeneration of town centres will be required.

- Option B offers opportunity for **efficient land use**, clear direction, focuses on tackling deprivation and improving community cohesion, but would rely on neighbouring districts and would not allow for the Regional Spatial Strategy housing growth targets to be met in Knowsley.

- There is **a disadvantage in relying on neighbouring authorities** to meet some development needs due to the shortages of brownfield land which could increase travelling distances, carbon emissions, and cost to employees.

- The **extension of North Huyton proposals** to Stockbridge Village as part of regenerating the area would be beneficial and would improve connectivity between these neighbourhoods.

- It is not clear whether an increase in **multi-storey building** means more tower blocks or just more apartment complexes 3-5 storey high.

- It is not clear whether this Option **can be delivered** or whether it would mean the Council fails to meet targets in Planning Policy Statement 3 for proximity of homes to open space. Increasing housing density could mean a greater percentage of homes are within easy reach of the existing open space, but if that is being reduced to provide housing land then the trend could move in the opposite direction.

- Meeting the shortfall by increasing the density of development on currently identified sites, would lead to **over-intensification of sites**, the construction of further smaller houses and flats which are not desirable forms of development and would contribute further to the lack of availability of quality homes and development sites within Knowsley

- There are questions around the extent to which **neighbouring local authorities are self-sufficient** in terms of employment land provision, due to uncertainty leading from the lack of disaggregation of employment land targets to the district level. There are also

questions around social equity of relying on job creation in neighbouring districts, when Knowsley residents may not be able to access them.

- It is potentially **dangerous for the Council to let the market decide** the relative attractiveness of a site - this does not seem to be plan-led and gives more weight to the market than to factors like sustainability and accessibility.
- Option B is the most **sustainable option**, but there will be a need for an element of Green Belt release, as and when it becomes necessary. However, the focus should remain on the urban areas within the borough that need regenerating or are deprived.
- The **scope for increasing densities on housing sites is very limited** if the wide range of housing needs and requirements are to be met, including houses for families and aspirational households. The additional capacity in the regeneration areas must also be limited.
- The **deliverability of remodelling Knowsley's existing Industrial Parks** is yet to be tested and must be considered long-term in nature.
- Recognise that this Option may result in **pressure for development** on valuable urban greenspace, despite that it would also allow for the widespread reuse of brownfield sites and increased use of sustainable transport methods.
- Would not support the **loss of green space** with any significant landscape, biodiversity, recreational, public health or other green space value.
- Option B would have advantages in terms of tackling deprivation and worklessness – consistent with a number of actions within the Regional Economic Strategy in addressing business formation / survival, skills and worklessness, all of which specifically refer to Knowsley.

6.6.20 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST9: Option B - Focused Urban Regeneration** within the full Issues and Options consultation, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST9					Issue Totals
Do you broadly prefer Option B to the other Options?	**ST9.1:** Which aspects of Option B do you like?	**ST9.2:** Which aspects of Option B do you dislike?	**ST9.3:** Yes, I broadly prefer Option B to the other strategic spatial options.	**ST9.4:** No, I do not broadly prefer Option B to the other strategic spatial options.	
Supportive Comments	-	-	1	5	6
Other Comments	7	6	1	0	14
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	6

Total Comments	7	6	2	5	**26**
% Supportive per Option Comments	-	-	50	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	-	-	17	83	
% Total Comments / ST9 Total	27	23	8	19	

6.6.21 **OPTION C: Sustainable Urban Extensions (Issue ST10 and ST11)**

- There is **inconsistency** in this Option, as it is presented both as an alternative to brownfield development and as the only means of meeting the housing requirement.
- Consideration of Greenfield / Green Belt land as part of sustainable development, alongside support for the production of a Green Belt study, it to be **supported**.
- This option is the **most desirable** and in fact the only viable option in terms of the regeneration of Knowsley as an attractive environment and also the only way to ensure that the Government's housing targets are met. Also the only option which will give developers an incentive to invest in the borough, allow housing densities to be maintained at levels equivalent to their surroundings and not require the loss of greenspaces within urban areas.
- No support for Option C as it **endangers the Green Belt** which is very precious and should be protected at all costs as it is gradually being eaten away.
- The **Green Belt** is the lungs and the beauty of Merseyside and should be protected and defended at all costs.
- Do not in principle support the **loss of Green Belt land** to development, if criteria are to be employed where this is unavoidably the case in the longer term, those given are appropriate and should be part of a careful and systematic review. Recognise that some Green Belt land may not be of high quality and that preserving it may in some cases increase pressure for development on more environmentally sensitive areas elsewhere.
- Any **Green Belt changes** to meet development needs should only be considered after a Merseyside Green Belt review that will consider impacts on the authority area, neighbouring authorities and Merseyside as a whole. The cumulative impact of non-strategic Green Belt release should also be considered. The definition of strategic and non-strategic should be determined though consultation with Government Office for the North West, 4NW and neighbouring authorities.
- This Option is the best for tackling the future in a **more positive and holistic way**, offering flexibility including a back up plan to achieve the objectives of the Borough. This option demonstrates

the ambition that is a requirement to produce real benefits over a sustained period and provides the best chance of providing the full housing and employment land requirements.

- A view from Government Office on the **acceptability of this option** and how it might stand through Examination in Public will be required.
- Clearly, the Council would need to demonstrate that **exceptional circumstances** exist to justify the release of land from the Green Belt. It would also need to assess potential alternative locations for releasing land in terms of their sustainability and the impact on the Green Belt.
- Option C would provide the **opportunities for investment and delivery** of housing and employment in Knowsley.
- **Evidence base** to portray the need for a local change to the Green Belt would be required in line with Regional Spatial Strategy policy RDF4 and consideration will need to be given to 4NW's guidance note on Green Belt. Additional considerations include: alternative locations considered, deliverability of development at broad locations / infrastructure required (particularly for sites to be brought forwards towards the beginning of the plan period).
- The **phasing of any Green Belt site release** will be of critical importance. It should be identified to what extent the focus will be on available sites and brownfield sites in the first instance. This process will involve complex management procedures and should involve consideration of the sustainability implications of site release.
- Major releases from the Green Belt should be designated as **Strategic Sites** within the Core Strategy. The exceptional circumstances required under Planning Policy Guidance 2 would be the need to meet development requirements.
- Establishing the **purpose of Green Belt land** should be the starting point for considering the locations for Green Belt release. Special importance should be given to maintaining the narrow gaps between the townships and which separate parts of Knowsley from Liverpool. Support for establishing long-term defensible boundaries.
- It would be helpful to compile a listing of both Greenfield and Brownfield **land available** within a particular area, so that a clearer overall picture could be established. There could then possibly be a consideration towards a "mix" to provide the land requirements.
- Do not necessarily agree that all Green Belt releases need be immediately adjacent to the current built-up area. Potential employment sites that have **special locational advantages**, such as previously developed land and sites accessible to the motorway network, could be suitable for release even if they are not immediately adjacent to an existing urban area provided that sustainable transport links are an integral part of the proposal. **Cronton Colliery** is good example of this because of the potential it has to attract employment to the Borough which may otherwise be lost to the sub-region.

- No support that "proximity to deprived areas in need of a better choice of jobs and housing" should be a **criterion in assessing Green Belt sites** for release. This is because there is no guarantee that locating a site near to a deprived area will result in benefits for local people. Local Labour Partnership Agreements may be a better way of securing the delivery of regeneration benefits for local people. Suggest that **a further criterion** should be added: "opportunities for development which is complementary to existing uses", hence maximising the opportunity offered by urban extensions. The recreational function of Green Belts should be identified
- Suggest that the mention of the role of Green Belts in preventing the **coalescence of urban areas** is not always appropriate, for example, there is sometimes an additional physical barrier (e.g. motorway) which would play this role.
- Aspirations to **improve public transport accessibility** in the rural parts of the borough, should reduce the wider need to travel, reduce the need to travel by private car and increase accessibility to public transport.
- Option C would require the **greatest investment in new infrastructure** to support new development areas as it makes the least utilisation of existing facilities and infrastructure. Its focus on development within Green Belt land, and the rural nature of these areas is more likely to generate private car trips when compared to locating development in established urban areas.
- There are development opportunities for **former employment land at South Prescot** for new mixed employment and housing development, which may attract / generate car trips from nearby urban areas potentially impacting upon the motorway network.
- Option C provides the **greatest opportunity to provide housing** and at densities that can be maintained at levels equivalent to their surroundings, as well as an improved image for the borough.
- Option C will result in **less of a focus on brownfield development**, and less of a focus on tackling problems in deprived neighbourhoods.
- Even if not always of the highest quality, Green Belt land offers the potential to deliver **benefits for the natural environment** and people's enjoyment of it, and to play a role in climate change adaptation
- It would appear **difficult to reconcile this Option with sustainability** if it entails "consumption" of greenfield land in the Green Belt and if, by inference, this means less attention and investment is paid towards sorting out existing problems in the most deprived parts of the borough.
- The draft criteria for Green Belt release are broadly supported, but should be **more flexible** towards the end of the plan period. The location of Green Belt sites adjacent to motorways should be a key consideration, as the development of these sites would relieve pressure on the commuting routes and car parking facilities.

- Support the consideration of **landscape value and agricultural land quality** as criteria in any review of Green Belt – we would like to see other issues including biodiversity value and recreational function included within the criteria
- In relation to Green Belt release, the **criteria identified** provide a useful starting point for consideration. However, no support is given for the first bullet point relating to the proximity to deprived areas as a criterion for assessing urban extensions in the Green Belt. The aspiration to secure benefits for deprived areas can be best secured through a policy which seeks developers to engage in other initiatives such as the local labour partnership agreements.
- Land at **Delph Farm** is immediately adjacent to the existing urban area and could be readily developed for either residential or employment – if developed land on the west side of the motorway would still provide an effective Green Belt gap between Liverpool and Kirkby.
- The **Bank Lane site** is capable of accommodating a high quality residential development of larger detached properties in an attractive setting overlooking the Green Belt of Sefton providing the opportunity to significantly improve the existing housing mix and attract both developers and home owners into Knowsley and its development would enhance a strategic gateway into the borough, whilst meeting the 'aspirational-style housing' objective identified in the consultation paper.
- Land at **Knowsley Lane** and the M57 motorway, at Knowsley Lane Farm, has well defined boundaries and its release from the Green Belt would not contribute to unrestricted sprawl of the built-up area. Also, the land classification identifies the land as grade 3.
- **Two United Utilities sites** in Knowsley, at Carr Lane and at the Former Walton Waste Water Treatment works would both be suitable for release and they should be considered through a Green Belt review.
- Note that the Green Belt is an ideal location **for outdoor sports facilities** and can accommodate a wide range of sports close to major centres of population. Recommend that criteria to release land from the Green Belt should take account of current and potential use for sport and recreation.
- The **most sustainable and realistic option** for Knowsley to bring forward is Option C. However, any Green Belt release should not be considered within the West Lancashire area. The Green Belt within West Lancashire provides a significant role in fulfilling many of the purposes of Green Belt as defined in Planning Policy Guidance 2, particularly as a buffer around the urban conurbation of Merseyside. All options should be explored for development within the Merseyside conurbation.

6.6.22 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST10: Criteria for Green Belt Release** within the full Issues and Options consultation, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST10			Issue Totals
If some Green Belt sites need to be considered for development, do you consider the draft criteria above an appropriate starting point?	**ST10.1:** Yes, I consider that the draft criteria set out in the Issues and Options paper are an appropriate starting point to consider which Green Belt sites could be developed.	**ST10.2:** No, I do not agree that the draft criteria set out in the Issues and Options paper are an appropriate starting point to consider which Green Belt sites could be developed	
Supportive Comments	5	1	6
Other Comments	3	0	3
Non-Option Specific	-	-	6
Total Comments	8	1	**15**
% Supportive per Option Comments	63	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	83	17	
% Total Comments / ST10 Total	53	7	

6.6.23 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST11: Option C - Sustainable Urban Extensions** within the full Issues and Options consultation, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST11					Issue Totals
Option: Do you broadly prefer Option C to the other Options?	**ST11.1:** Which aspects of Option C do you like?	**ST11.2:** Which aspects of Option C do you dislike?	**ST11.3:** Yes, I broadly prefer Option C to the other strategic spatial options.	**ST11.4:** No, I do not broadly prefer Option C to the other strategic spatial options.	
Supportive Comments	-	-	10	1	11
Other Comments	8	5	0	1	14
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	9
Total Comments	8	5	10	2	**34**
% Supportive per Option Comments	-	-	100	50	
% of Overall Options Supported	-	-	91	9	
% Total Comments / ST11 Total	24	15	29	6	

6.6.24 **Combination of Options**

- Combining Option B and Option C would allow for a **stronger, more focused and integrated approach** to urban regeneration,

tackling deprivation and improving community cohesion, whilst also recognising that a re-evaluation of the Green Belt boundaries is required to accommodate the shortfall and land available for meeting the housing and employment needs of the Borough.

- The most **sustainable option** would also appear to be a combination of Option B and Option C. Option B does not give any scope for Green Belt release, option C does not specifically refer to the focused urban regeneration of option B. Release of Green Belt should only be considered once the focused regeneration of the deprived areas, brownfield land has taken place.

- In favour of Option C, but would include within the remodelling of Knowsley Industrial Park as referred to in Option B**.**

6.6.25 **Other Comments**

- Information from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Employment Land and Premises Study and Green Belt study could be used to decide on **spatial distribution of new development** at the next stage.

- Need to consider who would **implement proposals** and where **funding** would come from for each of the Options.

- Development on **brownfield land and in urban areas,** should be close to key services, employment, leisure opportunities, public transport routes and transport hubs.

- Important to encourage measures **which reduce the need to travel by private car,** as this should minimise any impact at the Strategic Road Network. Any developments that may have large trip-generating characteristics should be supported by a robust transport evidence base which justifies their location in transport terms, and demonstrates how these sites will minimise the trip generation of private car trips.

- None of the strategic Options A, B or C should have been drafted without a **contingency in place** for the failure of the Destination Kirkby decision. Therefore it is difficult to express a preference for any of the options when it is not known how the future development of Kirkby will progress.

- Both Options A and B contain **elements which could be supported**, namely an overall focus on the existing urban areas. In the longer term however, both options would be reliant on neighbouring districts accommodating a proportion of Knowsley's housing and employment needs – question whether this is realistic.

- **No particular preference** for any of the strategic spatial options, but it should be noted that development within and around the main settlements of Prescot, Huyton, Whiston and Halewood would extend over the surface coal resource

6.7   Township Priorities

6.7.1   The following points were raised about the township priorities identified within the Issues and Options paper.

6.7.2 **Huyton and Stockbridge Village (Issue ST12)**

- There is a need to **tie together** the regeneration of North Huyton and Stockbridge Village.
- **Huyton Station** will benefit from refurbishment in early 2010.
- One of the priorities listed for Huyton and Stockbridge Village includes **'environmental enhancements'**; however no information is given to what this would entail.
- The points given represent the key priorities for Huyton and Stockbridge Village, however development needs to be in a manner which complements and **does not harm other towns and district centres** in adjacent authority areas.
- **Speculators** own Green Belt land in parts of Knowsley and they should not be encouraged, in particular the Edenhurst Avenue former Lucas Sport field.

6.7.3 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST12: Key Priorities: Huyton and Stockbridge Village** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST12			Issue Totals
Do you agree that the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Huyton and Stockbridge Village?	ST12.1: Yes, the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Huyton and Stockbridge Village. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	ST12.2: No, the points given in the Issues and Options paper do not represent the key priorities for Huyton and Stockbridge Village. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	
Supportive Comments	2	1	3
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	0
Total Comments	2	1	**3**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	67	33	
% Total Comments / ST12 Total	67	33	

6.7.4 **Kirkby (Issue ST13)**

- There is an opportunity **to tie Town Centre regeneration with residential development**.
- The retail element of any regeneration proposal in Kirkby should be commensurate in scale with the **role and function of the centre** under Policy W5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and should not have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any

retail centres elsewhere. The extent of any impact would need to be the subject of a detailed Retail Impact Assessment prepared in the context of a specific planning application.

- The points given represent the key priorities for Kirkby, however development needs to be in a manner which complements and **does not harm other towns and district centres** in adjacent authority areas

- There is a continued aspiration for a **new rail station at Kirkby Headbolt Lane**.

- There is potential for a new rail line from **Rainford Junction on the Kirkby to Wigan line to Skelmersdale** in the long term. This could enable increased accessibility to the Kirkby rail freight terminal. The space for a triangle alignment should be safeguarded and retained near Rainford as well as an alignment for a rail line north towards Skelmersdale.

- There is a continued aspiration for **Merseytram development** including Line 1 to Kirkby. The alignment for Line 1 is currently safeguarded until 2010 and options are being investigated into safeguarding powers beyond this date.

- A football stadium in Kirkby would have wholly **negative effects** on the town, and would hamper regeneration, increase congestion and place intolerable pressure on public transport. Regenerating Kirkby cannot be accomplished overnight by a few deposits of metal and concrete. Kirkby's problems stem from far more than a mere lack of shops. New retail is important but not a panacea. A new development needs to be in keeping with the town, which means retail of an adequate scale, as well as leisure, health, library and transport facilities for the benefit and use of residents. Such a development could be accommodated entirely within the current Town Centre area.

- Whilst we agree that town centre regeneration is critical for Kirkby, given the town centres **inability to attract a food store** operator for almost the last twenty years, it is apparent that the town centre is not capable of meeting modern food operator needs. Work to improve the remaining town centre environment, shops, services, infrastructure etc should be a priority.

- Key priorities identified for Kirkby are correct. However, the **designation of "Strategic Green Space" is not supported** as it duplicates a function served by the Green Belt.

- Former **Walton Farm Waste Water Treatment Works** site would provide an opportunity for sustainable development in the Kirkby locale.

6.7.5 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST13: Key Priorities: Kirkby** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST13			Issue Totals
Do you agree that the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Kirkby?	**ST13.1** Yes, the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Kirkby. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	**ST13.2** No, the points given in the Issues and Options paper do not represent the key priorities for Kirkby. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	
Supportive Comments	4	1	5
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	0
Total Comments	4	1	**5**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	80	20	
% Total Comments / ST13 Total	80	20	

6.7.6 **Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village (Issue ST14)**

- In Prescot, housing should be **combined with town centre redevelopment** and there is a need to be specific on types of housing needed in this area.
- Consider that land should be available on the **perimeter of Knowsley Village** for some higher value owner / occupied housing. The land adjoining Home Farm Road would be appropriate.
- Reference to **green energy required**, particularly with regards to the opportunities for wind turbines at the Safari Park.
- Mutual benefit to Prescot and Knowsley Safari Park of their individual and **co-ordinated development** – heritage / night time / retail economy in Prescot could benefit from visitor numbers.
- Welcome improvements to **traffic infrastructure** (road, tram, cycle, pedestrian) and services (bus, green schemes, signage) to improve accessibility and therefore attract more visitors by car and public transport to Knowsley Safari Park – especially if linked to development in Prescot.
- Suggest that the following opportunity should be added: "Enhance mixed use opportunities by the coordinated development of the Pirelli site and United Utilities Car Lane site to encourage regeneration of the area."

6.7.7 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST14: Key Priorities: Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST14			Issue Totals
Do you agree that the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village?	**ST14.1:** Yes, the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	**ST14.2:** No, the points given in the Issues and Options paper do not represent the key priorities for Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	
Supportive Comments	3	0	3
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	0
Total Comments	3	0	**3**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	100	0	
% Total Comments / ST14 Total	100	0	

6.7.8 **Halewood (Issue ST15)**

- There is a need to be **specific on what type of affordable housing is missing** in this area, with detail by tenure house type and support provision.
- The proposed **new airport link road** from the east of the Airport could bring potential benefits for Halewood.
- The points raised as key priorities for Halewood are generally supported. The importance of providing **new housing in this area** is welcomed. Along with affordable housing, new market housing should be promoted in order to ensure that schemes are viable and deliverable and to provide a greater element of choice to existing local communities.
- In addition to recognising the importance of protecting those higher quality areas of Green Belt, priorities should include the potential for future release of Green Belt land in the case **of less valuable sites in Halewood**. The stated priorities should be amended to reflect this.

6.7.9 As part of the presentation of Issue **ST15: Halewood**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue ST15			Issue Totals
Do you agree that the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Halewood?	**ST15.1** Yes, the points given in the Issues and Options paper represent the key priorities for Halewood. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	**ST15.2** No, the points given in the Issues and Options paper do not represent the key priorities for Halewood. Please state if there are any other priorities that you consider should be included.	
Supportive Comments	3	0	3
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	0
Total Comments	3	0	**3**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	100	0	
% Total Comments / ST15 Total	100	0	

6.8   Supporting a Diverse and Prosperous Economy (Issues TH1 – TH4)

6.8.1   The following points were raised about the economic issues identified within the Issues and Options Paper.

- The approach within the Employment Land and Premises Study and the use of emerging evidence is **appropriate**. The Council should ensure that the other Merseyside authorities are happy with the approach within the study.
- It would be helpful to include a **definition of what employment / economic land is**. For example, commercial, industrial and retail developments are all employment opportunities.
- The use of the **current take up rate** i.e. from 2008 rather than from 2005 may be more appropriate (if the current supply is being used).
- There is a need for **more detail from Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment** and **Employment Land and Premises Study** regarding the use of employment sites for housing.
- **Brownfield sites** should be phased and released prior to Greenfield sites.
- There should be restrictions on the type of **employment uses reserved for sites**.
- Sites allocated for employment development should generally be **reserved** for this purpose. In certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to reserve sites for specific employment types, either because of the particular locational advantages of the site or for amenity reasons. However generally there should be a **presumption against unnecessary restrictions** which are likely

to reduce the confidence of businesses to invest in the allocated sites.

- A clearer **hierarchy of retail centres** is needed.
- Relying on **neighbouring authorities** for delivery of employment land may have implications for investment, jobs, etc. in Knowsley.
- **Remodelling existing industrial areas** is positive; however it is important that the evidence base demonstrates that the mix of employment types in the remodelled estates would be deliverable.
- Enhancing **retail offer** in town centres is in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy would be appropriate and office development would also be appropriate in town centres.
- **Employment land should be retained** for employment use but where deliverability is problematic it could be better used for housing. The flexibility of this approach would encourage inward investment and maximises the commercial, business and employment opportunities on employment sites
- The **Pirelli site** in Prescot is a good example of a strategic site which is currently earmarked for employment use but which may not be readily developable for this use.
- Green Belt locations could be brought forward to the early years of the plan period if **redevelopment is distributed appropriately** across the entire Borough.
- At least some of any proposed Green Belt employment sites should be released **early in the plan period**. Such sites will often have a long lead-in time of between 5 and 10 years before employment units can start being constructed. Without Green Belt sites being released early in the plan period, there may well be a significant gap in provision in the middle part of the plan period.
- Any "Sustainable Urban Extensions" identified and supported by the Council to assist and support the economy in Knowsley should also take into account **deliverability and the market**. This should also include consideration of the phasing of developments to bring forward development and business at the earliest opportunity and not towards the end of the plan period.
- There is increasing **pressure on agricultural land**, from biomass crops, etc. It is important to maintain the best and most versatile land for food crops. This agricultural land should be protected where it can be demonstrated that there are other reasonable alternative sites of lower grade that can be used for a development. It is important that the Council takes account of the cumulative effect on agricultural land across the Borough when a number of 'small scale' schemes.
- Due to the importance of **high quality agricultural land** as a resource, oppose in principle, barring exceptional circumstances, any development which would lead to its irreversible loss. Therefore, support preservation of high quality agricultural land for farming uses which would have further beneficial effects in terms of allowing increased local food production.

- Support the inclusion within the Core Strategy of a policy to ensure that **allocated employment sites** are not lost to other uses. Drawing on the Employment Land and Premises Study, we suggest the Council considers reallocating any current employment sites that are patently more suited to other uses such as housing.
- Would welcome the inclusion of a policy which gives positive support to the strengthening and diversification of the **rural economy**.
- There should be encouragement for **rural diversification**, particularly with regard to the use of under-utilised rural buildings.
- Knowsley Borough needs to be seen to **welcome business development** to enable it to compete with surrounding areas – necessitates the provision of adequate work space and housing within easy travel distance of places of work to ensure that there is high quality in the provision and this requires adequate space, particularly for housing, rather than having high density development.
- Should be reference to the employment provided by **Knowsley Estate** in respect of the Safari Park, the Events business at Knowsley Hall and the office development at Stanley Grange. The latter should be viewed as a satellite Knowsley Business Park, which it complements by providing some high quality offices. This should be scheduled as a Strategic Investment Area.
- Knowsley Safari Park should be permitted to continue to evolve and develop as a tourist attraction of regional and national significance – generation of increased employment.
- Because of Knowsley's restricted supply of undeveloped land, it is likely to be necessary that some better quality agricultural land will be needed for other uses.

6.8.2   As part of the presentation of Issue **TH1: Release of Land for Employment Development**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH1				Issue Totals
In the event of the Core Strategy pursuing spatial option C do you consider that there is a case for potential Green Belt locations being brought forward for development before sites within the current urban areas have been completed?	**TH1.1:** No, development land for employment uses on a phased basis ensuring that Green Belt locations are only considered after employment land within the current urban area has been developed.	**TH1.2:** Yes, bring these locations forward for development in the early years of the plan period.	**TH1.3:** No, I do not support spatial option C and consider that Green Belt locations should not be brought forward for employment development.	
Supportive Comments	4	4	0	8

Other Comments	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	4	4	0	**9**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	50	50	0	
% Total Comments / TH1 Total	44	44	0	

6.8.3　As part of the presentation of Issue **TH2: Safeguarding of Employment Land**, the following question was posed and the following answers given

Issue TH2				**Issue Totals**
Should sites which are allocated for employment development be reserved for this use?	**TH2.1**: Ensure all land which is identified for employment development continues to be reserved for employment use in general but do not reserve it for specific employment uses	**TH2.2**: Ensure all land which is identified for employment development continues to be reserved for employment uses but restrict the use of some sites to specific employment types, for example offices or knowledge based industries.	**TH2.3**: Allow other uses such as housing on some sites which are currently designated as employment land, for example those sites outside the main industrial parks.	
Supportive Comments	2	0	3	5
Other Comments	0	0	2	2
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	0
Total Comments	2	0	5	**7**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	60	
% of Overall Options Supported	40	0	60	
% Total Comments / TH2 Total	29	0	71	

6.8.4　As part of the presentation of Issue **TH3: Food Supply and Use of Agricultural Land**, the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH3			Issue Totals
Should Knowsley's stock of "best and most versatile" agricultural land be primarily reserved for use in production of food or should a broader mix of rural uses be encouraged even if this results in irreversible loss of high quality farmland?	**TH3.1**: Preserve areas of high quality agricultural land for farming uses and only permit other uses in exceptional circumstances.	**TH3.2**: Permit a wider range of rural land uses on agricultural land, including permitting some uses in areas of high quality agricultural land. Areas of poorer quality grade land would be selected in preference to higher quality land.	
Supportive Comments	2	2	4
Other Comments	0	1	1
Non-Option Specific	-	-	1
Total Comments	2	3	**6**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	67	
% of Overall Options Supported	50	50	
% Total Comments / TH3 Total	33	50	

6.8.5   As part of the presentation of Issue **TH4: Future Role of Knowsley's District and Local Shopping Parade** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH4			Issue Totals
What steps should be taken to more effectively manage Knowsley's network of district and local shopping area?	**TH4.1**: Encourage more non-shopping uses such as small scale community uses or offices to improve the viability of the centres.	**TH4.2**: Consider reducing the size of some shopping centres / parades in order to concentrate retail functions and encourage uses such as housing in the de-designated areas.	
Supportive Comments	1	2	3
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	1
Total Comments	1	2	**4**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	33	67	
% Total Comments / TH4 Total	25	50	

6.9   Balancing the Housing Market (Issues TH5 – TH9)

6.9.1   The following points were raised about the housing issues identified within the Issues and Options Paper.

- Approach to viability of **affordable housing** contributions needs to be set out. Any affordable housing policy needs to set overall target, circumstances in which provision will be required and minimum site thresholds. There should also be consideration of funding available and the size and type of affordable housing required. Variations to affordable housing targets should be supported by evidence to reflect local circumstances.

- The **amount of affordable housing** in any development should be appropriate to the location – if there is a disproportionate mix amongst houses of higher value, this may reduce the market attraction of them.

- **Evidence emerging** from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment will provide guidance as to the size and mix of housing types required.

- The Core Strategy will need to provide a **mix of housing** which is responsive to identified needs. Would generally favour an approach which takes account of viability and is not unduly prescriptive. An overly prescriptive approach runs the risk of stifling development.

- Would not recommend **prescribing a mix of uses** on any site in the Core Strategy. Suggest that the policy should read that a mix of dwelling sizes and types should be determined on a site-by-site basis.

- The Core Strategy could define criteria for **Gypsy and Traveller sites** but the Local Development Framework will need to allocate sites at a later point.

- Neither of the options laid out for **Gypsy and Travellers** meet fully the requirements of Circular 01/2006 which requires core strategies to set out criteria for the location of sites which will be used to guide the allocation of sites in the relevant Development Plan Document and which will also be used to meet unexpected demand. An appropriate approach would be to set criteria for the location of sites which will be used to identify specific sites in subsequent DPDs, sufficient to meet identified demand, and also by which to judge other applications.

- The core strategy could contain **broad locations for sites** for Gypsies and Travellers if desired by the council but such a policy should not exclude the potential for sites coming forward in other areas, especially those intended for use as private family sites. Any broad locations hence should not be seen as excluding other potential places for sites.

- **Travelling Showpeople** have different requirements for sites and hence will need a separate set of criteria applicable to them.

- Knowsley Council should lay out how needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be met in a **reasonable timeframe**. The core strategy as it stands does not indicate when much needed sites will be delivered. Circular 1/2006, paragraph 33 states that Development Plan Documents will need to explain how the land required will be made available and the timescale for provision.

- The core strategy should pay due regard to the need for **affordable and private pitches** for Gypsies and Travellers and lay out how the differing needs will be met. The Council should work with Registered Social Landlords and the Gypsy and Traveller community to obtain the best outcome for the community. This would be a positive approach giving best value for money and would help avoid ills of the past and contribute to community cohesion.
- **Monitoring should include net pitch additions** and the policy should commit itself specifically to carrying out a new GTAA to be started in time for updating pitch requirement numbers beyond 2016.
- Housing policies should include appropriate **densities** for new housing development. Lower density (around 30-40 d.p.h.) housing development may be more viable due to funding problems for higher density schemes: family housing is most likely to be viable.
- The Regional Spatial Strategy target of 65% of housing development on **previously developed land** should be accounted for. Details are required of housing supply coming forward over the plan period, including a housing trajectory and a Previously Developed Land trajectory, in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 3.
- **Dialogue with neighbouring districts** is encouraged.
- There is a need to take into account the **4NW note** on maintenance of housing figures post 2021.
- Currently **depressed residential values** are resulting in brownfield sites not coming forward and the Local Development Framework needs to recognise this. There should be future joint working across the public and private sector to address this, including considerations of S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy costs, Code, Renewables, etc.
- Regional Spatial Strategy policy L4 requires Local Development Frameworks to address the **housing requirements of different groups** (for example disabled people, students, older people, black and minority ethnic communities, etc).
- Additional accommodation for **older people and vulnerable groups** should be highlighted in the evidence base documents produced by the Council. The desired locations of this accommodation will change over the plan period and hence recommend that a criterion based list is provided to ensure that the requirements of user groups are met.
- It is important to ensure that all residential development proposals will comply with the 2 star rating with water use in the **Code for Sustainable Homes** and preferably achieve 3 star rating or more.
- Steps should be taken to ensure that accommodation for older people and other vulnerable groups is not located in **areas of flood risk**.
- For housing, the Council could explore use of **commuted sums** and the use of grant support creating partnerships that can add

value. Care must be taken in defining the affordable housing target – based on value, rather than numbers. A definition of 'affordability' needs to be made, and the expectation of provision on all sites should be the starting point.

- For different types and tenures of housing, **overall borough provision should be targeted**, with guidance for localised provision. There is a need to consider affordable, extra care housing specifically for older people – any such scheme would require good links for facilities and amenities.
- Greater links should be drawn with the **Housing Strategy**.
- A revised approach is needed in Kirkby Town Centre, with **housing at the fore in any future regeneration option**. Furthermore, Tower Hill requires a revised Regeneration approach supported from Government Public Land Initiative. Adjoining neighbourhoods to North Huyton require master planning and options for tenure diversification in these highly concentrated social rented areas.

6.9.2   As part of the presentation of Issue **TH5: Affordable Housing** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH5				Issue Totals
How should the Core Strategy tackle the issue of affordable housing?	**TH5.1**: Set an overall minimum affordable housing target to be applied to all private sector developments over a minimum site size threshold, subject to site viability – irrespective of where they are in the Borough	**TH5.2**: Set an overall affordable housing target and site size threshold for all suitable private sector developments, subject to site viability, but vary the amount of affordable housing required between townships to meet localised need.	**TH5.3**: If you consider that neither TH5.1 or TH5.2 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative	
Supportive Comments	1	2	1	4
Other Comments	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	1	2	1	**5**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	25	50	25	
% Total Comments / TH5 Total	20	40	20	

6.9.3   As part of the presentation of Issue **TH6: Tackling Low Demand Areas and Renewing the Existing Housing Stock** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH6				Issue Totals
Which approach should be used to tackle low demand areas and renew the existing housing stock?	**TH6.1**: Target housing renewal initiatives into existing priority areas (primarily North Huyton) whilst, within the rest of the Borough, restricting renewal activity solely to those individual dwellings, blocks of flats and/or small groups of dwellings which require treatment.	**TH6.2**: In addition to targeting housing renewal initiatives into existing priority areas, also target other localised deprived areas such as Stockbridge Village for comprehensive regeneration. If there are any other areas in the borough which you think should also be targeted for comprehensive regeneration please state where these areas are.	**TH6.3**: If you consider that neither TH6.1 nor TH6.2 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative.	
Supportive Comments	0	1	0	1
Other Comments	1	1	0	2
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	0
Total Comments	1	2	0	**3**
% Supportive per Option Comments	0	50	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	0	100	0	
% Total Comments / TH6 Total	33	67	0	

6.9.4   As part of the presentation of Issue **TH7: Dwelling Sizes and Types** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH7				Issue Totals
Which approach do you prefer to ensure there is a mix of dwelling sizes and types to meet needs?	**TH7.1**: For all developments over a certain size, prescribe the mix of dwelling sizes and types to be provided across the borough.	**TH7.2**: In different areas of the borough, for all developments over a certain size, prescribe a mix of dwelling sizes and types to meet localised need.	**TH7.3**: If you consider that neither TH7.1 nor TH7.2 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative.	
Supportive Comments	0	1	1	2
Other Comments	1	1	1	3
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	2
Total Comments	1	2	2	**7**
% Supportive per Option Comments	0	50	50	

% of Overall Options Supported	0	50	50	
% Total Comments / TH7 Total	14	29	29	

6.9.5 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH8: Accommodation for Older People and Other Vulnerable Groups** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH8					Issue Totals
How can we best provide accommodation to meet the needs of older people and other vulnerable groups?	**TH8.1**: Do not require any specialist accommodation for older people and other vulnerable groups and allow provision to be led by the market.	**TH8.2**: Identify criteria that would need to be met when providing sites for older people and other vulnerable groups, for example to ensure that sites are in accessible locations and close to health and other community facilities. If there are any other criteria that you think should be included please state what these are.	**TH8.3**: Identify broad locations for the provision of specialist accommodation for older people and other vulnerable groups.	**TH8.4**: If you consider that neither TH8.1, TH8.2 nor TH8.3 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative.	
Supportive Comments	0	3	1	0	4
Other Comments	1	1	2	0	4
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	1	4	3	0	**9**
% Supportive per Option Comments	0	75	33	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	0	75	25	0	
% Total Comments / TH8 Total	11	44	33	0	

6.9.6 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH9: Sites for Gypsies and Travellers and/or Travelling Show People** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH9				Issue Totals
How can we best provide sites for gypsies and travellers and/or travelling showpeople?	TH9.1: Set out broad locations for sites for Gypsies and Travellers and/or Travelling Showpeople in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and specific sites in subsequent Development Plan Documents, sufficient to meet the level of demand to be identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy.	TH9.2: Do not identify specific sites in the Local Development Framework, but set criteria that would need to be satisfied when proposing sites for Gypsies and Travellers and/or Travelling Showpeople.	TH9.3: If you consider that neither TH9.1 nor TH9.2 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative.	
Supportive Comments	1	0	1	2
Other Comments	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	1	0	1	**3**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	50	0	50	
% Total Comments / TH9 Total	33	0	33	

6.10   Promoting Quality of Place (Issues TH10 – TH12)

6.10.1 The following points were raised in relation to the quality of place issues contained within the Issues and Options Paper.

- In recognising the **multifunctional uses** that can be provided by greenspace, reference should be made to the emerging Merseyside Green Infrastructure Plan.
- There should be a **new audit of green spaces**.
- Possible role for **public art** as a focal point for local areas.
- There is a need for greater clarification as to what **"good links"** are, e.g. cycle routes sometimes disappear at the most dangerous points on the road network.
- All new development should meet **design and accessibility criteria** to ensure new development are of a standard worth protecting in future. Consideration should also be given to the two Supplementary Planning Documents which functions to provide more detail on design quality. This is particularly important if the development is of more than local importance.

- This section could usefully make reference to the Joint Merseyside and Halton **Waste Development Plan Document** particularly focusing on the sustainable waste management/design elements that are being promoted, with the Waste Development Plan Document. The Waste Development Plan Document should be considered part of the framework for Knowsley and not in isolation. Whilst controversial, a well-designed and operated waste management facility could also present a positive 'sustainable' image for Knowsley.
- Would endorse the Council's position that there will be **no new waste incinerator** close to Kirkby or elsewhere in Knowsley due to the detrimental impact that this would have on health and living standards across the town.
- Disagree that reducing the quantity standard would improve the remaining greenspace.
- **Support the general guidelines** given and welcome in particular points 4 (sustainable transport), 5 (re-use of brownfield sites), 7 (protection and enhancement of open spaces, landscape features and natural habitats) and 9 (environmental / energy efficiency). Could also include reference to provision and improvement of greenspaces within development areas as they can considerably enhance the quality of the development and deliver a wide range of benefits for people and the environment.
- Highlight the fact that **brownfield sites may harbour significant biodiversity** assets, and therefore point 5 should include a caveat that the development of brownfield sites should involve measures to preserve or replace any such assets.
- Should refer to Natural England's **standards for accessible natural greenspaces**.
- There are a number of potential **strategic areas of greenspace**, including the Whiston to Cronton corridor. The former **Cronton Colliery** site is owned and managed by North West Development Agency pending its reclamation under the Homes and Community Agency's National Coalfields Programme. It is anticipated that ecological improvements, planting, provision of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways will be completed by the Land Restoration Trust by the end of 2010/11.
- Core strategy makes reference to Knowsley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategy 2005 - concerned that this assessment is now somewhat **dated** -appears to draw upon a 2003 Playing Pitch Assessment which would be regarded as out of date. It is unlikely that this study would have taken account of the levels of growth to be delivered through the Core Strategy, e.g. Regional Spatial Strategy housing targets were not in place at the time or the Building Schools for the Future programme which could affect provision. Any standard relating to outdoor pitches should be based on an **up to date playing pitch assessment / strategy** carried out in accordance with the methodology in Towards A Level Playing Field requiring local standards to be based on the area of

land needed for playing pitches and the population at the end of the plan period.

- **Existing need** for open space provision cannot simply be projected forward to represent future need in proportion to projected population changes**. Future need** should take account of the future socio-demographic characteristics of the local population; trends in the relative popularity of different activities and the use of various forms of provision; the impact of policies designed to mould and shape trends or enhance provision; and the impact of planned changes in provision.

- The Knowsley area has been subjected to **coal mining** which will have left a legacy. Whilst most past mining is generally benign in nature, potential public safety and stability problems can be triggered and uncovered by development activities. It is important to stress that land instability and mining legacy is not a complete constraint on new development; rather it can be argued that because mining legacy matters have been addressed the new development is safe, stable and sustainable.

- The Core Strategy should include appropriate policy criteria requiring new development proposals to take account of any **risks associated with former coal mining activities** and, where necessary, incorporate suitable mitigation measures.

- Consider it unhelpful to implement a system of **local listing** – the system of listing is being reviewed nationally and should not be further amended locally. Should be recognised that the viability of maintaining historic buildings is dependent upon finding economic uses for them – requires evolution of use not fossilisation.

- Concerned about the inclusion of the **Knowsley Hall estate and Safari Park** as potential strategic areas of greenspace – Knowsley Park provides a very different form of green space to the other listed areas – a reservoir of high protected quality habitat in terms of wildlife protection and carbon sequestration, but also of cultural importance as part of the history of the area – it has retained this contribution to the locality over the centuries by being permitted to evolve to meet the challenges of each generation.

- Objection to the identification of **potential areas of strategic greenspace** as this is an unnecessary duplication of policy which is already covered by Green Belt policy.

6.10.2 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH10: Promoting the Quality of Place** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH10			Issue Totals
Table 2 sets out a series of general guidelines that could be included in the Core Strategy to ensure that new development helps to promote the quality of place and "offer" of Knowsley as a place to live, work and visit. Do you prefer option TH10.1 or TH10.2?	TH10.1: Use the guidelines given to ensure that new development promotes "quality of place". Please state if you think that there should be any amendments to the guidelines.	TH10.2: Use the guidelines given and supplement these with additional guidance for key regeneration and high profile locations. Please state if you think that there should be any amendments to the guidelines.	
Supportive Comments	0	4	4
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	2
Total Comments	0	4	**6**
% Supportive per Option Comments	0	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	0	100	
% Total Comments / TH10 Total	0	67	

6.10.3 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH11: Heritage Management** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH11			Issue Totals
How should the Council protect its heritage areas?	TH11.1: Continue to protect and enhance the historic environment where there are already statutory designations in place such as Conservation Areas and the national listing system.	TH11.2: In addition to option A, develop a system of "local listing" which aims to protect the character and setting of important areas and historic buildings / structures that fall outside Conservation areas and the national listing system?	
Supportive Comments	1	0	1
Other Comments	0	1	1
Non-Option Specific	-	-	0
Total Comments	1	1	**2**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	100	0	
% Total Comments / TH11 Total	50	50	

6.10.4 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH12: Urban and Strategic Greenspace** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH12				Issue Totals
How should the Core Strategy manage the borough's urban and strategic greenspaces?	**TH12.1**: Continue current set standards for quality, quantity and accessibility of different types of greenspace supplemented by additional protection for sites of local nature conservation interest.	**TH12.2**: As option TH12.1 but with reductions in some quantity standards to allow more emphasis on releasing funds to improve quality of greenspaces.	**TH12.3**: In addition to option TH12.1 or TH12.2, identify strategic areas of greenspace within a wider network that provide linkages for habitats and offer wider socio-economic and environmental benefits.	
Supportive Comments	1	1	2	4
Other Comments	0	2	2	4
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	1	3	4	**9**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	33	50	
% of Overall Options Supported	25	25	50	
% Total Comments / TH12 Total	11	33	44	

6.11   Caring for Knowsley (Issues TH13 – TH16)

6.11.1 The following points were raised in relation to "caring for Knowsley", that is content of the Issues and Options Paper relating to environmental considerations and resource management.

- **Evidence base on renewable energy** will be required to support identification of broad locations and requirements for such provision.
- There is potential scope for **generalised design/environmental-type policy** which could include reference to habitat protection.
- There is a need to **revise the waste hierarchy** in accordance with Waste Strategy for England 2007. There is potential to incorporate suggested Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service wording for a **waste policy**.
- The broad extent of **minerals safeguarding areas** should be shown on the key diagram, particularly for Cronton Clay Pit which should be identified as a Minerals Safeguarding Area.
- The Knowsley area contains **extensive coal resources** which are capable of extraction by surface mining operations. These should not be unduly sterilised by new development.
- There will clearly remain a significant demand for **indigenous coal supply** both during and beyond the period of the Core Strategy. Hence, the full extent of the shallow coal resource area in Knowsley

must be safeguarded by including it within a Mineral Safeguarding Area.

- In order to properly address the requirements of Minerals Policy Statement 1 and the associated good practice guidance, Option TH16.3 must be pursued, with an additional Minerals Safeguarding Area being defined for coal using the Surface Coal Resource Plan as the evidence base. In line with Minerals Policy Statement 1, this should be supported by the inclusion of appropriate policy criteria to support the prior extraction of coal resources, where practicable, if it is necessary for non-mineral developments to take place within the Minerals Safeguarding Area.

- There is **detail lacking on Green Infrastructure and biodiversity issues**. There is potential for developer funding for Green Infrastructure should be included.

- Support that environmental performance of new development is managed through **building regulations**. Targets should be set via an established assessment method, such as Code for Sustainable Homes (residential development) and/or BREEAM (commercial/industrial development and public buildings).

- Using a carbon standard enables taking full account of the **energy hierarchy** when assessing the design of new development. However, policy in this area will need to be carefully written and will need to be flexible enough to take account of changing regulatory targets for low carbon construction.

- The aspiration by Knowsley to set **standards above the minimum** required levels is to be admired, though it is for the Council to determine how far it can reasonably go in this direction and the need to counter concerns that high standards might deter investment from the district to other places where standards, and therefore development costs, might be lower. Knowsley should seek opportunities to discuss this issue with its neighbours in order to understand what opportunities there may be to achieve the implementation of a common approach and broadly similar set of standards within the City Region.

- Allowing **monetary contributions** to a fund to offset failures to meet new renewable energy targets should be supported, as it is recognised that high standards can be difficult to meet on some sites and in some types of development.

- The Council should be clear with its approach to **Energy from Waste** facilities within its Core Strategy to ensure maximum conformity with the approach set out within the Waste Development Plan Document.

- **Site-specific flood risk appraisals** for development should be carried out.

- The use of **Sustainable Drainage Systems** should be encouraged.

- Sites should be identified for **renewable energy facilities**, as this will reduce the capacity for objection to such developments. Once the technology is installed and working, people may see the

benefits on a large scale and become more receptive to future development.

- There should be greater emphasis on **improving the building fabric** to reduce energy requirement rather than simply producing energy from different sources. The target should be for all development, not an average across the borough.
- **Aerodrome safeguarding** for the Airport will need to be maintained in relation to renewable energy schemes.
- The selection of locations for renewable energy technology installations is affected by a complex range of factors and identifying broad areas can provide an important **degree of reassurance** to the market that proposals will be considered favourably, thus potentially increasing the chances of delivering the required increase in renewable energy capacity within the borough.
- It is important that **greenspace standards** are not reduced in order to release land for development. Greenspaces have a major role to plan in improving the quality of life in Knowsley and improving its image.
- Welcome proposals for **renewable energy development** within the Borough and would support the inclusion of either a spatially specific policy within the Core Strategy, backed by criteria, or a criteria based policy only. It will be important to take into full consideration natural environmental issues such as biodiversity, habitats, geodiversity and the landscape during the site selection process, regardless of whether this is done during preparation of the Core Strategy or separately by the application of a criterion based policy.
- Welcome the emphasis placed on **high environmental performance** in new developments and the potential role to be played in tackling climate change.
- A **consistency in standards** across local authorities in aiming to address carbon reduction is of great assistance to developers.
- Request that the Core Strategy include a policy which **supports renewable energy projects**, subject to appropriate criteria, and also supports the aims and objectives of the Power from the Mersey Project. Whilst the Power from the Mersey Project is unlikely to involve development directly within the Borough's administrative boundary, it will affect the Liverpool City Region as a whole, including Knowsley.
- Knowsley Safari Park is a potentially suitable location for **wind turbines** with the added benefit that such development can be an educational resource – could be considered a preferred area. The Safari Park is also considering anaerobic digestion as an animal waste option – presently it does not produce enough waste to be viable – would however welcome a Borough biomass hub.
- Concerned that there could be an implementation of a "**carbon tax"** which would act as a disincentive for new developments in the Borough.

6.11.2 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH13: Locations for Renewable Energy Locations** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH13			Issue Totals
Do you prefer option TH13.1 or TH13.2?	**TH13.1**: Do not specify broad areas for renewable energy installations in the Core Strategy, rely instead on criteria based policies only.	**TH13.2**: Specify the preferred broad areas for renewable and low carbon energy production as highlighted by the "Renewable Energy Options Study" supplemented by a criterion based policy for determining proposals as they come forward.	
Supportive Comments	2	2	4
Other Comments	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	2
Total Comments	2	2	**6**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	50	50	
% Total Comments / TH13 Total	33	33	

6.11.3 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH14: Environmental Performance of New Development** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH14				Issue Totals
How should the environmental performance of new development be managed within the borough?	**TH14.1**: Rely on building regulations.	**TH14.2**: Set standards for new development that exceed building regulations in specific areas, such as water efficiency, recycling and waste collection.	**TH14.3**: In addition to building regulations, encourage or set targets over and above via an established assessment method such as Code for Sustainable Homes (residential development) and/or BREEAM (commercial/industrial development and public buildings).	
Supportive Comments	1	1	4	6
Other Comments	1	1	0	2
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	3
Total Comments	2	2	4	**11**
% Supportive per Option Comments	50	50	100	

% of Overall Options Supported	17	17	67	
% Total Comments / TH14 Total	18	18	36	

6.11.4 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH15: Carbon Reduction in New Developments** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH15				**Issue Totals**
How should new developments be required to contribute towards carbon reduction within the borough?	**TH15.1**: Require residential developments above a threshold of 1,000m² and all residential developments comprising 10 or more units to secure at least 10% of their predicted energy requirements from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources, unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable.	**TH15.2**: Set a Borough-wide percentage for carbon reduction in new development (above the current 10% required by the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West).	**TH15.3**: In addition to Option A or B, where it is not viable or feasible to reduce predicted carbon emissions on site requiring developers to pay a fee into a 'Carbon Compensation' fund which will be used to implement off-site energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes within the Borough's residential areas and/or public buildings such as schools.	
Supportive Comments	1	2	2	5
Other Comments	1	1	2	4
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	0
Total Comments	2	3	4	**9**
% Supportive per Option Comments	50	67	50	
% of Overall Options Supported	20	40	40	
% Total Comments / TH15 Total	22	33	44	

6.11.5 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH16: Management of Mineral Resources** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH16				Issue Totals
How should the Core Strategy encourage the effective use of mineral resources which occur within the Borough?	**TH16.1**: Do not create Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSA).	**TH16.2**: Safeguard areas identified as having existing viable mineral resources in line with the most up to date evidence available by creating a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) around Cronton clay pit.	**TH16.3**: In addition to safeguarding minerals at Cronton clay pit, can you suggest any other areas that should be safeguarded?	
Supportive Comments	0	4	1	5
Other Comments	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	0	4	1	**6**
% Supportive per Option Comments	0	100	100	
% of Overall Options Supported	0	80	20	
% Total Comments / TH16 Total	0	67	17	

6.12   Infrastructure Delivery and Funding (Issue TH17)

6.12.1 The following points were raised in relation to infrastructure delivery and funding considerations raised within the Issues and Options Paper.

- There is a need to ensure that **key infrastructure providers/agencies** have been involved and are content with proposals, such as United Utilities, Environment Agency, electricity companies, Primary Care Trust, etc.
- There is more focus on d**elivery** required – who, what, where, when and how.
- Encouragement to get involved with **"Delivering a Sustainable Transport System"** studies commissioned by 4NW. "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" goals must be met for proposed transport schemes.
- There is a need to account for **budget cuts** in the delivery of larger transport schemes and emphasis should therefore be placed on small scale schemes.
- Encouragement of the inclusion of **travel plans** for new or major development and their appropriate monitoring.
- Public transport, cycling and walking schemes / improvements need to be appraised in line with the development aspirations they are to serve to ensure they are the **most appropriate schemes** and effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving

accessibility, reducing congestion and reducing the need for car-borne travel.

- Proposed public transport, cycling and walking improvements should be aligned with the **phasing of the development** quantum contained within the Core Strategy to ensure modal shift and sustainable travel can be achieved. Phasing of proposed improvements should be detailed within the transport evidence base.

- The building of any new homes in the area must be done in consultation with United Utilities to ensure they can **meet the demand for water**. Development should be located where there is spare capacity in the existing water supply and waste water treatment, sewer and strategic surface water mains capacity, insofar as this would be consistent with other planning objectives. Where this is not possible development must be phased so that new infrastructure capacity can be provided without environmental harm; requiring new development, including residential, commercial and transport development, to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and water conservation and efficiency measures to the highest contemporary standard.

- **Contributions should be required from developers** to support borough wide infrastructure, irrespective of the impact of a single site. The difficulty of requiring a standard financial contribution is that low value sites could be effectively sterilised and important regeneration would not happen. Recognition of the regeneration contribution a scheme makes and its desirability for the borough is needed. Clarity of formula applied needs to be made.

- Confirmation that there is a firm government commitment to **electrification of the Chat Moss Line between Liverpool and Manchester**, plus further electrification programmes elsewhere in the North West, including the Huyton to Wigan line. Manchester Hub remains a bottleneck on the system and there are capacity issues on the City Line out of Liverpool Lime Street.

- Suggest that **joint working** between Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton regarding the Halewood to Aintree (Liverpool Loop Line) former rail alignment may be beneficial, particularly discussing the utilisation of this route for public transport, walking and cycling purposes in order to retain future options.

- Would like to move rail network in Merseyside towards being **carbon neutral** and sourcing its powers from sustainable resources. BREEAM "Very Good" rating is sought on all new Merseytravel buildings.

- Strongly support **developer contributions** toward the provision or improvement of Green Infrastructure.

- Requiring **developer contributions based on particular development proposals** is deemed to be the most suitable method of securing developer contributions, albeit reference should be made to the requirements of Circular 05/2005 regarding planning obligations.

- **Definition of infrastructure** is less than precise and would benefit from expansion, e.g. by giving examples of what constitutes green and blue spaces - would be useful to know whether playing fields would fit within this definition, and if they do how stadia or artificial pitches would be regarded.
- Until the full details of the **Community Infrastructure Levy** are known, it is not possible to state which of the options set out in the core strategy would be the preferred option.
- Small development and rural diversification should be exempt from any planning obligations levy unless there is a clear impact on the local infrastructure.

6.12.2 As part of the presentation of Issue **TH17: Developer Funding for New Infrastructure Provision** the following question was posed and the following answers given:

Issue TH17				**Issue Totals**
Which approach should be used to obtain developer funding for new infrastructure provision?	**TH17.1**: Require contributions from developers towards new or improved social, physical and green infrastructure only where justified based on the impacts of the particular development proposed.	**TH17.2**: Require contributions from all developers in the form of a standard financial contribution (for example through the new Community Infrastructure Levy) to help fund new social, physical and green infrastructure across the Borough.	**TH17.3**: If you consider that neither TH17.1or TH17.2 are suitable options, please explain your reasons and suggest a suitable alternative.	
Supportive Comments	3	3	0	6
Other Comments	0	0	0	0
Non-Option Specific	-	-	-	1
Total Comments	3	3	0	**7**
% Supportive per Option Comments	100	100	0	
% of Overall Options Supported	50	50	0	
% Total Comments / TH16 Total	43	43	0	

6.13   Appendices

6.13.1 The following points were raised in relation to the appendices to the Issues and Options Paper.

- **Appendix C** – invite a **cautious approach for assessments of existing housing commitments** in current market and support

avoiding an overly optimistic view, especially for higher density developments such as apartments.

- Reminder that RSS housing targets are a **minimum target** rather than a maximum.

- Regarding sites included in the evidence base studies such at the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Employment Land and Premises Study the exact impact of Planning Policy Guidance 17 on these sites is unclear without **reviewing each individual site**. Some sites identified as having potential to meet housing land requirements might themselves need replacement provision (say for playing fields), and land requirements for such replacement provision should be made explicit

6.14 Sustainability Appraisal

6.14.1 The following points were raised in relation to the Interim Sustainability Appraisal published alongside the Issues and Options Paper, which assessed the strategic spatial options, scale of future growth and development options presented.

- Commend the inclusion of a concise **non-technical summary** at the beginning of the report.
- **Well structured** throughout.
- Would welcome confirmation that **Habitats Regulations Assessment** will be undertaken separately from the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment process and look forward to consultation on the Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report in due course.
- Welcome Habitats Regulation Assessment being carried out **alongside the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment** and hope that the Habitats Regulation Assessment screening will be underway as soon as possible, as the Habitats Regulation Assessment should influence the content and choice of options for the Core Strategy.
- Welcome the inclusion of a Sustainability Appraisal objective **concerning local character and the landscape** – however would welcome consideration of the local townscape in this objective.
- Welcome the inclusion of objectives regarding **biodiversity, habitats and geodiversity and green infrastructure**.
- Generally **support the findings** of the Sustainability Appraisal – would like to see more references to the baseline information and specific sensitive receptors that may be affected by particular options (e.g., particular communities, nature conservation sites, heritage assets, etc).
- Support the **range of indicators** for monitoring the objectives relating to the natural environment – however would like to see the list of indicators for objective E2 intended to focus more on monitoring the quality of habitats and designated sites.

6.15   Wording Amendments

6.15.1 As part of the Issues and Options consultation, a number of respondents suggested wording changes to the document, in response to a paragraph, statement or option that they did not think was worded correctly. It is worth noting that the Issues and Options document is a consultation document rather than a draft version of the Core Strategy, and hence the wording which appears in the Issues and Options paper will not necessarily be reproduced in later versions of the Core Strategy. With this in mind, it will not be appropriate for the Council to respond to and act on suggestions for wording changes at this stage. Nevertheless, where wording amendments have been proposed, officers will consider these in future policy drafting and indeed in future incarnations of the Core Strategy document.

6.16   Section B – Main Issues Raised During Consultation Events

6.16.1 This section summarises the main issues raised during the consultation events undertaken as part of the Issues and Options consultation, as outlined in **Chapter 5**. To re-cap, the events and presentations for which discussions were recorded in the form of detailed notes and minutes were:

- Kirkby (North and South Combined) Area Partnership Board Event
- Huyton (North and South Combined) Area Partnership Board Event
- Prescot, Whiston, Cronton & Knowsley Village Area Partnership Board Event
- Halewood Area Partnership Board Event
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership Presentation
- Knowsley Council Members Event
- Children and Young People Partnership Presentation
- Housing Partnership Presentation
- Women's Operational Workers Group Presentation
- Knowsley Economic Partnership Board Presentation
- Knowsley Older People's Voice Event
- Knowsley Disability Partnership Event
- Sub-regional Partners Workshop Event
- Kirkby One Stop Shop Drop-in Event

6.16.2 This section is sub-divided into broad areas about which representations were received. Some topics and areas of the Issues and Options Paper occurred as central topics of discussion more frequently than others, due to the interests of the participating in the discussion sessions. The constituent parts of Section B are as follows:

- Process and Consultation Methodology
- Three Spatial Options
- Housing and Quality of Place

- Employment
- Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades
- Greenspaces, Heritage and the Environment
- Health, Well-being, Education and Public Infrastructure
- Physical Infrastructure
- Transport
- Cross Boundary Issues
- Huyton and Stockbridge Village
- Kirkby
- Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village
- Halewood

6.16.3 Due to the differing views and competing interests of those participating in discussions, some of the main issues raised are directly contradictory to each other. However, it is important that these issues are raised regardless, to demonstrate the competing views of those involved in discussions and to ensure that where argument over a particular issue or option existed, the views of both sides were recorded.

6.16.4 As with Section A, it is extremely important to emphasise that this section of the Report of Consultation is a "summary of the main issues raised", and hence there is no verbatim documentation of the discussions undertaken at the different consultation events. However, for those interested in viewing more detailed records of the consultation events, these are available.

   ➢ **Appendix D:** Agendas, Notes and Minutes of Consultation Events and Presentations give more detail of the notes and minutes available from these meetings.

6.17   Process and Consultation Methodology

6.17.1 The following points were raised about the process of consultation and methodology used during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- **More consultation events** should be held e.g. in Tower Hill
- Concern about the **length of the consultation** and its timing over Christmas
- We need to **engage children and young people** in an interesting and engaging way.
- General comment that the consultation is **too vague and too difficult** for people to understand.
- Could it be arranged that in the future, copies of consultation documents are made more **widely available**, for example as loan copies from libraries or distributed to neighbourhood groups so they can be shared around.

- Generally across the Council there are **too many committees** and it is difficult to get a message across. There is a lack of communication with local people. Older People's Voice and the Link schemes are good, but more could be done e.g. half hour sessions at committee meetings for local people to have their say.
- There is potentially **too much reliance on Information Technology** for communication, as not all people have access to the internet and emails. Would prefer personal face-to-face discussions and meaningful debate with others.
- The plans must be seen through until the end – local people are getting tired of **repeated consultations**.
- **Halewood was missing** from the presentations, although it does have an elected Town Council.
- Consultation should not take place in December due to the **Christmas period** – people are busy and don't have time to get involved.
- **Publicity** of the consultation events has not been wide enough, no-one knew about the event in Kirkby Leisure Centre.
- **Consultation should include the following**: events in the town centre, publicity materials (e.g. posters) in the town centre, events held in private rooms where conversations can be held confidentially, events for the Neighbourhood Networks and PET, events held in schools and other accessible locations

6.18   Three Spatial Options

6.18.1 The following points were raised about the three spatial options discussed during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- More **efficient use of existing brownfield land** for new housing could relieve the pressure for Green Belt release – enough vacant areas of land in the Borough to avoid Green Belt release.
- Worried that no-one seems to be able to say definitively **which sites** will be kept within the Green Belt at the moment.
- When comparing option B with option C – why has **Stockbridge Village regeneration** been removed?
- Why would we build new houses when there are **vacant units** in Knowsley?
- **Housing need is likely to change** over the plan period – this could have implications for which Option is best.
- We need to make sure that decisions are based on **community needs** rather than ensuring that Knowsley remains viable as a district.
- No specific mention of **Halewood** in the text on Option A, B or C in the leaflet – therefore difficult for residents to decide which option is best.
- Implications of **Green Belt shading** for each area in Option C could be better explained.

- Each option has **benefits and drawbacks** – possibility that elements of each Option could provide a more suitable preferred option?
- Option A could **constrain development** – there is a need for Knowsley to be more ambitious in the future to realise regeneration potential.
- Option C if pursued, must be completed in **phases**, i.e. urban regeneration focus first

6.19 Housing and Quality of Place

6.19.1 The following points were raised about housing during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- It is important to question whether building at **increased density** is the correct approach
- Builders will insist on making housing sizes **smaller and higher density** to increase profitability. The challenge is to address existing and future needs rather than catering to what builders want.
- We don't need to be scared of density, there are examples of **highly successful housing areas** with thriving communities where the units are densely packed together, emphasis should be upon functionality of neighbourhoods and communities.
- Need to prioritise housing **quality**. Focus required for new development on appropriate **design / layout**. For example, within bungalows, it would be preferred if the living room overlooked the front of the house (i.e. street side).
- Viability of current schemes made more difficult by the existing **economic climate**. Prioritising different areas will be dependent on the resources available to promote / deliver regeneration projects – element of funding and market dependency in all cases.
- Need for better **housing choice and mix**, including more two bed houses to meet local demand.
- Need for **partnership working** with Registered Social Landlords to ensure delivery and availability of suitable properties in individual townships to address local needs.
- Executives do not always want a mix of housing and would prefer **exclusivity**. Social cohesion in residential areas is a good idea but does not always work well.
- Need to **improve existing housing stock** and address legacy issues, issues and quality of life and quality of place. The focus should be on improving existing residential areas otherwise there is a risk of blighted areas detracting from new schemes.
- Need for clarity whether we are looking to improve the living conditions of existing residents or are focused on **attracting new people**.
- Existing **local amenities are poor**– new development not sustainable in many areas without improvements preceding. Need to be tougher on developers to deliver facilities with housing.

- There are prevalent **anti-social behaviour issues** which do not encourage people to live in the area.
- There are major **affordability / social rented issues** as there is not the right type of housing to meet local needs at present. Important to recognise that there are more options available now, for example there are new **housing products** such as shared ownership schemes. Affordability is not a constant and will change over time. Deliverability issues around affordable housing could prove to be problematic
- The affordability of housing for young people was seen as being an issue
- There is a need for **additional facilities** associated with dwellings, like garages.
- Need a **sound understanding of needs** in the local area. This should be achieved in the Local Development Framework, for example through the SHMA understanding current demands on housing. There is scope in the Local Development Framework to identify ideal mixes of type and tenure in residential development.
- Where Knowsley has previously been grateful for any development and investment, there are opportunities in the Local Development Framework to begin to be **selective** about what we want, and identify specialised needs in geographical areas, for example in different townships.
- Need to establish **viability and competitiveness**. We don't want to lose population over the border as this would be bad for Knowsley.
- **Phasing** is important, as we will need to ensure that areas of new build housing does not prejudice ongoing regeneration / remodelling schemes in existing residential areas.
- The need for **specialist housing** has been identified in existing Housing Needs Survey, working with colleagues from Knowsley Housing Trust. Noted that there is an ongoing need for affordable single-storey housing (i.e. bungalows) for older people.
- Need to account for **changing household structures**, for example, the average household size is getting smaller.
- There is an **ageing population** – need for new development to accommodate people who are looking to scale down the size of their house as they get older.
- There are too many large houses in the Borough that are **under-occupied** often by individual older residents who have difficulty finding suitable alternative accommodation.
- There is also a problem with under-occupation and large scale **vacancy** at existing apartment developments.
- Problems have been noted with the co-location of too many larger (e.g. four bedroom) houses in the local area. This can lead to **overpopulation** of a small estate with many large families.
- Possibility of providing an **older people's community** in Knowsley? An example in St. Helens appears successful and attracts Knowsley residents – suggests demand and need for similar facility being needed more locally.

- Problems with **community cohesion** are not necessarily due to different types of housing, but are due to employment problems.
- Concerns expressed about **public image** / perception of Knowsley together with the poor leisure offer which makes the area a less attractive place to live.
- **Minimum space standards** are to be introduced again through Homes and Communities Agency may become legislation in 2010.
- It would be good **to incorporate local heritage and character** into new residential development.
- There is a need to provide a small site in Knowsley for **Gypsies and Travellers** (10 pitches) – identifying the site through Local Development Framework and delivery encouraged as it could help address illegal encampments.
- New Deal for Communities area in **North Huyton** should be the focus following bids for Kickstart funding – it will be important to push on with this project. Potential in revisiting New Deal for Communities to push developers to deliver a better mix of housing, but this must make commercial sense.
- When considering whether it is appropriate to **move housing land supply** around districts (i.e. one district accommodating some of the housing land from another), there are key consideration around capacity, deliverability and sustainability. There are **potential difficulties** around proving that <u>need</u> could be met in other districts – for example, there would be a need to link precise sites in Liverpool to a housing need arising in Knowsley or Sefton. This mechanism could be extremely hard to establish. There is a potential role for the **overview study's** work on housing markets to feed into this.
- Concern about the **validity of present housing calculations** given the possibility of a political regime change at the next general election.
- There seems to be an **unfair bias** in terms of housing delivery, renewal strategies and public funding in the Borough, everything seems to be focused upon Huyton or Tower Hill – why are other areas in Halewood and Kirkby overlooked?
- **Skelmersdale and Runcorn** are examples of where some aspects of the urban design are of less good quality.
- Control over the design of new development is important to ensure the **mistakes of the past** are not replicated – i.e. divided communities and anti social behaviour caused by areas with poor public surveillance.
- **Green Belt release** for housing:
  o Would be a definite "no" from Cronton Parish Council
  o Recognise that a unique aspect of Knowsley's environment is its extensive Green Belt areas. We don't want Knowsley to look like just any other Borough. Green Belt is irreplaceable – only get one chance at developing it properly.
  o There are real opportunities for Green Belt development to be very high quality.

- o Recognition that expanding communities through Green Belt development could increase viability of existing areas through providing additional population, and hence providing the critical mass to support localised services and shopping facilities.
- o Priority should be to protect Green Belt areas that are well used and are publicly accessible.
- o Green Belt release should be phased so that developers do not go for the green sites straight away and so that focus on brownfield regeneration is not lost.
- o Green Belt considered important and valuable to local character in Halewood, hence there are concerns about potential loss through LDF process.
- o Phasing of housing sites so that Green Belt sites are released last would clearly be beneficial for urban regeneration; however it is likely that the development industry will argue that green field sites are more deliverable and hence viable to come forward first. Hence there are questions around how the Local Authority can effectively manage the release of housing sites.
- o There is an important role for the joint Green Belt study and its site selection criteria in establishing which sites would be released as urban extensions.
- o A regional perspective would be helpful on Green Belt issues.

6.20   Employment

6.20.1 The following points were raised about employment during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- There is a major under-use of **Knowsley Industrial Park**. Knowsley Industrial Park needs total regeneration and additional remodelling could create greater land availability for employment use. Present design / layout is confusing and uninviting for visitors – poor linkages to surrounding areas and poor levels of accessibility. Areas of the Knowsley Industrial Park are unsightly; this needs to be addressed through re-design.
- Knowsley is **too reliant upon large employers**, risk of mass unemployment if these types of businesses are lost. A different model should be explored, and encourage medium sized businesses, and hence avoiding Kirkby experience of unemployment in 1960's & 1970's.
- The **fragility of foreign companies** locating in Knowsley should be recognised – they could pull out at any time and re-locate elsewhere.
- **Smaller sites** could play an important role. There is a need to change the mind-set from large industrial parks to focus in on the smaller scale and small, localised employment sites. However, we still need large sites to attract significant inward investment.
- There is a need to improve **business start up rates**. It could be unlikely that these will be the sources of major employment

opportunities for local people. However, worthwhile remembering that BICC was a local company that did very well in Prescot.

- There definitely needs to be a **good mix**, including jobs that a wealth creating as well as service sector jobs.
- We need to attract more **high tech and financial sector** jobs. The achievement of an appropriate employment mix could be a catalyst for employment growth in the area and other employment sectors.
- Need for different businesses to **increase income levels locally** – can local jobs be ring fenced? New jobs and investment should benefit Kirkby.
- It is important to ensure that people **who work in Knowsley also live in the Borough** and spend their money within Knowsley's town centres as many jobs are taken by those living outside of the local area.
- Recent issues with BSF programme and the **limited local jobs created** – need to avoid repetition of this legacy – local businesses should not be at the back of the queue for Council work. Need to **equip local businesses** to compete in the employment marketplace.
- Review of Section 106 policies is needed to be tougher on developers in terms of **local labour agreements** to help deliver local jobs for local people.
- There is an opportunity to address some employment issues in **Kirkby's regeneration**.
- **Roscoe's Wood** could be a good local employment site but there are access problems. Note that this site is included in the Unitary Development Plan as an allocation for employment land.
- Future job offer will depend on the **vision for Knowsley**. Offer should be specific to Knowsley, not trying to compete with surrounding areas.
- **Skill improvement and attainment levels** will need to be addressed with end job market in mind. **Raising aspirations** is key to ensuring that higher paid jobs are within the reach of Knowsley's young people.
- There are no places for factory workers to work now. Knowsley is suffering like everywhere else in the North West. We now **sell goods** manufactured elsewhere, hence recent focus on retail development.
- **Mobility** is a key issue, and there is a need to recognise behavioural change in this regard. We need to avoid ghettoes of commuters who do not engage with the local community.
- Is what local people want (e.g. jobs on the doorstep) achievable? There are some good employers locally, e.g. Whiston Hospital. However, some new employment development, e.g. Information Technology companies, does not really offer jobs that will be **accessible to local people**.
- There is a shortage of **conference venues** in the Borough. There is scope to ensure full use of existing and forthcoming facilities, such as leisure centres or Centres for Learning to increase conference

capacity. Challenge to ensure that we recognise the local market and capitalise of existing assets.

- Businesses in Huyton tend to be more about **new companies** than new premises (e.g. taxi firms tend to operate from premises already in their ownership).

- Need to establish the **profile of the new population** we are seeking to attract and also establish their business needs.

- **Lack of incubator units** locally. Some in Kirkby, but not accessible for all Knowsley residents.

- There has been past **inefficient use of existing employment land** - there is a need to up-grade existing larger business parks, increasing emphasis on attracting the businesses we want in Knowsley and the type of jobs we want.

- The **benefits of large businesses locating in Knowsley** are noted – they support local facilities (e.g. shops and pubs) and also support local community development.

- There is potential job growth in **recycling sector** – there is already an example of a successful and expanding employer in this sector in Huyton. Potential for other environmental technology based industries?

- In Knowsley **logistics** is a potential growth sector. This type of use accounts for large amounts of employment land but does not deliver as many jobs as more land-intensive employment uses.

- The critical importance of ensuring that Knowsley's economy develops in a **sustainable** manner, with regard to low carbon emissions, renewable energy and sustainable design.

- More links to **higher education facilities** may aid in delivering local successes. Suggested that we should push for sixth-form provision within Knowsley and look to encourage higher education campuses from the larger universities to locate in the Borough. Could link into local areas of interest (e.g. sports and leisure) or local employers and/or schools. We should approach universities regarding this issue.

- **Art** is a key issue and can play an important role in local regeneration.

- The most difficult aspect could be to make people want to come to Knowsley. **Branding and marketing** of employment areas needs to be wrapped around the Local Development Framework process.

- New sites should be identified on the basis of **suitability of location and accessibility factors** – Knowsley often doesn't utilise advantages of transportation network effectively.

- Flood risks of potential employment sites should be properly assessed.

- Need for consideration of **competition** beyond the boundaries of Knowsley to identify areas of need for new development – i.e., new employment development in Halewood should not be replicating or competing directly with existing business parks in Speke if vacancies exist.

- **Inequalities of opportunity** for local residents – some people have cultural / behavioural tendencies to not seek employment and rely on benefits or criminal activity / the black economy. Can we seek to raise aspirations?
- **Consultation with economic partners** is important. The Local Development Framework will need to account for **city-region partners**, and will need a maturity of cooperation to ensure that effective partnership working occurs.
- There are potential difficulties in aligning the Local Development Framework process with other plans and strategies produced by the Council and its partners. It will be important to ensure links, e.g. with employment and skills policies, are recognised. The Local Development Framework could become a vehicle to consider the "bigger picture" priorities.
- There remains a possibility of utilising areas of land currently designated as **Green Belt** but offering little value in amenity, aesthetic or policy objectives – some areas have good connectivity through transport links and would be more suited to industry / employment uses.
- There will be important **links** between the Local Development Framework and the Local Economic Assessment; this is being done at the city-region level, but there will be some local input. In addition, links with the Multi-Area Agreement, Regional Strategy and local economic and regeneration strategies will be critical.
- There needs to be careful consideration given to the **transition between land uses** in Knowsley. There has traditionally been stark contrast between different areas, and there could be an opportunity to increase amenity, for example, the use of and access to green spaces, through enhancing linkages.

6.21   Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades

6.21.1 The following points were raised about Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- **Anti social behaviour issues** in centres could be addressed by smaller centres with different retail offer. Local services attract anti social behaviour, so we need to address anti social behaviour rather than removing retail function
- **Public realm** is in a poor condition generally. There should be a greater responsibility required from owners for maintenance / improvement – need for more useable space.
- Some centres are **poorly designed** or not ideally located and do not reflect changes to surrounding areas over time, hence potential for redesign / redevelopment / amalgamation?
- Need for a limit of **later economy** / greater focus on appropriate areas.

- In terms of **town centre rankings,** Huyton has a poor evening economy. Note also that Prescot might move up the rankings and overtake Huyton if the Cables retail park was included within the town centre boundary.
- **A low level of car ownership is** an issue for local people trying to access shops. Taxi usage to access shops is not affordable or sustainable. There are elderly enclaves with greater levels of need.
- Lack of **pubs** is a local issue. Character of local community hubs is important. There are some examples of pubs in Huyton which have a family offer, serving food, etc, which are really successful and well used by local people.
- There is a noted **lack of places for community use**. There is nowhere for families to go, for example cinemas, bowling alleys, restaurants, community centres. We need to look to Spain for good examples of integrated communities focussed around a community centre.
- Idea of **community "hubs"** is central to being able to increase the attractiveness of residential areas. Possible incorporation of local retail offer with Centres for Learning / Primary Care Trust facilities, etc.
- **Local circulation routes** are important in centres – dead ends are not helpful for securing community use.
- Looking towards the future will be important – we need to recognise **trends and future-proof strategies** e.g. recognise that people shop in supermarkets now where they may previously have used local shops, and to account for this in local provision. May be that we need to recognise that local parades are things of the past.
- Suggestion that all town centre problems come back to **employment** – people with jobs support local centres.
- We need to deal with **parking** carefully. Some people will be car-obsessed and will only use this form of transport – we do need to account for this choice. **Pedestrian circulation** should be high on the agenda.
- Knowsley needs to demonstrate **spending power** and retain expenditure within its boundaries – population **stabilisation** and development of retail provision in all centres will address unacceptable levels of present leakage.
- Need to address the **unbalance** of retail provision within Knowsley – Huyton has recent town centre development / improvements and Prescot has the successful Cables Retail Park – need to direct investment to Halewood and Kirkby to ensure areas are on par for community served in terms of scale of retail provision available.
- Need for different areas of Knowsley **to work together politically** to assist improvements to the areas of the borough most in need.
- There is a need to encourage **smaller shops** to provide services, e.g. local electrical shops, which are in accessible locations for all (i.e. town and local centres). Local shops and employers affect community ownership and local relationships.

- Could there be more effort made towards attracting and retaining **local retailers**? Women need alternatives to out-of-town retail parks and to Brighthouse (usually the only locally available furniture / white goods / other homeware retailer).
- There is a need for more **choice and vibrancy** in town centres, investment in the physical environment and attract other inward investment.
- Town centres need more **clothes shops**.
- General concern that there is a lack of **large, attractive retail units** in Knowsley (i.e. anchor stores like Marks and Spencer). It is felt that such a store would bring more investment to the Borough's centres.
- It is recognised that a large proportion of **comparison expenditure will leak** from Knowsley to Liverpool City Centre and Liverpool One – this is only to be expected when Knowsley is in such close proximity to the regional centre.
- It is recognised that development of the leisure offer and the evening economy may be heavily dependent on **supermarket-led investment.** Knowsley does need new ways of prompting investment, particularly in Prescot town centre.
- In **Local Shopping Parades:**
  - Their loss would prevent access to local services.
  - The present mix not entirely right, reflected in vacancy levels, hence there is potential for expansion / change in offer.
  - Need to address local needs that vary in different communities.
  - General provision is mixed with some noted as suffering significant difficulties. Note that a strategy could be developed to assess how to restructure local parades, potentially including rationalising the supply of shopping units.
  - There is sometimes a contradiction locally – people feel as if they have the right to the use of a local shop, but then do not use that facility and go to the supermarket instead.
  - There could be a need to establish a minimum offer locally, focusing on access to basics such as a loaf of bread and a pint of milk. Some locations could benefit from a local delivery service. A strategy for local parades could also support non-national chains and social enterprise initiatives.

6.21.2 Further points raised about individual town centres are covered within sections 6.28 to 6.31 below, which relate to individual townships.

6.22 Greenspaces, Heritage and the Environment

6.22.1 The following points were raised about greenspaces, heritage and the environment during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- Kirkby has an extensive **network of greenspaces** and an overall surplus of provision. Variations in green space in Huyton: under use

of some spaces, with some anti-social behaviour problems experienced locally.

- Importance of **quality greenspace**. The loss of areas of fringe Green Belt that does not serve any worthwhile purpose could assist pressure for development of greenspace areas in urban areas and help retain amenity space of high value.
- **Facilities have deteriorated**, no maintenance of quality in new greenspaces introduced. Loss of poorer quality greenspaces to be used to invest in fewer areas of higher quality / value? Investment could be facilitated by release of areas of greenspace for other purposes.
- Higher quality spaces will increase use and attraction and will lead to greater **public ownership**. Encouragement of misuse if there is no defined purpose.
- Some greenspaces are **poorly located**. Certain types of greenspace are required in certain areas. There is an overabundance of amenity greenspaces which serve no purpose to residents and gaps in provision elsewhere
- There are **allotment and formal playspace deficiencies**.
- There is a need to **address "NIMBYISM"** as a barrier to good quality environmental improvement.
- Greenspaces need purpose and should play valuable roles in **connections / linkages for** walking / cycling.
- There are **health and wellbeing benefits** like exercise and user benefits to all demographics. There needs to be partnership working with Primary Care Trust.
- Opportunity for upgrade / improvement of existing environments through **facilitating development**. There is a need to be stronger in terms of S106 delivery.
- The **play pathfinder** has had recent successes in provision of play facilities for children. Young people's needs are a priority when planning green spaces.
- Have **windfarms** been considered? There is also potential for **heating scheme**s in Kirkby Industrial Park.
- Looking at **green space sites to convert to residential** needs to be carefully considered. Differences between restrictions of green space and Green Belt policy should be noted.
- School sites vacated as part of Building Schools for the Future – should be made available as **open space** for communities.
- New housing estates make the **best of spaces between units**, e.g. duck ponds, village greens. This would need behavioural change to be a success in some Knowsley areas: local **community ownership** is essential, not dependency on Council maintenance. Recognised that the required level of involvement and ownership will take time to establish.
- Need for more **'village greens'** as these are policed by the residents and would therefore be a safe playground for the young.
- **Stockbridge Village area** suggested as an area requiring widespread remodelling, including green space as well as housing.

- **Stadt Moers** could be divided up to be better used for specific purposes – lack of identity and inefficient use at present.
- Value of greenspaces in Halewood for walking and cycling – high quality areas present that should be retained.
- There is potential to do something different in Prescot, e.g. **tourist draw** to add value. We are not appreciating what is already there.
- **Whiston has a shortage of greenspace**, but good general accessibility to greenspaces in the wider area – Cronton similar.
- We could create excellent country park facility in **Cronton colliery**. There is potential to expand flower meadow offer.
- There is a role for better **advertisement and marketing** e.g. for the Safari Park, ensuring that the tourism offer is more holistic rather than just visiting one place / facility and then going home.
- A pleasant green environment nearby can increase attractiveness for employment investment. Need to look towards a **mix of uses**.
- **Climate change agenda** should heavily influence the content to the Local Development Framework – this is important at a localised level not just decisions made in Copenhagen.
- Need to improve **public transport alternatives** – otherwise impacts upon climate change agenda.
- Require new housing development to have **solar panels**. Is there an ability to retrofit and is there availability of grant funding?
- Questions raised about the expansion of the King's Business Park area. This area has some **biodiversity value** which should not be overlooked.

6.23   Health, Well-Being, Education and Public Infrastructure

6.23.1 The following points were raised about health, well-being, education and public infrastructure during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- Very strong feeling overall that the community needs to be **built back up**.
- Schools and hospitals which are being built are of **very high quality** - the type of development that we could aspire to.
- What will happen to **land made vacant** by reorganisation of schools? This could be used for community benefit.
- Question why the Council spends lots of money on state of the art leisure centres when a lot of people don't want to swim or do sports - prefer a smaller **community centre facility,** which would be much cheaper to build.
- New leisure facilities should be to **standards** e.g. for international sport.
- Tackling **obesity and coronary disease** are top priorities in Knowsley and we need to use the Local Development Framework as an opportunity to promote a good network of greenspaces, walking and cycling.

- The need to control **hot food takeaways** e.g. near to schools is also an important issue.

6.24   Physical Infrastructure

6.24.1 The following points were raised about physical infrastructure during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- **Loss of previous infrastructure** in Kirkby needs to be recognised and the absence of replacement infrastructure.
- **Poor existing infrastructure** needs to addressed before new development introduced otherwise we will replicate mistakes from the past. We need to build development around good infrastructure.
- We need a rethink of **developer contributions** with a greater emphasis and use in terms of legacy improvements to facilitate new development. This should result in additional investment in existing areas and offset negative perceptions of new development
- The Highways Agency would be very keen to see **transport issues tackled** within the Knowsley Core Strategy Preferred Options paper. Such considerations should be strongly linked to spatial development policies on housing, employment, retail, etc.
- There is a need to conduct a detailed **infrastructure audit** as well as an assessment of future need. There are lots of uncertainties. Councils will need to consider how and when they might go about introducing a tariff-based system for obligations.
- There needs to be **commitment from developers** at examination of Core Strategies and other Local Development Framework documents for development on large or strategic sites. Hence there is a need to establish what does need to be delivered to ensure that development can go ahead. It will be easier to do this if there is one developer involved in each strategic site, but it many cases there will be a number of interested parties and coordination between these may present problems. Cumulative impacts of smaller developments will also be hard to deal with. It may be appropriate for the Core Strategy to set out a route map for how Local Development Framework infrastructure planning will develop in greater detail with later Local Development Framework documents.

6.25   Transport

6.25.1 The following points were raised about transport during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- There are recognised problems with **bus routes** running North to South across the Borough. The majority of routes run from East to West. This has caused problems with school rationalisation programme, as connections between schools in the Kirkby and Huyton are poor.

- Suggestion that the Council needs to push for **de-regulation of bus services** though the Local Transport Plan process (LTP3). London transport works well because it was not privatised. There is too much local reliance on Arriva and other companies to provide bus services, and they will only run services that are profitable.
- There are **accessibility problems** in accessing bus stops and hence bus routes, across busy roads. Priority should be a good level of accessibility for employment opportunities.
- **Motorway links** in the Borough are a positive, but non-car based travel from Kirkby to Halewood remains almost impossible and is not good enough when the townships are both within Knowsley.
- There is need for better **integration of public transport** to improve accessibility of hard to reach areas of the Borough.
- There is a **rising cost associated with bus use**, leading to increased costs of accessing work opportunities. Also increased travelling time to access employment.
- Is it possible to engage with Arriva and other **bus service providers**? There is previous local experience of these problems when trying to divert buses to serve Heatwaves in Stockbridge Village.
- There is very poor access to **Long View leisure centres** from Prescot, but Arriva are aware of this problem.
- There is no direct public transport access from **Knowsley Village** to Liverpool.
- Need for a **frequent train service** stopping at Halewood, otherwise this promotes reliance upon private car use and does not help the climate change agenda. Public transport is an issue in Halewood – access to hospitals and elsewhere during the day in particular is made difficult by the poor service of trains and buses.
- It is impossible to travel from **Halewood to St Helens** by bus; links to Whiston hospital are a problem.
- There are no bus services from the **Moss Croft estate** after 6.30pm.
- Concerns about **safety and potential anti social behaviour** if the Liverpool – Manchester line through Huyton is electrified as proposed.
- Problems with **access to Whiston, St.Helens and Fazakerley hospitals.** Lack of access to cemeteries by bus. Lack of bus stops on the 89 route in Prescot. Links to Aintree hospital from Kirkby are quite good however.

6.26   Cross Boundary Issues

6.26.1 The following points were raised about cross-boundary issues during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- Being close to south Liverpool, the development of **Halewood** may be of interest to neighbouring authorities. There is a small food

store planned for the new centre in this area, to accompany existing development at the Halewood Centre.

- Regeneration in North Huyton could impact on **outer areas of Liverpool**. This includes the North Huyton Revive programme as well as regeneration in Stockbridge Village.

- Expansion of **Liverpool John Lennon Airport** will have implications for Knowsley as well as Liverpool and Halton. The Eastern Access Transport Corridor (new access road) will involve a new junction partly affecting Knowsley's area east of Halewood. There are also implications for Green Belt areas in Liverpool and Halton.

- The **Mersey Gateway scheme** in Halton may have secondary implications for Knowsley and other neighbouring authorities in terms of increased accessibility. There are identified regeneration impacts in Halton as well as benefits for the logistics sector – these may extend across the sub-region.

- West Lancashire is working with Merseytravel to assess the feasibility of extending an **electrified railway line out to Skelmersdale**. The first stage of a GRIP study is underway. In Knowsley, there are still proposals for a new railway station in Kirkby on this Merseytravel network.

6.27   Huyton and Stockbridge Village

6.27.1 The following points were raised about Huyton and Stockbridge Village during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- There is major **dereliction** on Wilson Road industrial area. There is more vacancy than use on Ellis Ashton Street.
- **Lack of evening economy** in town centre, plus lack of leisure uses.
- In the evening Huyton is full of kids and the only unit open is a fast food outlet – possible **anti-social behaviour** problems.
- Note that Asda is still active and **well used** into the evening, but this is cut off from the main town centre.
- Cheap **low end retailers** are too predominant, there is a need for a better retail mix to address expenditure leakage and increase attractiveness of the centre
- Asda development in Huyton was massively important for regeneration and provided retail levels that supported local employment market and offered opportunities to the community. There is a need for **complimentary retail** to support function at the higher end and expand the retail offer of Huyton – multiples and national retailers are the only sectors showing growth and therefore should be the current focus.
- Town centre opportunity at **Sherborne Square** in Huyton – why did the Council discourage potential development schemes? – potential

investment in offices and apartments would compliment recent retail development nearby.

- Huyton has a particular problem with **charity shops**. It used to be a great centre, with a Chinese restaurant, etc.
- We do not need **more pubs in the town centres** (around Huyton there are several vacant pubs) and when we provide eating facilities these are often of poor quality.

6.28   Kirkby

6.28.1 The following points were raised about Kirkby during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- **Poor connectivity** in areas of Kirkby– areas severed by existing infrastructure – needs more linkages between communities.
- Experience of Tower Hill project and its public perception. There is a need to look at all surrounding areas and there is a fundamental issue with general **urban design.**
- Urban area of Kirkby not big enough to accommodate **large residential growth** as there are no big sites available.
- Kirkby ahead of other areas of Knowsley – **easier to start a business** in Kirkby than in Huyton and Prescot.
- **Complementary uses** are required in Kirkby town centre. Need to attract local people into the centre rather than shopping elsewhere.
- Other phases of **amenity development and infrastructure** are essential to support retail development. There are concerns over transport issues relating to new development.
- Little support for **additional housing** in Kirkby town centre due to the limited attraction of Kirkby offer – why would people want to live there?
- Needs **mixed retail in North Kirkby** to counterbalance development in South Kirkby.
- Needs creation of **evening economy** in Kirkby.
- Needs retention of **elements of local significance** in terms of retail to meet local requirements. It is important to remember that lower end retail outlets satisfy needs of local people – there is no demand for café society evident elsewhere.
- Improve car **parking provision and quality** – significant detraction from centre at present.
- **Kirkby Market** provides a development opportunity.
- In Kirkby some of the buildings are of **poor quality**.
- The need for Kirkby regeneration is recognised by neighbouring authorities, but there are important considerations around matters of **scale and degree** of this regeneration. It is also recognised that **supermarket-led** town centre regeneration may be the only option available to Local Authorities in the current economic climate.
- It is not surprising that expenditure leakage from Kirkby is so high when there is **no supermarket anchor** in the town. A new anchor

supermarket is the way forwards, but this must be within the right location in the town centre.

- Concern about the **land south of Cherryfield Drive** which was included in the proposals for Destination Kirkby
- General suspicion that views will not be taken into account and "swept under the carpet" as for Destination Kirkby. Accusations that the power is held in Huyton and that **Kirkby does not get a fair deal**.

6.29   Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village

6.29.1 The following points were raised about Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- **Important sites** in this APB area include: Pirelli site, BICC site, Prescot Trade Centre and sites left after demolition of unused schools.
- Prescot is **different to other centres**. Needs a specific local plan to address key issues and connect with unique attributes.
- In Prescot an **independent business association** now exists – Prescot is different to Huyton due to the amount of independent retailers as opposed to lots of national chain multiples.
- Prescot centre is **not legible**; there is a lack of parking. Recent signage improvements but more required. **Pedestrianisation** issue – Eccleston Street in Prescot but this is not modernised as in other areas, e.g. Huyton.
- There is potential for an **embryonic business district** in Prescot town centre, using existing vacant retail units, including potentially artistic and creative industries.
- There are valuable **heritage aspects** in Prescot – this should be capitalised upon.
- Concerns over the **divide between the town centre and the retail park** – potential for increased linkage? It would be good to have people working in and circulating around Prescot town centre.
- Within the Cables retail park, the units are too far spread out, making walking between them difficult.
- The role of **rural businesses** could be recognised through encouraging farmers market in Prescot, potentially every two months.
- It is recognised that there are good **transport links** through Prescot to St.Helens and Liverpool.
- Developing the **evening economy** in town centres needs to be linked a specific offer, cultural attraction or another hook like a student population.
- **Whiston South** is a problematic area for retail opportunities. Local people would welcome increased population if it brought with it a new local centre and/or facilities.

- **Tarbock Green** suffers from a lack of facilities and shops. There is no local shop, greengrocer or community centre. There are very poor transport links to local centres like Huyton.

6.30 Halewood

6.30.1 The following points were raised about Halewood during the Issues and Options consultation events and presentations.

- Halewood has a need for **housing that people can afford**.
- **Knowsley Housing Trust** are making strides in Halewood using pockets of land removing flats and opening up land, assisting affordability problems and removal of top floors in Maisonettes.
- Need for **better access to jobs** outside of Halewood both within Knowsley and elsewhere – too heavy reliance upon car use and poor public transport services at present due to isolated location.
- Halewood **lacks any real retail provision**, probably 100% leakage of retail expenditure to areas outside the Borough. There is a critical need for new development to be brought forward notwithstanding land ownership issues that have caused previous delays via the legal process.
- There is limited consideration of Halewood's future – limited existing facilities for local people's retail needs and no apparent strategy.

7   Lessons Learnt

7.1   Consultation Successes

7.1.1   Having concluded the Issues and Options consultation, it is possible to identify particularly successful aspects of the consultation methodology, which yielded positive results for the Council in terms of quality and quantity of feedback.

7.1.2   Particular success can be attributed to the **consultation workshops and presentations** held with particular groups across Knowsley, such as the Area Partnership Boards, at which extremely useful discussions were held and information collected about key areas and issues affecting those living in Knowsley.

7.1.3   Relative success can also be attributed to the **consultation on the full Issues and Options paper**, which yielded some extremely useful comments from members of the public, specific consultation bodies and other interested organisations about the detailed content of the Issues and Options paper.

7.2   Consultation Shortcomings and Proposed Improvements

7.2.1   In addition to those aspects of the Issues and Options consultation which were deemed to be successful, there were some actions and activities which could be improved upon. These were identified either through suggestions from the public and other parties about how the consultation could be better run, or identified by the Council in terms of poor responses or attendance from particular events or activities.

7.2.2   A number of residents informed Council officers that they had not received a **Summary Leaflet** to their home, as planned as part of the Issues and Options consultation. After further investigation, the Council discovered that there were indeed some problems with leaflet delivery in some parts of the Borough, meaning that there was not total coverage for all residential addresses. This was entirely due to the delivery company employed to deliver leaflets, and appropriate action was taken with them to address the issue.

7.2.3   During the Issues and Options consultation, suggestions were received from members of the public regarding the ways in which the consultation process could be improved. Such suggestions included:
   - The ability for those attending drop-in events to have **private conversations** with Council officers about their concerns, rather than conversing with them in an open area, such as a Council One Stop Shop foyer.
   - A larger presence for consultation materials in **town centres and other public place**s, particularly where these are advertising a consultation event such as a drop-in session.

- Increased involvement for the **neighbourhood networks** and other local groups in the consultation process.
- A more effective use of **online consultation** technology, such as Facebook and Twitter, and increased use of online responses through the Council's consultation portal.

7.2.4   Officers will give due consideration to these suggestions in planning the next consultation for the Core Strategy, and will continue to develop the Local Development Framework consultation methodology to ensure that future consultations are more wide-ranging and inclusive. Equally, officers will consider the less successful elements of the Issues and Options consultation, and seek to reduce the scope of these elements for subsequent consultations, hence using resources more efficiently and seeking to consult interested parties more effectively.

8   Next Steps

8.1   Presenting this Report

8.1.1   Efforts have been made to ensure that where specific groups and parties who had contributed to the consultation process have been made aware of the findings and main issues raised. This included the following:

- Return of notes from meetings – e.g. Area Partnership Boards, workers groups
- Presentation of this Issues and Options – Report of Consultation to Council members via Cabinet
- Publication of this Issues and Options – Report of Consultation on the Council website for public access
- Publication of the main issues raised in this report within documentation issued as part of the Core Strategy Preferred Options stage and the final Report of Consultation published at the Submission stage of the Core Strategy.

8.2   Using the Issues and Options Consultation Results

8.2.1   This Issues and Options consultation results will be an important component in the development of the **Preferred Options Report**, the next stage of the preparation of the Core Strategy. The information collected, including especially the main points raised as described earlier, will influence the development of the preferred policy options which the Council will be presenting within the Preferred Options Paper.

8.2.2   Wherever possible, the Council will seek to account for the views of the community in the development of the Core Strategy, and the wider Local Development Framework. The Council has a responsibility at this stage, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 12 and the relevant legislation and regulations, to ensure that the main issues raised during consultation periods are published alongside subsequent stages of consultation, demonstrating that representations received have been dealt with in the appropriate manner, and as appropriate, have been fed into the development plan process.

8.2.3   However, it is important to note that not all of the points raised within the Issues and Options consultation can be accommodated within the Preferred Options Report and subsequent stages of Core Strategy preparation, for the following reasons:

- Contradictory messages cannot all be taken into account (e.g. where two parties say opposing things about a particular issue or option)
- Some points raised are contrary to national and regional planning policy – the Council cannot usually take these forward, particularly

where there is a direct contradiction with advice issued by Government

- The planning policy framework within which the Core Strategy is being drafted may change, for example with the publication of new national, regional or sub-regional policy documentation, meaning that certain aspects of the Local Development Framework will need to be changed in accordance with this
- Content may necessarily change, or not be included, due to emerging evidence or information which the Council will continue to collect to support subsequent stages of plan preparation, for example, new studies and research documents

8.3 Preparing the Preferred Options Report and the Preferred Options Consultation

8.3.1 **Figure 8** shows the phases in Core Strategy preparation, showing how the document will progress beyond the Issues and Options consultation. **Figure 8** also includes dates for the major events in preparation of the Core Strategy, including periods of public consultation. As indicated, the next stage of Core Strategy preparation after the public consultation on the Issues and Options Paper is the consideration of comments received during the consultation, and the preparation of the Preferred Options Report. This document will demonstrate the evolution of the Issues and Options paper, in the light of the consultation and in the light of emerging evidence, into a series of preferred policy approaches for the development of Knowsley to 2027. Once drafted, the Preferred Options Report will then be published for a period of public consultation in Autumn 2010. A report, similar to this Report of Consultation, will be published subsequent to this process, again outlining the consultation methods used and the main issued raised during this Preferred Options consultation.

Figure 8: Main Stages of Knowsley's Core Strategy Preparation (dates subject to review)
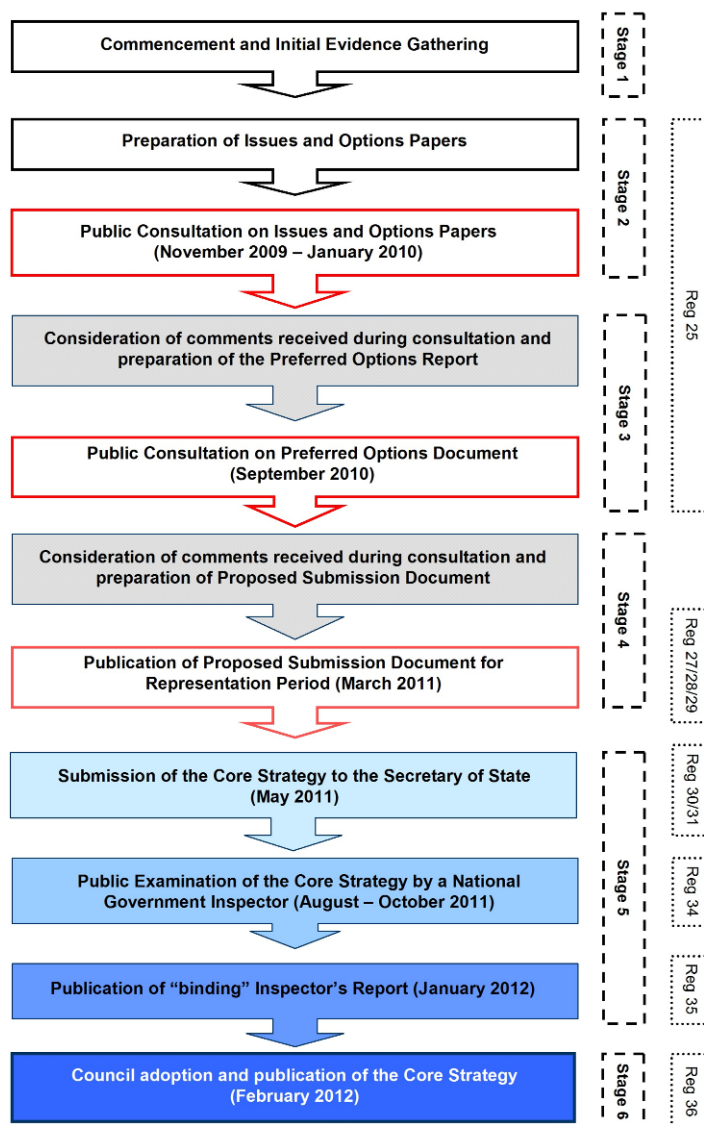
8.4 Further Stages of Core Strategy Preparation

8.4.1 As indicated in **Figure 8**, the preparation of the Core Strategy will move on from the Preferred Options consultation, to consider the responses received at this stage, and look towards the preparation of a **Proposed Submission Document**. This will be the final version of the Core Strategy produced by the Council, and the one which it proposes to submit to the Secretary of State for consideration through an examination in public. However, prior to submission, there is a final period of public consultation to be undertaken, which gives interested parties a final opportunity to submit representations on the content of the Core Strategy. It is important to note that, at this final consultation stage, the scope of representations is limited to those solely relating to issues of soundness, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 12.

8.4.2 One of the various documents which will be submitted to the Secretary of State prior to examination of the Core Strategy will be a version of this Report of Consultation, accounting for the Issues and Options consultation, the Preferred Options consultation and the final consultation on the Proposed Submission Document. This final report will outline all of the consultation processes undertaken, as well as summarising the main issues raised at each of these consultations. This final Report of Consultation will be supported by other documents, which will explain the wider process of developing the Core Strategy to its final version, accounting for policy drafting and decision making apart from that related to consultation, for example that relating to emerging evidence, or regional policy development. This should also clearly demonstrate how the Core Strategy has been prepared within the appropriate legislative and policy context, showing legal conformity with the Local Development Framework process prescribed in national planning policy, legislation and regulations. Overall, these documents together will demonstrate a clear path of policy development, from the earliest initial stages of Core Strategy preparation and research, towards the final version which will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

9 Glossary

Acronym	Meaning	Definition
4NW	The North West Regional Leaders' Forum	The successor body to the North West Regional Assembly undertaking the Partial Review of Regional Spatial Strategy and the early stages of the Regional Strategy.
APB	Area Partnership Board	Partnership operating across a particular area of Knowsley seeking to promote the interests of the area, improve quality of life and to make sure that area needs are reflected in the design and delivery of local services.
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method	A family of assessment methods and tools used to assess the environmental performance of any type of building (new and existing).
BSF	Building Schools for the Future	The national initiative for large scale investment in secondary schools, implemented by the local authority.
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	A levy on development proposed by the government and to be implemented by local authorities, to fund infrastructure to support housing and economic growth.
CLG	Communities and Local Government	The government department which sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue.
DPD	Development Plan Document	Part of the Local Development Framework, including Core Strategy DPDs, Development Management DPDs and Area Action Plan DPDs. These form part of the statutory development plan for their area.
ELPS	Employment Land and Premises Study	Research study commission by Halton, Knowsley, Sefton and West Lancashire districts to look at the supply and demand for land and premises for business purposes.

HCA	Homes and Communities Agency	The national housing and regeneration agency, providing funding for affordable housing, bring land back into productive use and improve quality of life by raising standards for the physical and social environment.
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment	An assessment of the potential effects of a policy contained within a plan or programme on one or more sites designated as important at the European Level, namely Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.
GONW	Government Office for the North West	The regional offices of national government which works with organisations across the Region to deliver Government policies and programmes and to contribute a regional perspective in their development.
KMBC	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	The local authority for the Knowsley area.
KIP	Knowsley Industrial Park	The large industrial area found to the east of Kirkby town centre, towards the northern part of Knowsley's area.
LAA	Local Area Agreement	A three year agreement, based on the local Sustainable Community Strategy that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government and a local authority plus other key partners such as the Local Strategic Partnership.
LCR	Liverpool City Region	The collective term for the local authorities of Halton, Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St.Helens and Wirral.
LDD	Local Development Document	Documents within the Local Development Framework.
LDF	Local Development Framework	The portfolio of Local Development Documents including Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and process documents, including the Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report. This

		also includes the Saved Policies of Unitary Development Plans.
LDS	Local Development Scheme	Sets the timetable for the production of the Local Development Framework and its constituent documents, and provides details of all of the Local Development Documents to be produced.
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	A non-statutory body that brings together the different public, private, voluntary and community sectors, working at a local level. The lead member in the Partnership is the Council, with other members including the Primary Care Trust and the Police.
LTP	Local Transport Plan	Sets out the Council's objectives, strategies and policies for transport, detailing the schemes and initiatives that will be delivered, together with the performance indicators and targets used to monitor progress.
MAA	Multi Area Agreement	A type of cross-boundary Local Area Agreement, this strengthens partnerships across a wider spatial area than a local authority, for example across a sub-region and offer opportunities for more meaningful joint working and more efficient leveraging of funding.
MEAS	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service	The retained advisors for the Liverpool City Region local authorities on environmental matters. The organisation is also preparing the Joint Waste Development Plan Document on behalf of the local authorities.
MPG / MPS	Minerals Planning Guidance / Minerals Policy Statement	Sets out the Government's policy on minerals and planning issues and provide advice and guidance to local authorities and the minerals industry on policies and the operation of the planning system with regard to minerals.
MSA	Minerals Safeguarding Area	Areas that may be identified by local authorities of areas of particular importance for the safeguarding of mineral reserves.

NWDA	North West (Regional) Development Agency	A non-departmental public body established for the purpose of development, primarily economic. The objectives of the organisation are set out in the Regional Economic Strategy.
OSS	One Stop Shop	The local Council drop-in facility where services are available for public use and advice is available from Council officers.
PCT	Primary Care Trust	A local National Health Service organisation providing primary and community services or commissioning them from other providers, also involved in commissioning secondary care.
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance	Central Government statements of national planning policy and guidance. They are being superseded by Planning Policy Statements.
PPS	Planning Policy Statement	Prepared by Central Government as statements of national planning policy and provide guidance to local planning authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system.
RES	Regional Economic Strategy	Prepared by the Regional Development Agency to out the region's economic plans, with frameworks for regional, sub-regional and local action, and relying on public and private partners for delivery.
RS	Regional Strategy	The document which will replace the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy, forming the overarching development strategy for the region. The Regional Strategy will guide action and investment by business, national and local government and the voluntary and community sectors.
RSL	Registered Social Landlord	Including Housing Associations and Councils, these are independent not-for-profit organisations providing low cost "social housing" for those in housing need and are the UK's major provider of homes for rent, as well as providing opportunities

for shared ownership.

RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy	The set of regional planning policies providing the principles of development in the region. Regional Spatial Strategy policies form part of the "development plan" at the local level, meaning they are a direct material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
SA	Sustainability Appraisal	The process appraising the social, environmental and economic effects of the policies contained within Local Development Documents including all Development Plan Documents and where appropriate, Supplementary Planning Documents.
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement	Sets out the role that the community and other stakeholders will play in the production of all documents within the Local Development Framework, as well as their role concerning planning applications.
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy	Also known as the Community Strategy, this provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of the partners within a Local Strategic Partnership can contribute. This must contain a vision for the area and an action plan, as well as evidence of a shared commitment to implementation and arrangements for monitoring, review and reports of progress.
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	These are primarily produced by local planning authorities, in consultation with the Environment Agency, and are intended to form the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management at the local level.
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	A systematic assessment of the land developable and deliverable for housing within an area. The assessment includes a 'Call for Sites' where the public can promote sites as being suitable for housing development and appraisal of deliverability by a panel of developers and

		Registered Social Landlords active in the local market.
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment	A study across an identified largely 'self contained' housing market to provide understanding how the market operates and is likely to operate in the future. This provides an assessment of past, current and future trends in housing type and tenure, household size, and housing need, including an assessment of the needs of groups with particular housing requirements. In the preparation of the document, a consistent sub-regional approach is important, as is the involvement of key stakeholders in the local housing market.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	Part of the Local Development Framework these provide supplementary information in respect of the policies contained in Development Plan Documents, and tend to focus on particular issues or on particular places. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to an independent examination.
(R)UDP	(Replacement) Unitary Development Plan	A development plan prepared under the pre-2004 system by a Metropolitan district or Unitary Local Authority, which contains policies equivalent to those in both a structure plan and local plan, forming the part of the authority's statutory development plan. Policies from which are saved for an initial 3 year, or indeterminate period by consent of the Secretary of State and form part of the Development Plan for an area until superseded or otherwise deleted by a Development Plan Document.