Knowsley Council

Knowsley BETTER TOGETHER



KNOWSLEY'S LOCAL PLAN

SCOPING DOCUMENT 2026

CONTENTS

1. Introduction 3
2. Spatial Portrait 11
3. Vision 25
4. Spatial Strategy 28
5. Placemaking, Design and Heritage 31
6. Sustainable and Inclusive Communities 35
7. Economic Prosperity 42
8. Resilience 47
9. Infrastructure 52
10. Spaces 56
11. Minerals and Waste 62
12. Allocations and Designations 65
13. Next Steps 67





1. INTRODUCTION

LOCAL PLANS

1.1 Local Plans sit at the heart of England's planning system, guiding how areas grow and change over time. They establish where new housing, employment opportunities, infrastructure and community facilities should be located and give residents, businesses, developers and others a clear understanding of how development will be managed.

1.2 The Council is legally required to have an up-to-date Local Plan setting out planning policies for the borough of Knowsley. Local Plan policies are used to help make planning decisions, together with other development plan policies contained in the emerging Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) and national policy considerations set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

SCOPING FOR A NEW LOCAL PLAN

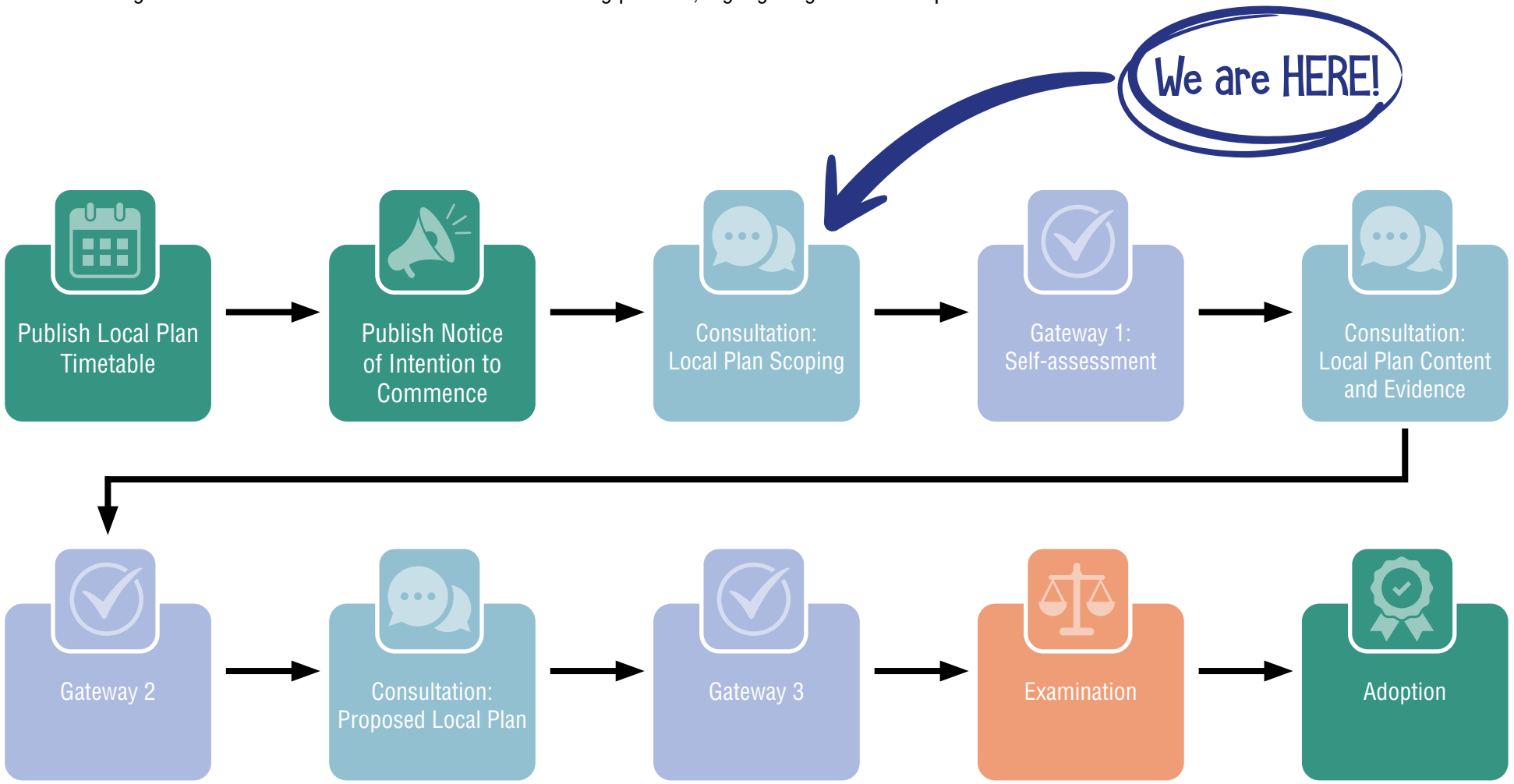
1.3 Knowsley Council is preparing a new Local Plan to replace the current Knowsley Local Plan, which was adopted in January 2016 and covers the period between 2010 and 2028. This Scoping document has been prepared to start the process for preparing a new Local Plan and provide meaningful early engagement. It is intended to help shape the direction and content of the new Local Plan, it sets out the topics the plan could address, the issues we already know about, and the questions we want to ask residents, businesses, landowners, developers and other stakeholders at this early stage. The outcome of this engagement will help us to understand what you consider is important for a new Local Plan to address.

1.4 The Government has introduced new rules for how Local Plans are prepared and written to make the process more efficient. The new rules mean Local Plans must be produced more quickly than they have been historically and should use standardised data, digital tools and more accessible consultation methods. The aim is for Local Plans to become clearer, more transparent and easier for communities and stakeholders to engage with and understand.

1.5 National policy in the form of the NPPF says Local Plans should set out a spatial strategy, policies for the minimum amount of development to be provided, plans showing land allocations, broad locations and designations for development and protection, for a period of no less than 10 years from the adoption of the Local Plan. The NPPF suggests Local Plans can cover a longer period where this would, for example, help to support the delivery of longer-term infrastructure or strategic development. We think the Local Plan should cover the period to 2045, approximately 15 years from when the Plan is expected to be adopted.



1.6 The image below demonstrates the new Local Plan-making process, highlighting our current position.





1.7 The Council published the notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation and the Local Plan timetable in October 2026. We are now at the scoping consultation stage. During this initial consultation phase, we want to gather views on what the Local Plan should contain and how stakeholders wish to be engaged.

WHAT IS A SCOPING CONSULTATION?

1.8 This is the Scoping Consultation and it is the first formal stage in preparing a Local Plan, where we ask local residents, businesses, and stakeholders for early views on what the new Local Plan should contain and how the public wants to be engaged in future steps.

1.9 The Scoping Consultation will be open for six weeks for you to submit your comments from **24 November 2026 to 5pm on 5 January 2027**.

WHO ARE WE ASKING IN THE SCOPING CONSULTATION?

1.10 We want to ensure everyone is kept up to date as we begin the Local Plan and can have a say on what the new Local Plan should contain and how to engage as we move forward. Everyone on our consultation database will be notified about the consultation. We are also inviting comments from statutory consultees, known as 'specific' consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency and Active Travel England and other 'general' consultation bodies such as voluntary organisations like the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Mersey Forest and others. If you would like to be added to the Local Plan consultation database to be notified when we consult on the new Local Plan please provide your contact details, or those of your agent or representative to a member of the Planning Policy Team at: localplan@knowsley.gov.uk.

1.11 Throughout this document there are questions we want you to respond to which will help us understand what you think about the scoping for the new Local Plan. You do not have to answer every question, but we want to hear your views on those issues that are of most interest to you. You may also submit more generalised comments about the future development of Knowsley alongside responding to the specific questions.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SCOPING CONSULTATION?

1.12 The consultation will help us develop a clear understanding of the potential scope and content of the new Local Plan. This will include identifying the key themes and locally specific issues that the Local Plan should address. It will also tell us how you would like us to engage with you during the preparation of the Local Plan. Comments on consultation and engagement will inform the Engagement Strategy which has been published in draft alongside this Scoping document.



1.13 Once the six-week consultation has concluded, we will publish a Scoping Consultation Summary. This will set out the main issues raised in the responses, with details on how these responses will be taken into account in preparing the Local Plan. The Scoping Consultation Summary will be published after the Gateway 1 stage of the plan-making process, as per the published Timetable.

LOCAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Council's Strategic Plan

1.14 The Knowsley Council Plan 2025-2030 sets out the Council's overall vision and priorities for the borough. The Council Plan identifies three key priorities.

1. Effective support for those in need
2. Encourage growth that benefits everyone
3. Deliver targeted support to encourage fairness and opportunity

1.15 These priorities provide an important framework for the new Local Plan. The Local Plan sits under the Council's Strategic Plan, and it will play a central role in helping the Council to deliver its vision and priorities by shaping how land is used and how development is managed across the borough.

1.16 There are a range of other strategies that will be important to consider during plan preparation, including the Knowsley 2030 Strategy and the Economic Growth Plan.

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1.17 The Government has stated that it wants long term planning strategies to be developed for every region of the country. These are called Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) and they will identify the sub-regional need for housing, employment land (jobs) and infrastructure (like roads and rail) over the next 20-30 years. An SDS will not allocate sites for development which can only be done by a Local Plan, but Local Plans must be in conformity with the relevant SDS.

1.18 Knowsley sits within the wider Liverpool City Region in an SDS region that covers Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, St Helens and Halton and this means that the SDS will be prepared by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). The Local Plan will need to fit in with the policies in the SDS and we will co-ordinate our work on the Local Plan with the SDS as it develops. The Council will ensure it engages with the LCRCA as both plans progress.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK & PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE

1.19 The NPPF sets out the Government's policies for plan-making and making decisions on development proposals. The plan-making policies in the NPPF must be taken into account as we are preparing the Local Plan for Knowsley, whilst the decision-making policies in the NPPF are a material consideration in determining planning applications and should not be repeated in the Knowsley Local Plan. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides the Government's online advice on how to interpret and apply the NPPF and other national planning policies and will provide guidance to the preparation of the Local Plan.



ACCOMPANYING ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENTS AND EXERCISES

1.20 Alongside this scoping consultation, we are also asking for views on the Baseline Information Report, Engagement Strategy, Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report, Call for Sites exercise, Topic Paper summaries and Frequently Asked Questions. These documents will be made available for people to comment on, on the Council website at www.knowsley.gov.uk/localplanscopingconsultation. **Your comments on the Scoping Consultation document and accompanying engagement documents and exercises are welcomed from 24 November 2026 to 5pm on 5 January 2027.**

1.21 The **Baseline Information Report** provides the starting point for the collection of evidence to support the Local Plan, it has helped the Council assess the current social, environmental and economic conditions in Knowsley. The Report has been used to help us to identify the initial issues we think should be covered in the Local Plan as identified in this Scoping consultation, and it has also helped us to identify where additional evidence will need to be collated as the Plan progresses.

1.22 The **Engagement Strategy** sets out how the Council will engage communities, partners and stakeholders throughout the process of preparing a new Local Plan for Knowsley. We want to make sure everyone can make their voice heard so we are considering our approach to engagement, and we want your views on how we communicate and engage with residents and businesses on the new Local Plan. We want to ensure you feel engaged in the plan-making process.

1.23 The **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** Scoping Report is the first formal step in evaluating the environmental impact of a Local Plan and determining the need for SEA. It sets the baseline and methodology for future testing and ensures that environmental, social and economic factors are considered during plan preparation. The SEA Scoping Report is available on the Council's website and is being consulted upon alongside this Local Plan Scoping document.

1.24 The **Local Plan Call for Sites** exercise invites residents, landowners, developers and other stakeholders to suggest sites for consideration for development or protection. The call for sites runs from **24 November 2026 to 5pm on 5 January 2027**. Details of the Call for Sites, including how to submit sites for consideration by the Council can be found on the call for sites webpage.

1.25 The **Topic Paper** summaries are theme-based background papers, they allow the Council to explain the evidence they have, alongside exploring the other policies and guidance that can influence a particular topic in more detail and give the public a greater understanding of the Council's reasoning for a particular approach to a topic.

1.26 Finally, to help you better understand the scoping consultation we have put together a selection of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** which are available on the Council's website at www.knowsley.gov.uk/localplanscopingconsultation



HOW TO TELL US YOUR VIEWS

1.27 Your views are important to us and will help shape Knowsley's future. You can comment:

- **Online**: www.knowsley.gov.uk/localplanscopingconsultation
- **Email**: localplan@knowsley.gov.uk
- **Post**: Planning Policy, Knowsley Council, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton, L36 6GA

1.28 Comments must be received by:
5pm on 5 January 2027







QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Q1.1a We think the Local Plan should cover the period to 2045, approximately 15 years from when the Plan is expected to be adopted.

Do you agree?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q1.1b If you answered no, please provide an alternative timeframe (e.g. 10 years, 20 years, etc.) and explain why?

Q1.2 We think the proposed scope of the Knowsley Local Plan should cover the following topics, which are covered in more detail in the following sections of the Plan:

- Spatial portrait
- Vision
- Spatial strategy – including the overall approach to locating new homes, business and other types of development
- Placemaking, design and heritage – creating well-designed places
- Sustainable and inclusive communities – including the approach to the delivery of different types and tenures of homes, improving health and providing social value
- Economic prosperity – planning for the needs of business and supporting our local town centres
- Resilience – including the approach to creating resilient places that mitigate for and adapt to climate change
- Infrastructure – including the approach to infrastructure needed to support new development
- Spaces – including the approach to valued green and blue spaces
- Minerals and Waste – setting requirements for mineral and waste

Q1.2a Do you agree with our proposed scope? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q1.2b Do you have any further topics to be included in the scope, please provide details?

ENGAGEMENT

Q1.3 Which methods would you use to find out information about the Local Plan? **(Choose top three)**

- ☐ Viewing information on our website
- ☐ Viewing information on our consultation platform
- ☐ Receiving emailed information from us
- ☐ Updates on our social media channels
- ☐ Finding out information from your local councillor
- ☐ Attending a residents' meeting
- ☐ Attending or viewing online webinars
- ☐ Looking at documents in libraries and council offices
- ☐ Attending exhibitions at libraries
- ☐ Attending in-person workshops facilitated by council officers

Q1.4 How would you prefer to provide your views on the new Local Plan? **(Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Email response
- ☐ Paper questionnaire
- ☐ Public exhibition/drop-in event
- ☐ Online webinar or virtual event
- ☐ Workshop or focus group
- ☐ Interactive map-based consultation
- ☐ Social media engagement
- ☐ Through a community or parish council meeting
- ☐ Other (please specify)

2. SPATIAL PORTRAIT

2.1 This section provides a picture of Knowsley as it is today. It highlights the people, places and issues that will help shape the new Local Plan.

AT A GLANCE

Knowsley is located at the heart of the Liverpool City Region and is made up of a number of distinct towns, villages and communities, each with its own character and identity, which benefit from an extensive network of countryside and green spaces.

Knowsley has many strengths. It has a growing economy, strong transport connections and is currently home to the fastest-growing population in the Liverpool City Region.

At the same time, not everyone benefits equally from these strengths. Some communities experience much higher levels of deprivation, poorer health and fewer opportunities than others. These challenges are often concentrated in specific neighbourhoods rather than being spread across the borough.

2.2 Knowsley occupies a strategic position within the Liverpool City Region, which comprises the local authorities of Halton, Liverpool, St. Helens, Sefton and Wirral, alongside Knowsley. Knowsley serves as a vital economic, industrial, and administrative partner within the Liverpool City Region.

2.3 Strategically positioned along the M62 and M57 motorways, Knowsley provides key logistical links connecting the port facilities and airports of the wider region. Knowsley drives the region's automotive and advanced manufacturing sectors and is home to major operations like Jaguar Land Rover in Halewood. Whilst Knowsley Business Park hosts over 800 businesses and employs roughly 18,000 people, acting as a major employment engine for the wider City Region.

2.4 Knowsley also contributes heavily to the region's cultural and tourism profile through regional landmarks like Knowsley Safari Park, Knowsley Hall, and the award-winning Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot.

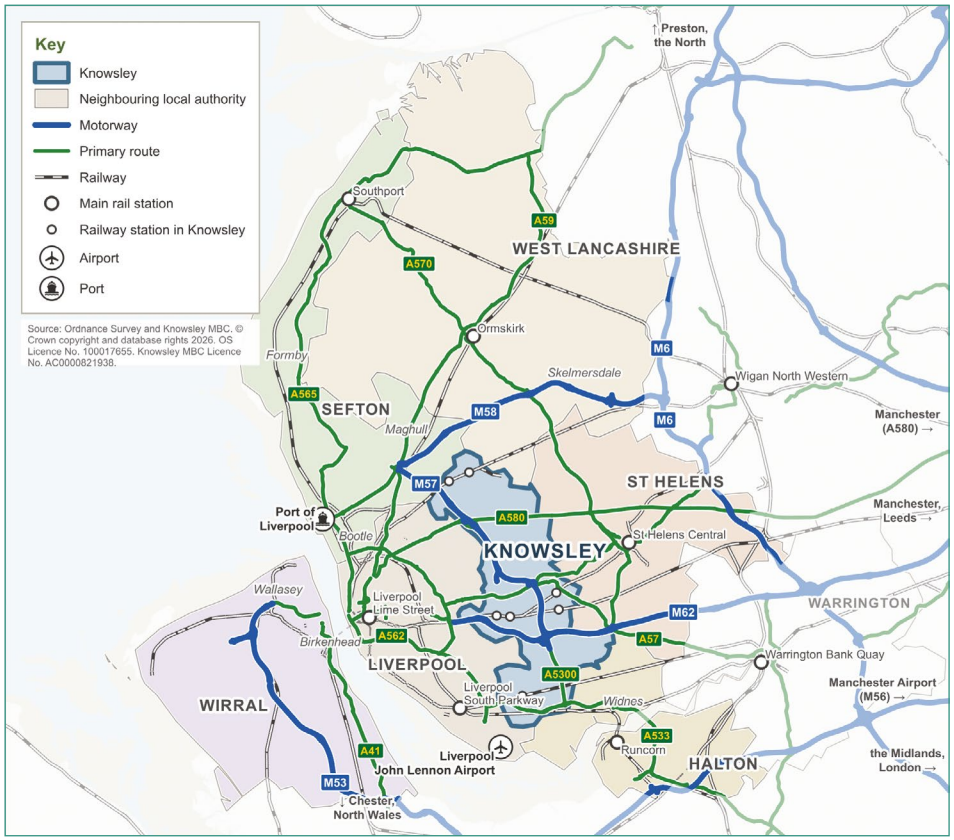
2.5 Knowsley has benefited from people moving from other parts of the City Region, attracted by its more affordable housing, larger family homes, access to green spaces and excellent transport links, helping to support population growth and demand for new homes across the borough.



2.6 As part of developing the Local Plan we need to consider wider issues, trends or opportunities beyond Knowsley and how we take them into account.



Figure 2.1: Knowsley within the Liverpool City Region





A BOROUGH OF DISTINCT PLACES

163,723
residents in Knowsley

8,650ha
approximate size of the borough

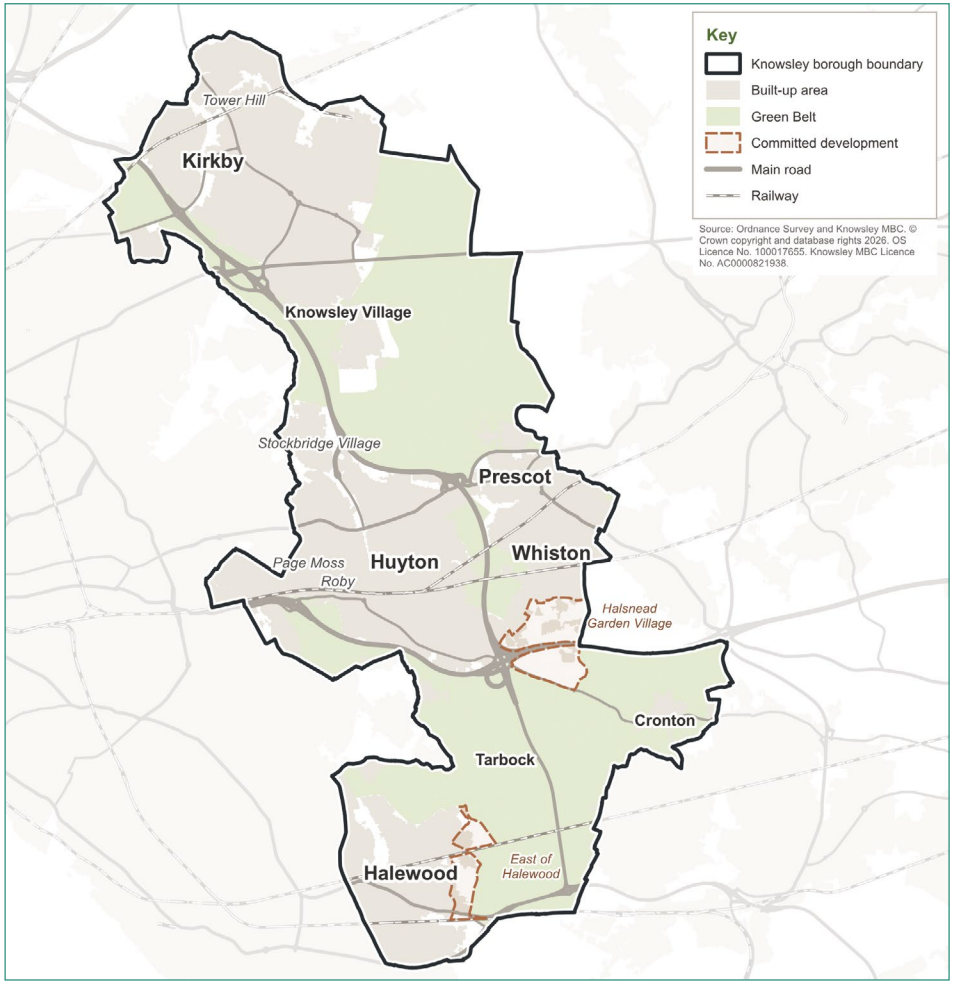
5 towns
and **3 villages**

2.7 Knowsley is made up of Halewood, Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot and Whiston, as well as the villages of Cronton, Knowsley Village and Tarbock. Within Huyton and Kirkby are well-established communities with their own character and identity, such as Page Moss, Roby, Stockbridge Village and Tower Hill. Each of these towns, villages and communities plays an important role in Knowsley and has different needs, strengths and opportunities.

2.8 The way Knowsley's towns and villages have evolved over time is one of the reasons the borough is distinctive. The new Local Plan will need to think carefully about how future change happens to meet the needs of a growing borough while protecting the things that give Knowsley its identity.

2.9 More homes will be needed, alongside jobs, transport, schools, healthcare, shops, green spaces and other services that people rely on. We have not yet decided where future growth should go. Section 4 looks at those choices in more detail, and this consultation is an opportunity for you to tell us what you think and help shape Knowsley's future.

Figure 2.2: Knowsley's towns, villages and communities





WHAT THE EVIDENCE TELLS US

People and health

12.2%
population growth since 2011, the fastest in the city region

163,723
residents in 2025

17.7%
of residents are aged 65+

40%
of neighbourhoods are among the most deprived in England

2.10 The people who live in Knowsley, and their health and wellbeing, are at the heart of the new Local Plan. Two things stand out from the evidence. Knowsley is growing and that growth is expected to continue. At the same time, people's health and life chances can be very different depending on where in the borough they live.

2.11 Despite intervention in the past to attempt to overcome health inequalities in Knowsley deprivation remains a significant challenge, 40 of the borough's 100 neighbourhoods are among the most deprived 10% in England. However, deprivation is not spread evenly across Knowsley. Some neighbourhoods experience much greater disadvantage than others and the Local Plan must reflect this disparity.

11.2 yrs
male life-expectancy gap

What does this mean for the Local Plan?

2.12 Planning cannot solve poor health or deprivation on its own. But the places people live in can make a difference to their health and quality of life. The Local Plan can influence things such as:

- the quality and type of homes people live in
- whether homes are close to shops, schools, healthcare and other services
- whether people can walk, cycle or use public transport for everyday journeys
- access to parks, play areas and other green spaces
- where new jobs and investment are located
- whether new development helps existing communities as well as new residents

2.13 Knowsley is growing. Current projections suggest that the number of households in Knowsley could increase by around 27% between 2022 and 2047[1], which means more homes and services will be needed. Some of the predicted growth is due to the predicted increase in one person households by 40% over the same period. The Local Plan will need to consider how new development can support healthier places, improve access to everyday opportunities and help narrow those differences over time.



[1] From 66,556 households in 2022 to 84,261 households in 2047. Source ONS Household Projections 2022-based

Homes

631
homes a year the national formula asks for

9,599
gross housing completions since 2010

9 in 10
homes are houses

64%
homes completed in 2025-26 were affordable

2.14 People also need different types of housing at different stages of their lives. This includes affordable homes, family homes, smaller homes, accessible homes and homes that allow people to remain independent as they get older.





What does this mean for the Local Plan?

2.15 Knowsley is growing, so more homes will be needed. The new Local Plan will need to think about:

- how many homes are needed
- where they should go
- how much land that has already been developed can be reused
- what types of homes people will need
- how new housing can become part of successful neighbourhoods, with good access to the services and facilities people use every day

2.16 We have not yet decided where future housing growth should go, but we will have to ensure that Government housing targets are met in the Local Plan, these targets currently require Knowsley to ensure that there is sufficient deliverable land to build 631 new homes each year. As we develop the plan, we will need to consider how future housing growth can support existing communities, provide more affordable homes and make the best use of available land.

Work and the economy

66,000
employee jobs based in Knowsley

£4.7bn
a year economic output

£105
a week more for a job based here than a resident earns

1 in 3
working residents both live and work in Knowsley

2.17 Knowsley has a strong economy for a borough of its size with strong employment areas in Halewood, Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot. Around 66,000 jobs are based here and the local economy gross value added (GVA) is around £4.7 billion a year. Manufacturing, logistics, healthcare and public services are particular strengths. Major employers and employment areas include Jaguar Land Rover in Halewood and Knowsley Industrial and Business Park.

2.18 Knowsley is closely linked to the wider Liverpool City Region labour market. Many residents travel outside the borough for work, particularly to Liverpool, while large numbers of people also travel into Knowsley to work. Only around one in three working residents both live and work in Knowsley. This means that creating more jobs is only part of the challenge. People also need to be able to reach those jobs and have the skills and qualifications employers need.

2.19 There has been real progress in increasing the skills and qualifications which residents have achieved. Fewer people now have no qualifications, falling from 35 to 26 per cent between 2011 and 2021, while more residents have degree-level qualifications than a decade ago, rising from 15 to 24%.

2.20 However, qualification levels in Knowsley remain below the England average meaning some residents often lack the right skills and training to benefit from the jobs in Knowsley and elsewhere in the city region.

2.21 More than 90% of premises have access to a full-fibre connection and 97% can get gigabit broadband which is above the England average. However, take-up of full-fibre services remains below the level of availability.

What does this mean for the Local Plan?

2.22 Knowsley already attracts jobs and investment, and the new Local Plan should help it continue to do so. But economic growth is not only about increasing the number of jobs. The Local Plan can help by making jobs easier to reach and by creating the right conditions for businesses to invest and grow. The plan will need to consider:

- whether there is enough suitable land and space for businesses
- how residents can get to jobs
- how new homes and workplaces relate to each other
- how planning can support wider efforts to help local people benefit from new investment, digital connectivity and employment opportunities



Getting around

31%
of households have no car

62.8/100
Above average access to jobs and healthcare

7
railway stations in the borough

97%
of premises have gigabit-capable broadband available

2.23 Knowsley is very well connected to the wider Liverpool City Region by motor vehicle. The M57, M62 and A580 run through or alongside the borough, providing quick links to Liverpool, neighbouring towns and the wider motorway network. This is one of the reasons Knowsley is an excellent location for businesses, particularly manufacturing and logistics.

2.24 Around three in ten households in Knowsley do not have a car. For those households, being able to reach work, school, healthcare, shops and other everyday services by bus, train, walking or cycling is especially important. This is not just a transport issue. It is also about fairness and opportunity. Where people live, and how easy it is to reach the places they need, can affect their ability to find work, use services and take part in everyday life.

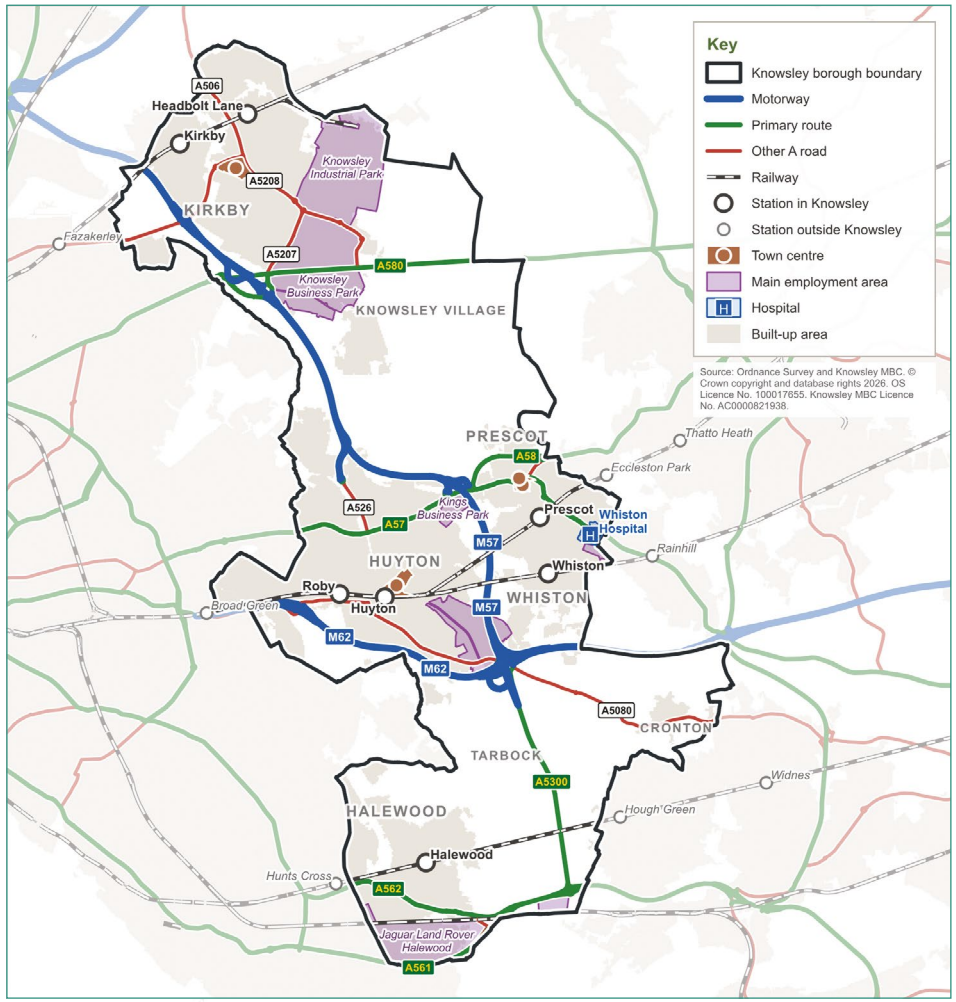
2.25 Whilst everyday services are close at hand, with areas of work or food stores on average ten minutes away from where people live, just over nine per cent of residents travel to work by bus or train. Every community in Knowsley is within 400m of a bus route and Knowsley has seven railway stations: Halewood, Headbolt Lane, Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Roby, Whiston. However, public transport connections are generally stronger towards Liverpool than between some of Knowsley's own towns and communities.

What does this mean for the Local Plan?

2.26 Where new homes, jobs and services are located can make a real difference. The Local Plan should help more people reach the places they need by public transport, walking and cycling, while making the best use of Knowsley's strong road and rail connections.



Figure 2.3: Getting around Knowsley









Environment, heritage and climate

110
parks, playing fields and other open spaces

75
local wildlife sites, covering around 1,472 hectares

Around 1,200 ha
at some risk of surface water flooding

106
listed buildings and 15 conservation areas

2.27 Knowsley's countryside, parks, wildlife and historic places are an important part of what makes the borough distinctive. They provide places to walk, play and spend time outdoors, support wildlife and help give different towns and villages their own identity.

2.28 Knowsley benefits from countryside between and around many of its towns and villages, which helps give different places their own identity and means that many residents have countryside close to home. Knowsley also has a significant number of parks, playing fields and other open spaces. These range from large parks and recreation areas to smaller spaces serving local neighbourhoods.

2.29 Knowsley does not contain any nationally designated wildlife sites, but it has a network of locally important habitats. There are 75 Local Wildlife Sites as well as one Local Nature Reserve at Acornfield Plantation. These areas provide habitats for plants and animals and form part of a wider network of green spaces, woodland, watercourses and other natural areas across the borough.

2.30 Knowsley Council has declared a climate emergency and has committed to becoming net zero by 2040. We are facing a changing climate; extreme weather events including flooding and heatwaves are happening more frequently and the Local Plan has a role to play in helping to address the challenges posed by climate change.

2.31 Flooding is not only a problem close to rivers. Around 400 hectares of Knowsley lie within areas at risk of flooding from rivers and brooks, but around 1,200 hectares are at some risk of surface water flooding. This means flooding can affect streets and neighbourhoods that are significant distances away from a watercourse. Understanding where this risk occurs, both now and in the future, will be an important part of deciding where and how future development should happen.



2.32 Knowsley's historic buildings and places also help give different communities their identity. The borough has 106 listed buildings and 15 conservation areas with a particularly strong concentration of historic assets in and around Prescot and the eastern part of the borough. The borough also currently has one listed building and one conservation area on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

2.33 Prescot is a good example of how heritage can be both protected and used to drive the regeneration of an area. Investment such as Shakespeare North Playhouse, the Townscape Heritage Initiative and Mayoral Shopfront Scheme has strengthened Prescot's character and cultural role through investing in heritage driven regeneration.

What does this mean for the Local Plan?

2.34 Knowsley's green spaces help to keep different places distinct, give residents somewhere to walk and play, support wildlife, help to manage water and flooding, and play a part in responding to a changing climate. Historic buildings and places are also an important part of the identity of many communities.

2.35 The challenge for the new Local Plan will be to protect and improve these assets while also finding room for the homes, jobs and services a growing population will need. Those choices have not yet been made. The Council is preparing updated evidence to help inform decisions about the environment, heritage and climate.

EMERGING PATTERNS

2.36 Six main themes stand out from Knowsley's spatial portrait, which help to explain some of the choices the new Local Plan will need to make showing where some of Knowsley's biggest opportunities and challenges lie:

1. Knowsley is made up of different places, not one single place
2. Some of Knowsley's biggest inequalities are between its own neighbourhoods
3. Knowsley has good jobs and homes, but not all residents benefit equally from them
4. Knowsley is well connected to Liverpool, but getting between some of its own places can be harder
5. Knowsley needs to grow while keeping the things that make its places distinctive
6. Knowsley's green spaces and heritage are an important part of what make the Borough distinctive and a great place to live and work. We must plan positively for it whilst recognising the need for Knowsley to grow







STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

2.37 Knowsley has important strengths to build on, but also some long-standing challenges. The table below brings these together as a simple SWOT assessment:

Table 2.2: Knowsley's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

Strengths	Weaknesses
• A growing borough – Knowsley has had the fastest recent population growth in the Liverpool City Region • Distinct towns and villages – different places have strong identities, with substantial countryside between and around many of them • A strong economy – Knowsley has major strengths in manufacturing, logistics, healthcare and public services • Strong links to the wider region – the borough has motorway access, seven railway stations and a central position within the Liverpool City Region • Strong housing delivery – Knowsley has built large numbers of homes and recent development has included a high proportion of affordable housing • Good digital connections – most premises can access fast broadband and full-fibre services • Regeneration is already happening – including investment in Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot and Halewood • Countryside, green spaces and heritage are major assets for residents, wildlife and local identity	• Large health differences – male life expectancy differs by around 11 years between the borough's most and least deprived neighbourhoods • Deep and concentrated inequality – two in five neighbourhoods are among England's most deprived 10% • Not everyone benefits equally from the economy – residents' earnings and qualification levels remain below the national average • Demand for housing exceeds the supply of available homes, as demonstrated by the housing register, highlighting the need to deliver more market and affordable housing to meet the needs of local communities • Getting around without a car can be difficult – public transport between some Knowsley communities is less direct, while around three in ten households have no car • Some important places still face challenges – including deprivation, town-centre pressures and heritage at risk • Digital take-up is lower than availability – having access to the network does not mean everyone is benefiting from it • Flooding and climate change create growing risks, including surface water flooding within built-up areas

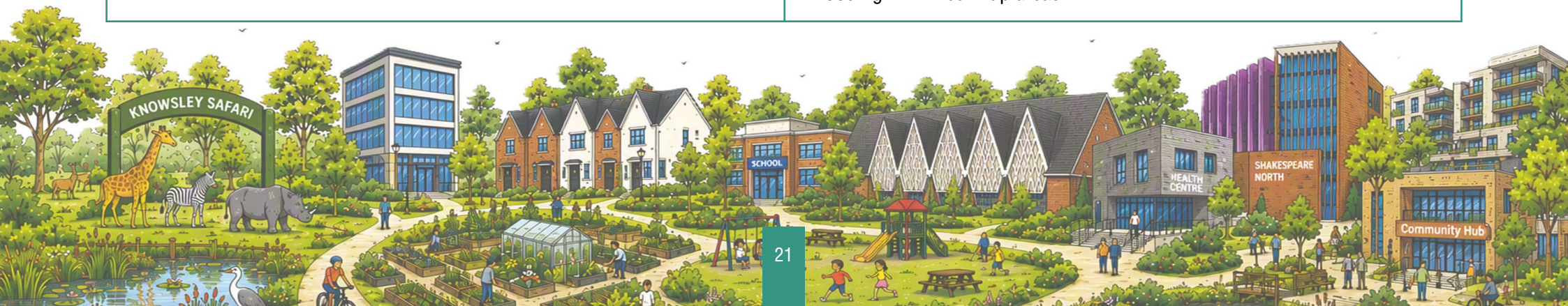


Table 2.2: Knowsley's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats continued

Opportunities	Threats
• Use future growth and investment to help narrow the gap between communities • Help more Knowsley residents benefit from the jobs and investment already attracted to the borough • Support businesses to grow and broaden the range of jobs available • Make better use of land that has already been developed • Continue the renewal of town centres • Improve public transport, walking and cycling so more people can reach jobs and services without a car • Protect and strengthen green spaces, wildlife habitats and the wider network of open land as the borough grows • Ensure that more residents have access to high quality affordable homes • Improving education, skills and training opportunities is essential to supporting economic growth in Knowsley, helping residents access better employment opportunities and ensuring local businesses have a skilled workforce to meet future needs	• Growth could happen faster than roads, schools, healthcare and other services can keep up • Rising construction costs and limited funding could make affordable housing, infrastructure and regeneration harder to deliver • Relying on a small number of major housing sites could make future delivery less reliable • Development in poorly connected locations could increase car dependence and make inequality worse • Climate change could increase flooding, overheating and pressure on wildlife and infrastructure • Poorly planned growth could weaken the distinct identity of Knowsley's towns and villages or put pressure on valued countryside • Economic change could affect demand for some types of business land and premises, making long-term planning more difficult



What this means for the Local Plan

2.38 The Spatial Portrait gives us a clearer picture of Knowsley today and the changes the borough is likely to face over the coming years. It does not tell us where new development should go. Those choices will come later, after more evidence has been completed and we have heard what people think through this consultation.

2.39 What the evidence does initially show is that there are several key priorities:

- help narrow the gap between Knowsley's communities, particularly where health and opportunity are poorest
- make it easier for residents to benefit from the jobs and investment already attracted to the borough
- provide the homes people need, including affordable and accessible homes
- plan growth alongside the schools, healthcare, transport, green spaces and other services people rely on
- protect the character and identity of Knowsley's different towns, villages and communities as the borough grows
- make it easier to get around without always needing a car
- support businesses and town centres to adapt and grow
- protect and improve the environment while preparing for flooding and a changing climate

2.40 These issues are closely connected. Where new homes and jobs are located can affect how people travel, whether services are easy to reach, how much pressure is placed on infrastructure and whether valued countryside and green spaces are protected. The next sections of this consultation start to look at what Knowsley could be like in the future and the choices that may need to be made.







QUESTIONS

SPATIAL PORTRAIT

Q2.1 Do you think this Spatial Portrait accurately describes Knowsley? If not, what do you think needs to be included or removed and why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q2.2 Which of the following do you think are the most important issues for the Local Plan to address **(rank up to three)**

☐ Reducing the differences in health and opportunity between Knowsley's communities

☐ Providing the homes people need

☐ Helping more local people benefit from good jobs and investment

☐ Protecting the character and identity of Knowsley's towns, villages and communities

☐ Making it easier to get around by public transport, walking and cycling

☐ Supporting and renewing Knowsley's town centres

☐ Protecting and improving parks, green spaces and wildlife

☐ Managing flood risk and preparing for climate change

☐ Making sure growth is supported by the schools, healthcare, transport and other services people need

☐ Something else – please tell us

Q2.3 Do you agree with the six emerging patterns identified at paragraph 2.36? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q2.4 Do you agree with the SWOT assessment identified at Table 2.2? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q2.5 Do you agree with the initial key priorities identified at paragraph 2.39? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. VISION

3.1 Having considered Knowsley's Spatial Profile we now need to develop a vision that will shape the future for the borough and genuinely reflects the priorities and objectives for the area up to 2045. The vision should reflect regional and national planning policy and the ambitions of residents and partners.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

3.2 The NPPF requires every Local Plan to have a positive vision, specific to its own area. That vision must be supported by no more than ten measurable outcomes, so progress can be tracked. It also expects the vision to be ambitious, but realistic about what planning can genuinely shape and deliver. And it expects plans to be more focused than in the past, because national policy now deals with many detailed matters directly.

THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

3.3 Once adopted the SDS will set the broad scale and distribution of growth, and Knowsley's Local Plan and its vision will have to be in general conformity with it.

KNOWSLEY'S OWN PLANS AND STRATEGIES

3.4 The Council Plan 2025-2030 sets the overarching goal of supporting Knowsley residents to thrive. It has three priorities: high-quality services, growth that benefits everyone, and targeted support for fairness and opportunity. Knowsley 2030, developed with residents and partners, sets five shared ambitions for the borough as a place. The Economic Growth Plan 2025-2030 sets out what an inclusive economy should look like.

3.5 The current Local Plan (adopted in 2016) sets out a Vision to guide development. It considers the key challenges in terms of the economy, housing, town centres, connectivity, deprivation, health, open spaces, character and quality and the environment. It sets out the main guiding factors affecting conservation and change in different parts of the borough, notably the main settlements, as well as the other villages and wider rural area.



A NEW WAY FORWARD

3.6 Once we have reviewed the responses received to the Scoping Consultation, we will publish and consult on a Proposed Content and Evidence Document. This will present options for shaping the borough and will include a draft Vision, which will be a clear statement outlining the key challenges and priorities, long-term ambitions and describing what kind of place Knowsley should become in the future. The vision will need to align with:

- the SWOT analysis carried out as part of this scoping consultation
- the evidence base that will be commissioned to inform the Local Plan
- the outcome of the 'Call for Sites' process and the resulting emerging spatial strategy

3.7 The vision must be ambitious, but realistic about what planning can genuinely shape and deliver. It must also be more focused than in the past, because national policy now deals with many detailed matters directly. The vision must be supported by no more than ten measurable outcomes, so progress can be monitored.

3.8 Our measurable outcomes should 'flow' from the aims and objectives of our vision, to outline how the desired changes will be delivered and measured. We believe the 'key priorities' for our vision and measurable outcomes are:

- Planning to deliver a sufficient number of new homes that are of the right size, type and tenure (both market and affordable homes) to meet needs and enhance sustainability
- Making available sufficient new employment land to enable sustainable economic growth which supports local businesses and inward investment
- Promoting the long-term vitality and viability of our town centres
- Protecting and enhancing the most important parts of our natural, built and historic environment
- Supporting the transition to net zero and planning for the mitigation and adaptation of our changing climate and the delivery of clean and renewable energy and water
- Delivering safe, healthy, well-designed, high quality and sustainable places for all with appropriate access to social infrastructure
- Promoting connectivity supported by effective communication systems and accessible/sustainable/active modes of transport
- Safeguarding mineral resources and ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods the country needs
- Meeting our future needs to re-use, recycle and responsibly dispose of waste materials generated in Knowsley



QUESTIONS

VISION

Q3.1 What key challenges and priorities do you think should inform the vision?

Q3.2 Do you agree with our 'key priorities' for our vision and measurable outcomes, as set out in paragraph 3.8? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q3.3 What do you think Knowsley should look like in 2045? Is there anything else you think we should include in our vision?

Q3.4 How do you think we should measure the success of the Vision and the Local Plan as a whole? Please provide any relevant measurable outcomes.

4. SPATIAL STRATEGY

4.1 The Local Plan's spatial strategy will establish how and where future development should take place over the plan period. This will include considering the borough's future housing and employment land needs, the role and function of individual settlements, the protection of land from development, accessibility to services and public transport, the capacity of infrastructure, and opportunities for regeneration and brownfield development.

4.2 The Local Plan will provide an appropriate **settlement hierarchy** that reflects the role, function, accessibility and growth potential of Knowsley's towns, centres, neighbourhoods and rural communities, helping to guide the distribution of future development.

4.3 **The amount of new development** identified will seek to ensure the Local Plan can support housing and economic development needs across different communities in line with national and local targets.

4.4 The Local Plan will identify settlements and their boundaries to define the edge of the urban areas and villages. These **settlement boundaries** will be used to support new development where it is in keeping with the scale, role and function of the settlement and restrict development proposals outside of settlements.

4.5 The Local Plan will identify the **location of new development**, taking into consideration infrastructure capacity; transport connectivity; the deliverability of land; the local environment including the most important parts of our natural; built and historic environment; and the amount of homes and employment land required to meet identified needs.

4.6 The Local Plan will set out key principles to direct development towards appropriate locations. These could be locations in or adjacent to existing settlements and the principles could include directing development towards sustainable locations that:

- Are well connected to jobs, services, education, healthcare and public transport, helping to reduce the need to travel and supporting more sustainable patterns of development
- Maintain and strengthen community cohesion by supporting the creation of inclusive, healthy and sustainable neighbourhoods with access to services, facilities, open spaces and community infrastructure
- Protect and enhance our most important environmental assets, including biodiversity, ecological networks, green and blue infrastructure, landscape character, heritage assets and areas of environmental importance
- Create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development

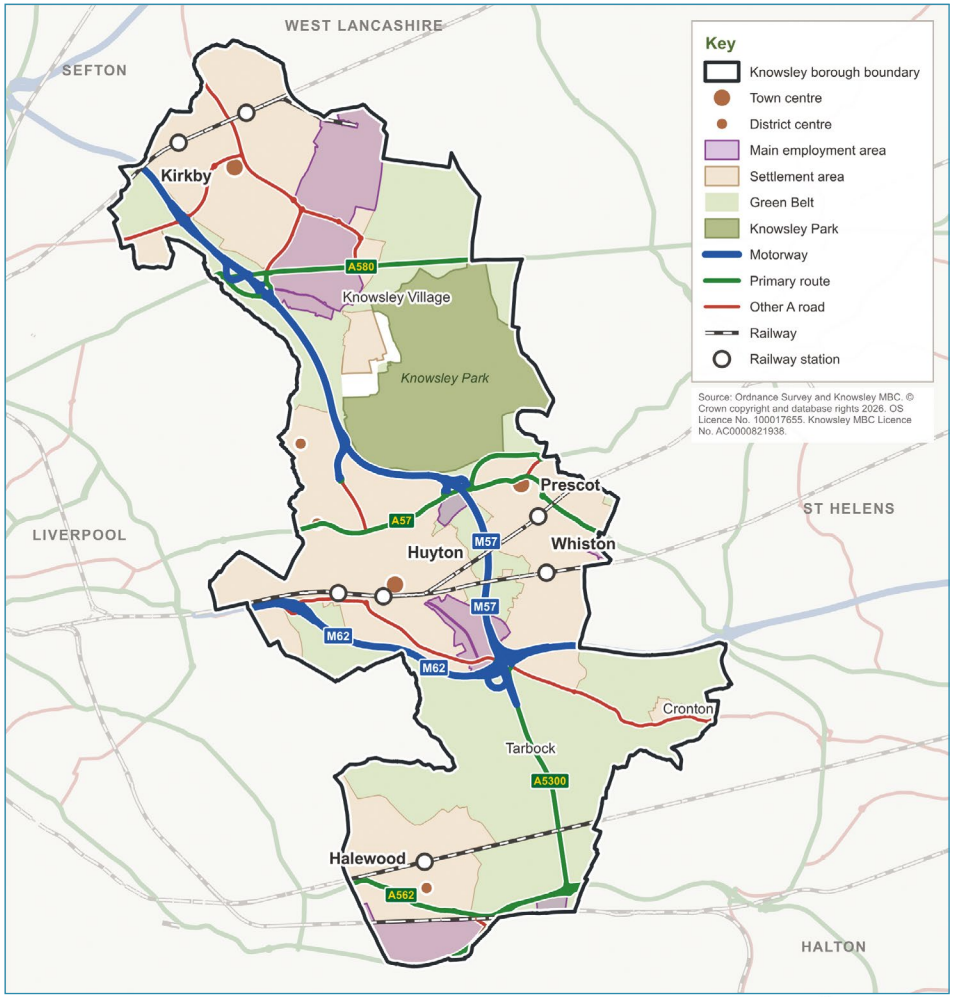


- Are well-connected, support active travel and help to create an integrated, sustainable and accessible transport network
- Make the most efficient use of available land, this could include reusing previously developed land and increasing the density of development
- Support the regeneration of previously developed and underused urban land, helping to revitalize town centres, neighbourhood centres and other areas in need of investment
- A balanced approach that incorporates all the above

4.7. As part of preparing the Local Plan the Green Belt will be reviewed and grey belt land will be identified. Where appropriate the Plan will seek to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development, recognising its role in preventing urban sprawl, safeguarding the borough's rural character, supporting biodiversity and providing opportunities for recreation.

4.8. A **Key Diagram** will illustrate the strategic priorities and approach set out within the Local Plan. It will provide an illustration of what the Local Plan is seeking to achieve, it will identify key areas for development, key infrastructure, protected areas and other areas of significance. A draft Key Diagram is shown in Figure 4.1 and identifies the borough's key features but doesn't show at this stage an emerging spatial strategy.

Figure 4.1: Draft Key Diagram





QUESTIONS

SPATIAL STRATEGY

Q4.1 Do you agree with the Spatial Strategy considerations we have outlined in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.6? For example, settlement hierarchy, amount of new development, settlement boundaries, location of new development? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q4.2 Which locations within Knowsley are best placed to accommodate future growth and why?

Q4.3 Do you agree with principles we have set out for sustainable locations in paragraph 4.6? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. PLACEMAKING, DESIGN AND HERITAGE



5.1 Placemaking is the process of creating attractive, sustainable and inclusive places that meet the needs and aspirations of local communities. It is about shaping buildings, streets, public spaces and landscapes that function well, are accessible to all, and help people feel connected to where they live, work and spend their time.

5.2 Good design and placemaking can improve quality of life by supporting health and wellbeing, encouraging social interaction, promoting active travel, enhancing safety, and fostering a strong sense of identity and belonging.

5.3 In Knowsley, we want to identify, protect and enhance the features that contribute to the distinct character of our towns, villages and rural areas. Understanding what makes each place unique will help ensure that new development responds positively to local context, reinforces local identity, and contributes to the creation of high-quality places.

5.4 Successful placemaking can be achieved through a range of measures, including:

- Establishing clear and locally specific design standards
- Conserving and enhancing heritage assets and their settings
- Protecting and improving green spaces, landscapes and biodiversity
- Creating attractive, accessible and safe public spaces
- Ensuring development responds positively to local history, culture and landscape character
- Creating opportunities for social interaction, recreation and community activity

5.5 Community involvement is central to the placemaking process. Engaging residents, businesses and stakeholders helps establish what good design means to local people and ensures planning policies reflect local priorities, aspirations and an understanding of the defining characteristics of each area.





WHAT MAKES A WELL-DESIGNED PLACE?

5.6 The National Design Guide identifies ten characteristics of well-designed places, grouped under the themes of character, community and climate. These characteristics provide a framework for achieving high-quality design while recognising that every place is different. Responding to these principles in a way that reflects local circumstances can help maintain and strengthen the distinctive character of Knowsley's towns and villages.

HERITAGE

5.7 Heritage assets, including listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, conservation areas, locally listed buildings and other non-designated heritage assets including archaeological sites, make a significant contribution to the character and distinctiveness of places. They provide a tangible link to the past, are a tangible educational resource, and help to create a strong sense of identity and belonging for local communities.

DID YOU KNOW?



DID YOU KNOW...
there are 106 Listed Buildings in Knowsley?



DID YOU KNOW...
there are 15 Conservation Areas in Knowsley?

The ten characteristics of well-designed places





5.8 Historic Parks and Conservation Area designations identify historic areas and landscapes and can help conserve and enhance these, while listed buildings can be local landmarks and/or reinforce local character. Non-designated heritage assets and locally listed assets, while not subject to statutory protections can be of considerable local significance and contribute positively to the appearance, history and cultural value of places. Together, these heritage assets can enrich the towns, villages and landscapes of Knowsley, support local pride, enhance placemaking, and help create attractive, distinctive and sustainable communities.

SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

5.9 The following are matters that it is considered could be included in the new Local Plan as elements it could address or influence:

- The Local Plan will play an important role in guiding the design and quality of future development. Design policies and design codes can provide a steer on how development should be planned and delivered
- Design policies can address matters such as siting, layout, height, massing, appearance and density, and how development should connect to its surroundings and relate to its context
- Heritage policies can help make sure that new development which affects heritage assets or their settings is designed with an understanding of their significance and reinforces the character of historic townscapes and landscapes
- Policies can also ensure that sites with archaeological potential are properly managed and support the sensitive reuse of historic buildings including those 'at risk' from neglect or decay
- The Local Plan can also identify opportunities to improve the management and condition of heritage assets in Knowsley through supporting heritage regeneration opportunities, the creation of a local list, and other heritage management tools

EVIDENCE

5.10 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 5: Design Summary
- Topic Paper 6: Historic and Built Environment Summary
- Settlement Assessment / Sustainability Study
- Knowsley Heritage and Character Assessment
- Landscape Character Assessment
- Connectivity and Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Assessment
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans
- National Character Area Profiles (Natural England)



QUESTIONS

PLACEMAKING, DESIGN AND HERITAGE

Q5.1 What physical features do you value in your area? For example, particular buildings, parks, public spaces, streets, landmarks or views. Please specify your area.

Q5.2 What physical features do you dislike? For example, places that feel unattractive or neglected, deteriorated buildings, underused spaces, poor connections between places, or areas that feel unsafe during the day or at night. Please specify your area.

Q5.3 What characteristics or features contribute most positively to the identity of your area? For example, particular buildings, landscape features, landmarks, views, community spaces, distinctive streets, topography, local traditions, or places that are important to local people. Please specify your area.

Q5.4 Are there any historic sites which you are concerned about due to their physical condition e.g. buildings, features, landscapes? If so, please indicate which historic sites you are concerned about and why?

Q5.5 What design features, materials or styles would contribute to local distinctiveness for future development? These may be features found in existing buildings and places, or new elements you would like to see included.

Q5.6 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 5.9 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included in paragraph 5.9.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q5.7 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 5.10 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

6.1 We want to guide development so residents can live healthy lives, supported by inclusive and accessible housing and facilities in inclusive communities. Everyone in Knowsley deserves the opportunity to have a good home. We want to make sure there are enough well-built homes for all residents now and in the future. We want the people of Knowsley to stay healthy for as long as possible by creating and supporting healthy environments and healthy places.

6.2 Access to open spaces, affordable fresh food, active transport modes and opportunities for sport and physical activity are just some of the factors that impact on our ability to seek healthy options.

6.3 We also want to create social value and in doing so, improve quality of life. Social value occurs when buildings, places, and infrastructure support environmental economic and social wellbeing. Securing social value through development reflects the principles of sustainable development.

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW...
by 2032, Knowsley is forecast to have a population of
172,423

DID YOU KNOW...
male life expectancy
77.7 years

DID YOU KNOW...
Female life expectancy
80.9 years

DID YOU KNOW...
13th most deprived local authority in England

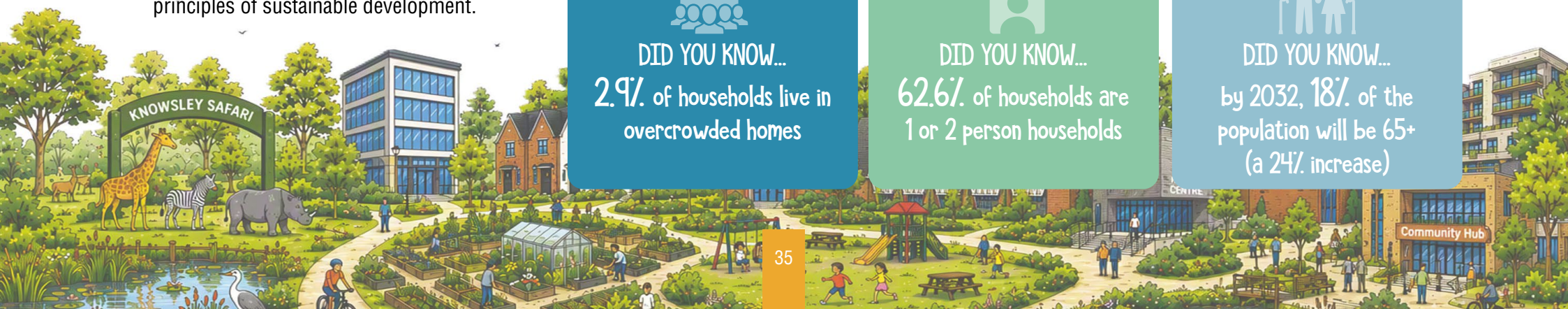
DID YOU KNOW...
£195,000 median house price, compared with £221,000 in the NW

DID YOU KNOW...
average monthly private rent
£860

DID YOU KNOW...
2.9% of households live in overcrowded homes

DID YOU KNOW...
62.6% of households are 1 or 2 person households

DID YOU KNOW...
by 2032, 18% of the population will be 65+ (a 24% increase)



HOUSING

6.4 The Local Plan will establish the number of new homes to be provided, along with policies to guide of the types of homes that we need to ensure we support the wide range of housing needs in Knowsley including affordable homes. The Local Plan will also distribute sites for the delivery of new homes in the most sustainable and appropriate locations.

6.5 The approach to calculating housing need is set nationally using a set formula which identifies the number of homes that the Local Plan will be expected to plan for. At the time of writing, using this formula means Knowsley will be required to plan for at least 631 new homes each year. If the local plan runs until 2045 this would mean that we would have to identify land which could accommodate approximately 12,000 new homes.

6.6 In Knowsley, new housing development should make efficient use of land by promoting higher-density homes in the Borough's most sustainable locations, particularly within town centres and areas with good access to public transport, employment opportunities, shops, services and community facilities. Higher-density development can support the delivery of much-needed housing, create vibrant and walkable neighbourhoods, and reduce the need to travel by private car. In these accessible locations, lower parking provision may be appropriate where it is supported by strong public transport links, high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure, and measures that encourage sustainable travel choices. This approach can help optimise land use, reduce carbon emissions, and contribute to the creation of attractive, healthy and sustainable communities across Knowsley.

6.7 Housing provision in Knowsley should deliver a balanced mix of dwelling sizes and types that meets the needs of current and future residents throughout all stages of life. New development should provide a range of homes, including smaller properties for first-time buyers, larger family homes, accessible and adaptable dwellings, and accommodation suitable for older people wishing to remain within their communities. The size and mix of housing should be informed by up-to-date evidence of local need and reflect the characteristics of individual neighbourhoods. By delivering a diverse housing stock, development can help create inclusive, sustainable communities, support changing household requirements, and ensure that people have access to homes that are appropriate, affordable and capable of meeting their long-term needs.

6.8 Affordable housing plays a vital role in meeting the housing needs of Knowsley's residents, particularly those who are unable to access suitable homes through the open market. The Borough has an established and significant need for affordable housing, driven by factors including house prices and private rents that remain beyond the reach of many households, changing demographic trends, and increasing demand from younger people, families and older residents. Between 2010 and 2026 3,001 affordable housing units have been completed in Knowsley, which is 31% of the total of new dwellings completed during the timeframe.



6.9 Affordable housing can include a range of tenures such as social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, First Homes and other forms of intermediate housing designed to assist people in securing a suitable home. Evidence indicates that the need for affordable housing is likely to increase in the future as household formation rises, economic pressures continue, and demand for accessible and specialist accommodation grows. New residential development should therefore make an appropriate contribution to affordable housing provision, helping to create mixed and balanced communities and ensuring that housing needs are met across all sections of society.

6.10 Through good planning, we can seek to ensure homes are well-designed and of high-quality, respecting the unique characteristics of our areas. We can also make sure there are a variety of homes to suit different stages of life from apartments and starter homes to family homes and homes for older people looking to downsize.

6.11 Many areas have a unique local character and architectural vernacular which could be better appreciated. Through the Local Plan, our policies can ensure developers build homes that reflect the heritage and character of that area.

6.12 We could also strengthen our policies around accessible design to incorporate design solutions for visual, hearing, cognitive and mobility impairments. Everybody should be accommodated within the built environment. This includes older people, those that are blind or partially sighted or use wheelchairs, children, those with pushchairs or those with a range of other disabilities.

6.13 Consideration could be given to the spaces outside of the home. Creating and maintaining accessible public spaces in our towns and villages is crucial to ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from playing a full role in society.

6.14 Climate change is a key consideration. Having new homes in the right places and providing walking and cycling access to local services, can all help to reduce our impact on the climate. Consideration can also be given to our position on building homes that have specific low carbon features such as solar panels and heat pumps.

6.15 To help provide affordable housing for those who need it, the Local Plan can include policies which set out the proportion of new homes that will be 'affordable housing'. Affordable housing can include affordable and social rented housing and a range of affordable homeownership opportunities including shared ownership.

6.16 Understanding what is most important to you when designing new homes will help inform our approach in the new Local Plan.









HEALTH

6.17 Good planning and design have an important role in helping to encourage healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.

6.18 The NPPF requires us to identify wider opportunities to promote good health, prevent ill-health and support social interaction, particularly through the Local Plan's spatial strategy, site allocations and through policies that strengthen town centres and promote active travel.

6.19 We will consider how we can promote good health through various policies in the new Local Plan for example, access to open space, contact with the natural environment, design that promotes activity and meets a variety of abilities, access to healthy food, and access to sports facilities were all important in helping you lead a healthy lifestyle.

6.20 We will explore how we can address through the new Local Plan any health issues you identify as being important to you.

SOCIAL VALUE

6.21 Social value is the additional economic, social, and environmental benefits a development delivers beyond its primary function for example housing delivery. It requires developers and public bodies to look beyond just financial costs, embedding social, economic, and environmental benefits into the built environment.

6.22 Social value aims to enhance community well-being by creating local jobs, boosting supply chains, and provide essential infrastructure like affordable housing and open spaces where they may not otherwise occur. Social value ties directly into of the NPPF's overarching objectives for the planning system, namely to build strong, vibrant, and healthy communities.

6.23 We aim to incorporate social value policies within the new Local Plans which require developers to make social value commitments, and for developments to deliver social value and maximise community benefits.



SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

6.24 The following are matters that it is considered that could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- The minimum number of homes needed
- The pattern, scale, provision and design quality of homes
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed
- The provision of healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health
- Provision and protection of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to meet local community needs
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity
- Address affordable housing, healthcare facilities, green spaces quality/provision and skills shortages by social value requirements e.g. a policy which requires Social Value Strategies

EVIDENCE

6.25 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 11: Housing Summary
- Topic Paper 12: Health and Wellbeing Summary
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)
- Urban Capacity Assessment
- Affordable Housing Viability Assessment
- Settlement Assessment / Sustainability Study
- Township Audit
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Social Value Strategy







QUESTIONS

SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Q6.1 Knowsley needs to plan for new homes over the Local Plan period. While making the best use of previously developed land and existing urban areas will remain a priority, there may not be enough suitable land within the Borough's urban areas to accommodate all new growth. Where should new homes be built?

Q6.2 What types of homes do we need? **(Please choose all that apply)**

- ☐ Affordable
- ☐ Children's homes
- ☐ Gypsy and Traveller pitches/sites
- ☐ Family homes
- ☐ Smaller homes
- ☐ Housing for older people
- ☐ Self & custom build
- ☐ Rented
- ☐ Other

Q6.3 How much of new housing development should be affordable?

Q6.4 What type of affordable housing tenure (e.g. social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, discounted market sales) do you consider is needed in Knowsley and why?

Q6.5 Would you rather see additional land allocated for new housing development, or support higher-density housing in sustainable locations, such as town and district centres and areas with good public transport access, where homes may be delivered in taller buildings with lower levels of parking provision? Please explain the reasons for your preference.

Q6.6 In response to paragraphs 6.17 to 6.20 how can the Local Plan contribute to a healthier Knowsley?

Q6.7 How well do services and facilities in your community meet your needs?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Well
- ☐ Not very well

Q6.8 In response to paragraphs 6.21 to 6.23 how can the Local Plan promote social value by ensuring that development contributes to inclusive economic growth, supports local employment and skills opportunities, enhances community wellbeing, and delivers wider benefits for existing and future residents?

Q6.9 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 6.24 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q6.10 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 6.25 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

7.1 Knowsley has a proud industrial and manufacturing heritage and is home to some of the UK's most successful businesses. Knowsley is recognised for its creativity, innovation and enterprise and the strength and diversity of its businesses. We want to support local people to achieve their full economic potential. We need to make sure the growth is sustained and new jobs are created. We need also spaces in our neighbourhoods for the local businesses and health, leisure and childcare services that keep our borough going.

EMPLOYMENT

7.2 Knowsley's economic assets are substantial and well located. Knowsley Business Park is one of the largest industrial areas in Europe and is located close to the M57 and A580 East Lancashire Road. The Industrial Park houses around 800 businesses and about 15,000 jobs – roughly a quarter of all the employee jobs in the borough. While internationally recognised advanced manufacturing industry with companies such as Jaguar Land Rover and Getrag operate from Halewood, bordering Liverpool. Kings Business Park in Huyton, close to the M57, and the land south of the M62 (Symmetry Park), Whiston provide higher quality business space close to motorway links.

7.3 The structure of the local economy is distinctive. Health and social work accounts for more than 20% of jobs, manufacturing accounts for about 15% (roughly twice the national share), and transport/storage and distribution a further 7.6%. Of around 3,460 registered business enterprises, roughly 3,000 (87%) are micro businesses that employ less than ten people.

7.4 The new Local Plan will use updated evidence to establish how much employment land and floorspace is needed, what types of premises and uses are required, and where they should be located.







DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW...
66,000
employee jobs based in Knowsley

DID YOU KNOW...
£4.7bn
a year economic output

DID YOU KNOW...
£105
a week more for a job based here than a resident earns

DID YOU KNOW...
1 in 3
working residents both live and work in Knowsley

TOWN CENTRES AND RETAIL

7.5 Knowsley currently has a retail hierarchy of centres comprising three town centres, at Kirkby, Huyton and Prescot; three district centres: Halewood (Ravenscourt), Liverpool Road (Page Moss) and Stockbridge Village; and a network of forty local centres and shopping parades. We will consider if this hierarchy is suitable for the new Local Plan.

7.6 Traditional retail uses are no longer sufficient in their own right to sustain many centres and in future their viability will depend upon a broader mix of uses including housing, leisure, culture, employment, education and community activities. Success will also hinge on bringing vacant buildings back into use and creating the conditions for independent businesses to thrive.

7.7 The NPPF requires Local Plans to be informed by a strategy for its retail centres and set out the hierarchy of centres including the location and extent of town centres and primary shopping areas. National policy now deals directly with hot food takeaways near schools.

LEISURE, CULTURE AND THE VISITOR ECONOMY

7.8 The borough performs above the national average in arts, entertainment and recreation, which accounts for around 1,750 jobs. Knowsley Safari and Shakespeare North Playhouse both contribute. However, Knowsley performs well below the national average in hotels, pubs and restaurants. Those account for around 2,500 jobs, under four per cent of employment against nearly eight per cent nationally.



SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

7.9 The following are matters that it is considered that could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- Identifying how much employment land and floorspace the borough needs, where it should go, and what it should be used for
- Provision of a range of employment opportunities, that are accessible in terms of both travel and skills
- Identify which employment areas are protected and how we will judge if this protection is not longer appropriate when other uses are proposed on them
- Ensure an appropriate range and variety of employment land is made available including new office and research space and smaller, flexible premises
- Promote appropriate opportunities that support the Freeport, the region's investment zone activity, Jaguar Land Rover and its supply chain, and by the continued renewal of Knowsley Industrial and Business Park
- Setting the hierarchy of centres, their boundaries and their primary shopping areas. This includes considering whether the commercial areas should reduce in size and other parts be considered for other uses such as new homes
- Supporting a mix of uses in the borough's retail centres
- Considering a local floorspace threshold for retail and leisure impact assessment which will be used to establish whether 'town centre uses' can be accommodated away from local centres, rather than relying on the national default of 2,500 square metres
- Allocating sites within centres for the uses each centre needs
- Supporting the borough's visitor economy and evening economy

EVIDENCE

7.10 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 9: Employment Summary
- Topic Paper 10: Retail Summary
- Employment Land Review
- Economic Development Needs Assessment
- Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment
- Town centre hierarchy and boundary review
- Town centre monitoring





QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Q7.1 Which of these should the Local Plan give most attention to when planning for Knowsley's economy? **(Rank up to three)**

- ☐ Protecting the employment land the borough already has
- ☐ Providing new employment land
- ☐ Small and affordable units for local businesses
- ☐ Higher-value sectors such as digital and professional services
- ☐ Freight, logistics and distribution
- ☐ The borough's tow, district and local centres
- ☐ The visitor and evening economy
- ☐ Local employment and skills opportunities linked to new development
- ☐ Making it easier to reach jobs without a car
- ☐ Something else (please tell us)

Q7.2 Do you agree that the new Local Plan should make provision for a range of employment land and premises to support business growth, investment and job creation across Knowsley? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.3 Do you agree that the new Local Plan should continue to support and strengthen key employment locations, including Knowsley Business Park, Symmetry Park and Halewood's advanced manufacturing sector? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.4 Do you support protecting existing employment areas from being lost to other types of development where appropriate? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.5 When should other uses be considered in existing employment areas?

Q7.6 Do you agree that town centre boundaries should be reviewed and other uses such as housing could be necessary to ensure their future prosperity? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.7 What land, premises or infrastructure would help your business start, stay or grow in Knowsley? Please tell us the type and size of premises you need, and anything that has stopped you finding it.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.8 In response to paragraph 7.6 do you support encouraging a wider mix of uses, such as housing, leisure, culture and community facilities, within Knowsley's town and district centres? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.9 Do you think Knowsley needs a locally defined floorspace threshold for retail and leisure impact assessment, rather than the national default of 2,500 square metres? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.10 Should the new Local Plan include policies to support the visitor economy, cultural assets and evening economy across the borough? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.11 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 7.9 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q7.12 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 7.10 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. RESILIENCE

8.1 We are facing a changing climate; extreme weather events including flooding and heatwaves are happening more frequently. Therefore, the Local Plan needs to build resilience to and mitigate against climate change and interconnected issues such as overheating, air quality and water management (drought and flood).



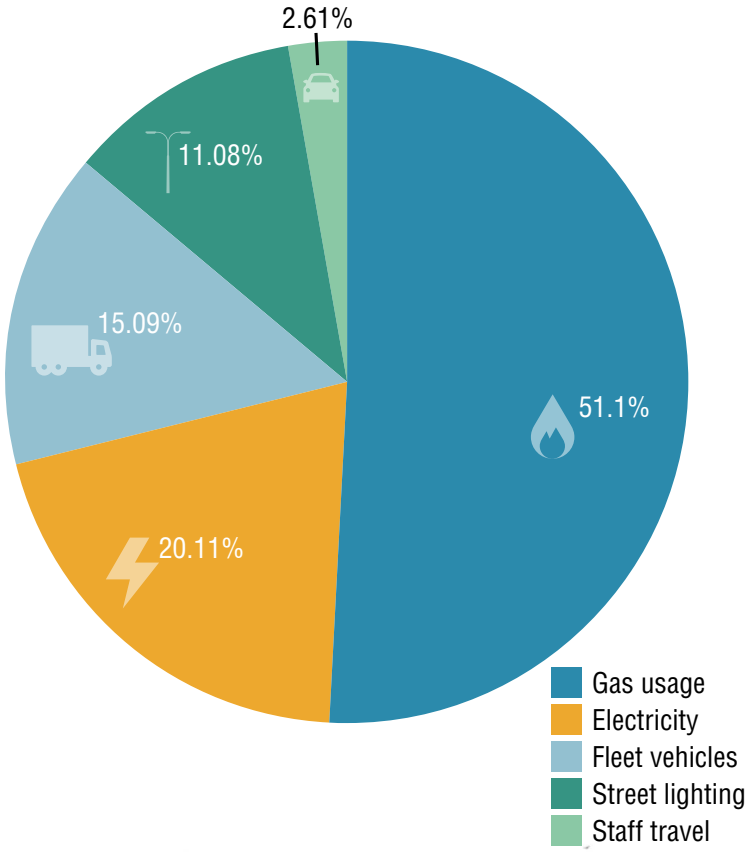
DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW...
emissions from street lights have reduced by 19% from 2022/23 to 2023/24 and by 80% since baseline emissions

DID YOU KNOW...
emissions from electricity usage have been reduced by 83% from baseline levels to 2022/23

DID YOU KNOW...
Knowsley has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 3.4% from 2022/23 to 2023/24

Knowsley's 2024/25 Emissions Breakdown





CLIMATE CHANGE

8.2 The UK has a legal requirement to reach net zero by 2050 while the Council's commitment is to become net zero by 2040. The Local Plan needs to support the transition to a low carbon future. This can be achieved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our activities and creating sustainable buildings that are resilient to climate change. It can also do this by making best use of brownfield sites and areas well served by walking, cycling and public transport. We also need to plan for an increased supply and use of renewable and low zero carbon energy generation.

8.3 The Local Plan needs to help ensure the borough's infrastructure, natural and built environment are better able to cope, recover or adapt from the effects of climate change. The mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts by integrating green infrastructure such as street trees or green roofs, promoting renewable energy, improving sustainable transport options, retrofitting buildings, and managing water resources effectively.

RENEWABLES

8.4 Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge, most of the greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy to heat our homes and power industry. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, water, geothermal, ocean energy, and bioenergy are abundant, replenished by nature, and emit little to no greenhouse gases or air pollutants. Renewables also offer an alternative to import dependency, and protection from the unpredictable price swings of fossil fuels, while driving inclusive economic growth, and providing new jobs. The Local Plan should support the transition to clean power by planning positively for the increased supply and use of renewable and low carbon energy and electricity network infrastructure.

FLOODING

8.5 Some areas of the borough are vulnerable to flash flooding from surface water run-off from heavy rainfall. This is dangerous for people and can damage properties. The Local Plan needs to help ensure the borough's infrastructure, natural and built environment are better able to cope, recover or adapt from the effects of climate change.

8.6 Development and increased population place additional pressure on water management and ecosystems. Increased urban runoff must be managed effectively to prevent both flooding and pollution. New development must safeguard both new and existing areas against flooding and provide opportunities to reduce flood risk. Local Plans should be informed by an up-to-date strategic flood risk assessment which considers current and future flood risk from all sources, including cumulative impacts in, or affecting, areas susceptible to flooding.



AIR QUALITY

8.7 Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions are closely linked, as many activities that produce greenhouse gases, such as road transport, energy generation and industrial processes, also release pollutants that can harm human health and the environment. Local Plans can play a role in reducing both emissions and air pollution by promoting sustainable patterns of development. By integrating air quality and climate objectives into plan-making it can contribute to healthier communities while supporting the transition to a low-carbon future.

WATER MANAGEMENT

8.8 Water management is a critical component of climate change resilience, as changing weather patterns are expected to increase the frequency and intensity of flooding, droughts and extreme rainfall events. The Local Plan plays a key role in ensuring that new development is located and designed to minimise flood risk, safeguard water resources and enhance the natural water environment. Through policies that promote sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), protect floodplains, improve water efficiency and support the restoration of rivers, wetlands and other blue-green infrastructure, the Local Plan can help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. Effective water management not only reduces vulnerability to flooding and water scarcity but also delivers wider environmental benefits, including improved biodiversity, enhanced water quality and more attractive, resilient places.

SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

8.9 The following are matters that it is considered that could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- Explore policies on developer contributions which deliver mitigation for climate change resilient infrastructure
- Promote well designed, energy efficient buildings that take seek to mitigate and adapt to potential impacts of climate change. This could include the provision of cooling and ventilation strategies, the use of photovoltaic panels, support for electric vehicle charging, support for recycling and reuse facilities, implementing more scenic and safe cycling and walking routes to encourage access to these energy efficient buildings, and support to adequate insulation to reduce the need for gas heating
- Support the inclusion of green and blue infrastructure within development, and the wider urban area to help to reduce the impact of heatwaves and reduce the urban heat island effect
- Seek to reduce emissions from transport by supporting active travel and sustainable transport modes, supporting the provision of EV charging points, and by locating developments in accessible locations or locations that can be made more accessible



- Promote development that minimises energy demand and maximises energy efficiency
- Providing criteria-based policies for the delivery of a range of renewable and low carbon energy technologies
- Seek the integration of appropriate multifunctional sustainable drainage systems, to ensure the long-term resilience of new development
- Reducing the risk of flooding in new developments
- Promote sustainable water management and if it is evidenced and considered appropriate include water efficiency targets, over and above the baseline set by building regulations
- Look for applicants to undertake whole life carbon assessments, identifying the level of embodied and operation emissions that arise from a development
- Identify areas in the borough where further consideration may be required in relation to air quality management to reduce the likelihood of air quality management areas being introduced
- Identify areas where renewable energy infrastructure such as solar farms, wind turbines and battery farms can be located

EVIDENCE

8.10. We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 2: Climate Change Summary
- Topic Paper 3: Air Quality Summary
- Knowsley's Air Quality Strategy 2024-27
- Knowsley's Net Zero Delivery Plan
- Knowsley's Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030
- Knowsley Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Knowsley's Heat Decarbonisation Plan
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)







QUESTIONS

RESILIENCE

Q8.1 Do you agree that the Local Plan should prioritise measures to increase resilience to climate change, including flooding, heatwaves and drought? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.2 In response to paragraphs 8.3 and 8.4 do you support the inclusion of policies that require new developments to be energy efficient and incorporate renewable energy technologies where appropriate? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.3 Do you agree with paragraph 8.7 that the Local Plan should promote walking, cycling and public transport to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.4 Do you agree that the Local Plan should identify areas where additional measures may be needed to improve air quality and reduce pollution from development and transport? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.5 Do you agree with paragraph 8.8 with supports the requirement for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in new developments to help manage surface water and reduce flood risk? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.6 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 8.9 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q8.7 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 8.10 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. INFRASTRUCTURE

9.1 We want residents and visitors to Knowsley to have the places and services they need to live healthy and happy lives. To achieve this, we must identify infrastructure needs generated across the borough and decide how any shortcomings will be delivered. We will plan for new facilities and infrastructure in the right places to support new development. We also need to safeguard and improve the facilities people already use. This includes transport, schools, parks, health centres, community buildings and digital infrastructure.

9.2 The delivery of the full range of infrastructure needs requires working across a variety of public, private and voluntary sectors. Whilst infrastructure funding typically is reinvested in the immediate area, such as through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 agreements, understanding how your thoughts on where infrastructure could be improved matters to us and our approach to the upkeep of existing infrastructure, and the provision of future infrastructure.

9.3 Whilst our focus is firmly on Knowsley and development within the borough boundaries, cross-boundary infrastructure also plays a significant role in providing residents with the day-to-day facilities that support their livelihoods. An evidence base that will be key in the establishment of a regional infrastructure framework is the Liverpool City Region Strategic Infrastructure Plan, which examines existing, funded, planned and aspirational infrastructure across the City Region. This is being prepared by the LCRCA alongside the SDS.

DID YOU KNOW?

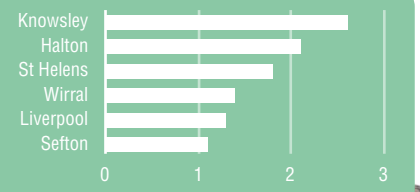
DID YOU KNOW...
97% of premises in Knowsley have access to gigabit-capable broadband

DID YOU KNOW...
The number of cars and vans in Knowsley increased by approximately 24% between 2011-2021

DID YOU KNOW...
There are 5 libraries in Knowsley, including a free home delivery service for residents who may struggle to visit in person

DID YOU KNOW...
To achieve net zero by 2040 across the LCR, cycling and walking trips will need to increase by between 8%-36%

DID YOU KNOW...
Knowsley had the highest transport-related greenhouse gas emissions per resident across the LCR in 2024, at 1.94 tonnes CO_2e per person



DID YOU KNOW...
Transport emissions per capita

TRANSPORT

9.4 Knowsley has a mix of transport networks that service a range of local needs. Located between Liverpool, Warrington and Manchester, the borough benefits from excellent east to west rail links, as well as a key strategic highway corridor with the M62 and A580 that also run east to west. The M57 and A5300 are useful highway corridors running vertically through the borough, but north to south connectivity via public transport is not as extensive as the east to west offering.

9.5 Due to where Knowsley is located, with large employers both within and outside of the borough boundaries and ongoing economic growth in the borough, there has been a noticeable increase in car ownership in the borough since 2011. Therefore, Knowsley's transport network needs to be well-integrated and accessible to all. Offering reliable alternatives to private transport that promote modal shift and active travel will enable sustainable growth and are fundamental to the borough's development, as it allows for more convenient transport, that is also more climate resilient.

DIGITAL AND COMMUNICATIONS

9.6 Knowsley's digital and communications infrastructure is integrated into the broader Liverpool City Region network, with focus on both futureproofing the borough's digital offering and supporting residents to engage with the modern digital world.

9.7 The borough is one of the better-connected areas in the UK, with full-fibre broadband available in over 90% of the borough and superfast coverage available in 99%. Reliable communication infrastructure is an asset to businesses operating in Knowsley in an increasingly digital workplace, facilitating daily operations and helping modernise operations.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

9.8 Community facilities are essential to creating sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities, providing access to services and amenities such as schools, healthcare facilities, community centres, libraries, sports facilities, places of worship and other social infrastructure. The local plan plays a vital role in ensuring that existing community facilities are protected and enhanced, while also identifying and securing the provision of new facilities to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Through the allocation of land, the promotion of accessible locations and the integration of community infrastructure within new developments, the local plan will help to support social cohesion, improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and foster a strong sense of place and community pride.







SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

9.9 The following are matters that it is considered could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- Aim to reduce per-capita transport emissions to conform with LCR expectations
- Look to provide more attractive alternative transport modes to private car transport including through the identification of sites and routes that will help to widen transport choice
- Strive to reduce inter-ward deficiencies in transport exclusion
- Promote the use of electric vehicles by incorporating new charging infrastructure in new development and providing parking standards
- Ensuring new development is supported by sustainable patterns of movement and is located appropriate to the needs of the intended residents
- Strengthen local community connection by supporting active travel modal change
- Progress the schemes outlined in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Support digital connectivity including the roll-out of 5G broadband across the borough in line with NPPF to allow new development and residents to benefit from quicker and more reliable broadband
- Focusing new development in areas that have the necessary infrastructure capacity regarding community facilities
- Align development principles with Knowsley's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) when it is published; this will outline where funding is available and suitable development gaps that can be filled
- Support the LCR in its Bus Improvement Plan and the continuing expansion of zero-emission hydrogen buses

EVIDENCE

9.10 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 4: Transport Summary
- Local Transport Plan
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Knowsley's Net Zero Delivery Plan
- Knowsley's Climate Delivery Plan 2025-2030
- Knowsley Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Knowsley Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Transport modelling



QUESTIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Q9.1 Are there any specific opportunities you can detail for the development of community facilities and public service infrastructure?

Q9.2 What infrastructure do you need near to you?

Q9.3 Are there any specific locations that would benefit from more active travel infrastructure, for example a cycle path, secure bike parking, wider pavements?

Q9.4 What do you think would help break down barriers surrounding cycling in Knowsley?

Q9.5 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 9.9 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q9.6 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 9.10 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. SPACES

10.1 The landscape of Knowsley is surprisingly varied for a borough within the Liverpool City Region. It consists of a mix of urban settlements, countryside, farmland, parkland, and woodland. Much of the borough lies on the gently undulating Lancashire Plain, with low ridges and broad areas of agricultural land separating the main towns of Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot and Halewood. Key characteristics of the Knowsley landscape include:

- Extensive countryside between settlements, helping to maintain the separate identity of communities and providing a rural setting to the urban areas
- Agricultural farmland, particularly in the eastern and southern parts of the borough around Cronton, Tarbock and Knowsley Village
- Historic parkland, most notably the estate surrounding Knowsley Hall and Knowsley Safari Park, which contains mature woodland, lakes, grazing land and designed landscapes
- Woodland, trees and green corridors that provide important wildlife habitats and visual relief within the urban fringe
- Reclaimed landscapes and country parks, such as Stadt Moers Park, where former industrial land has been restored to create recreational and ecological assets

10.2 Knowsley's landscape is described as an urban fringe landscape, where developed areas are closely interwoven with countryside and green infrastructure. The borough's rural villages, open land and network of green spaces are important environmental assets that contribute significantly to local character, biodiversity, recreation and residents' quality of life. We want to ensure new development protects and enhances Knowsley's 'spaces' to deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.





DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW...

Wildlife Sites

The Annual Local Wildlife Site Monitoring Report for 2024-25 reported that only 12% of local wildlife sites in Knowsley were in good condition, 75% in moderate and 13% in poor condition. In addition to this only 12% of sites were in positive conservation management

DID YOU KNOW...

Forests

The Mersey Forest Plan aims to reach 15% tree cover across Cheshire and Merseyside by 2050 (from a 2025 baseline of 13.7%), pushing beyond this, if possible, towards a long-term ambition of 30% tree cover

DID YOU KNOW...

Rivers

Less than 1% of rivers in the Liverpool City Region are in good ecological status, compared to 14% nationally

DID YOU KNOW...

Greenspaces

The 'Engagement in Nature Liverpool City Region Survey' found that 40% of respondents spend their daily free time in greenspaces



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

10.3 Green infrastructure includes parks and gardens, green spaces, green corridors such as rivers and canals, sustainable drainage systems, features for species, street trees and community orchards. Green infrastructure is used to safeguard and improve carbon storage and support nature recovery and resilience. The Local Plan should identify both existing and proposed green infrastructure networks, setting out policies for their protection, enhancement and management. These policies must be evidence-based and include assessments of green infrastructure quality, and any gaps in their provisions.

SPORT AND RECREATION

10.4 In Knowsley, the scope of sport and recreation encompasses a wide range of facilities and opportunities, including parks, playing fields, sports pitches, leisure centres, recreational open spaces, walking and cycling networks, and informal areas for physical activity.

The Local Plan has a key role in protecting existing sport and recreation assets from unnecessary loss, whilst supporting the provision of new and enhanced facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents. Through policies that promote accessible, high-quality and well-connected recreational infrastructure, the Local Plan can help tackle health inequalities, encourage active lifestyles and strengthen community cohesion. It can also support the multifunctional use of green spaces, delivering benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience and placemaking. By ensuring that sport and recreation opportunities are integrated into both existing communities and new developments, the Local Plan contributes to healthier, more vibrant and resilient neighbourhoods across Knowsley.

10.5 We feel a recreation mitigation policy is necessary to ensure the increased demand for recreational facilities and open spaces arising from new development does not result in adverse impacts on existing amenities, protected sites, biodiversity, or the quality of the recreational experience, and that appropriate measures are secured to maintain and enhance provision for current and future users.

BIODIVERSITY

10.6 Biodiversity is a fundamental component of sustainable development, supporting healthy ecosystems, climate resilience and the wellbeing of communities. The Local Plan has a crucial role in conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity by guiding development to appropriate locations, protecting wildlife sites and ensuring that adverse impacts on ecological networks are avoided, minimised or adequately mitigated. Through policies that promote habitat creation, green infrastructure, nature recovery and biodiversity net gain, the Local Plan can help reverse biodiversity decline while accommodating growth and development.

10.7 Integrating biodiversity considerations into Plan also provides wider benefits, including improved landscape quality, enhanced ecosystem services, greater



resilience to climate change and increased opportunities for recreation and access to nature. By embedding the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at the heart of the planning process, the Local Plan contributes to the creation of more sustainable, attractive and resilient places for current and future generations.

10.8 The Environment Act set mandatory requirement for developments to boost overall biodiversity value by at least 10%. This is often referred to as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and it ensures that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development. The Local Plan can include a policy detailing how BNG should be delivered in their area, link requirements to local habitat priorities, and align with Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

TREES AND WOODLAND

10.9 Trees are important features in our towns, villages and countryside delivering a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits. They play an important role in mitigating and adapting to climate change by capturing and storing carbon, improving air quality, reducing urban heat island effects, managing surface water runoff and supporting biodiversity. Trees and woodlands also contribute to landscape character, health and wellbeing, recreational opportunities and the overall quality of the built environment. The Local Plan has a key role in protecting existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, particularly ancient woodland and veteran trees, while promoting new tree planting and woodland creation as part of sustainable development.

10.10 Through policies that safeguard important, treed landscapes, strengthen green infrastructure networks and require appropriate landscaping within new developments, the Local Plan can help increase canopy cover, enhance ecological connectivity and create more resilient and attractive places. By ensuring that trees and woodlands are conserved, enhanced and expanded, the Local Plan contributes to environmental sustainability, climate resilience and the creation of healthier communities.

GREEN BELT

10.11 Area of Knowsley's countryside and land around built-up areas are designated as Green Belt. The Local Plan has a key role in defining Green Belt boundaries and through its policies it will seek to balance the need for new development with the need to define the urban edge and to prevent urban sprawl.





SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

10.12 The following are matters that it is considered that could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- Support for the provision of green infrastructure within development, and if supported by evidence, local standards for green infrastructure
- Maintaining or enhancing the quantity and quality of biodiversity and habitats, to provide corridors and homes for species throughout the borough this could include consideration of biodiversity net gain standards and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- The management and retention of trees, Knowsley has a duty under the Town and Country Planning Act to ensure tree and woodland preservation wherever it is appropriate
- Ensure high quality sports and recreational facilities are accessible to local residents by protecting and promoting existing sport and recreation provision and supporting improvements and new provision where appropriate
- Support the creation of spaces that promote social interaction and active lifestyles including high-quality public realm and open spaces
- Set standards based on local evidence for the provision of different types of open space including outdoor recreational land, play sport, informal recreation and allotments, from any major residential developments
- Seek to prevent development where it results in substantial harm or the loss of an open space, sport or recreational facility, and identify the limited circumstances when the harm or loss may be considered acceptable, for example, where a replacement is provided of better quality, or the facilities were surplus
- Whether the extent of the Green Belt is appropriate and if any land needs to be added to or removed from the Green Belt

EVIDENCE

10.13 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 7: Natural Environment and Biodiversity Summary
- Topic Paper 8: Sport and Recreation Summary
- Knowsley's Greenspace Action Plan
- Knowsley Net Zero Delivery Plan 2026-2030
- Open space Assessment
- Playing pitch assessment
- Green Belt Review
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites



QUESTIONS

SPACES

Q10.1 Do you agree that the Local Plan should protect and enhance Knowsley's green infrastructure network, including parks, green spaces, green corridors and street trees? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.2 Do you agree with paragraphs 10.3 and 10.4 and support the creation of new open spaces, recreational facilities and public realm improvements as part of major residential developments where appropriate? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.3 Do you agree with paragraphs 10.6 to 10.8 and support policies that require new developments to deliver biodiversity improvements? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.4 Do you agree with paragraphs 10.9 and 10.10 that the Local Plan should seek the protection of existing trees, woodlands, hedgerows, ancient woodland and veteran trees? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.5 Do you agree with paragraph 10.11 that the Local Plan should continue to protect Green Belt land from inappropriate development while meeting the borough's development needs? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.6 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 10.12 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q10.7 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 10.13 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

☐ Yes ☐ No

11. MINERALS AND WASTE

11.1 Minerals play an important role in our everyday life. They provide the raw materials needed for construction and are used in a wide range of products and industrial processes. Knowsley has a history of coal mining and clay extraction (e.g. for brick manufacture) and a small part of the borough contains silica sand deposits which may be suitable for special industrial uses. Currently, there are no active mineral extraction sites in Knowsley.

11.2 Effective waste management is also essential to maintaining our quality of life. Waste collection, treatment and disposal facilities help ensure that waste from homes, businesses and industry is managed safely, efficiently and sustainably.

11.3 Planning for minerals and waste is important to support the needs of our communities, both now and in the future. It helps to ensure that the necessary resources and infrastructure are available, while also considering the impact that minerals and waste developments can have on local communities and the environment. We should reuse and recycle more whenever possible. Using recycled aggregates, secondary aggregates and waste as a resource can help to reduce the use of finite resources.

DID YOU KNOW



DID YOU KNOW... Cronton Colliery was mined from 1912 until 1984



DID YOU KNOW... 43,000 tonnes of maroon bin waste was collected in 2025

MINERALS

11.4 Minerals are necessary to meet society's needs. We need enough materials to build homes, roads and other developments. We also need to make sure there will be enough minerals available in the longer-term future too. Minerals are a finite resource and can only be extracted in certain places, with mineral working only a temporary activity. Once extraction has finished and sites have been restored, they can provide opportunities to enhance the local environment and landscape.

11.5 Knowsley forms part of the Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Warrington Local Aggregate Assessment. The assessment highlights that this is a predominantly urban area, with limited opportunities to expand existing quarries or develop new extraction sites. As a result, the sub-region often requires imported aggregates to meet its needs.



WASTE

11.6 The waste hierarchy is a key mechanism for the delivery of sustainable waste management, it ranks different waste management methods, with prevention and reuse at the top and disposal at the bottom.

11.7 Another mechanism for sustainable waste management is the 'proximity principle', which looks for waste to be managed in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by the most appropriate method.

Figure 11.1: The waste hierarchy



SCOPE OF THE LOCAL PLAN

11.8 The following are matters that it is considered that could be included in the new Knowsley Local Plan as elements that the plan could address or influence:

- Identify and safeguard mineral resources
- Encourage the use of recycled and secondary minerals
- Seek the provision of a sufficient capacity of waste management facilities
- Promote high-quality design and working practices in waste management
- Minimise the impacts of minerals and waste development on local communities and human health in relation to matters such as noise, dust, vibration, odour, light pollution, traffic, access, and visual impact
- Ensure minerals and waste developments conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of Knowsley and the wider area

EVIDENCE

11.9 We have identified the following current and potential pieces of evidence as being important to inform the development of planning policies for the Knowsley Local Plan:

- Topic Paper 13: Minerals and Waste Summary
- Local Aggregate Assessment
- Local Waste Assessment





QUESTIONS

MINERALS AND WASTE

Q11.1 Do you know of any locations that would be appropriate for minerals or waste uses in the future? Please provide brief details here and a more detailed response through the Call for sites process.

Q11.2 What do you consider will be the most appropriate way of safeguarding minerals for the future?

Q11.3 How should we identify appropriate locations for waste management development? – Allocations / areas of search identified / criteria-based policy / other.

Q11.4 Do you think the matters identified as being within the Scope of the Local Plan in paragraph 11.8 are appropriate? If not, please identify any additional matters that you think should be considered, or any matters that you think should not be included.

Q11.5 Do you think the evidence base identified in paragraph 11.9 is appropriate? If not, please identify any additional evidence, studies or information that you think should be considered.

12. ALLOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS

12.1 A Local Plan sets out how much development is required and where it should go. We need to ensure that the right amount and type of development is directed to the right places. Therefore, the Local Plan will allocate land to meet the future needs of the area and designate land for certain uses. But, this consultation does not contain any proposed site allocations or land designations for housing or other uses, these will be consulted on later in the plan-making process when the need for these types of development has been established.

12.2 However, government guidance is clear that it is essential to carry out a thorough audit of available land when starting to prepare a new Local Plan. Therefore, the Council has issued a 'Call for Sites' alongside this scoping document to provide the opportunity for you and landowners, site promoters, developers or other interested parties to make suggestions for any sites you believe should be considered when we are developing the new Local Plan. This could include sites that you think might be suitable for housing, employment uses, community uses, shops, visitor attractions, services or a mixture of uses. It can include greenfield sites, previously developed land or sites with potential for re-development, re-use or intensification. You can also suggest sites that you consider should be protected or retained for their current uses for example play areas or sports pitches.

12.3 To ensure new development is supported by the right infrastructure, the Local Plan will identify the local infrastructure needed to accompany allocations. This will include primary and secondary education provision, healthcare capacity, active travel links, utilities, and open space, play and sports facilities. These requirements will be based on an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan and evidence provided by service providers.

12.4 The NPPF is clear that the preparation of local plans should be informed by a Green Belt assessment. It also sets out that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered through the preparation of local plans and where exceptional circumstances and fully evidenced. These exceptional circumstances can now include a shortage of homes or business space. This Local Plan will consider the boundaries of the Green Belt.

12.5 If a local authority does not have a current Local Plan or cannot demonstrate the certainty of housing land supply for the next five years, national planning policies will take precedence. This means councils may find it more difficult to refuse planning applications, even if they go against local preferences.



QUESTIONS

ALLOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS

Q12.1 Do you agree that the Council should consider all reasonable site options, including those submitted through the Call for Sites process, before deciding which sites to allocate in the Local Plan? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q12.2 When the Council are considering sites for development, which of the following considerations do you think we should give highest priority? **(Please rank them)**

- ☐ Access to sustainable travel such as a bus service or train station
- ☐ The need for new homes/employment land
- ☐ Proximity to the town centre
- ☐ Access to local services such as education and health
- ☐ Re-use of brownfield land
- ☐ Protection of urban green spaces
- ☐ Protection of the green belt
- ☐ Delivering higher density schemes
- ☐ Protection of designated heritage assets
- ☐ Other (please provide details)

Q12.3 What do you consider should be the top priorities that development should, where possible, contribute towards? For example, affordable homes, educational facilities, health care facilities, transport infrastructure, open space improvements, social value, climate change mitigation. Please explain your answer.

Q12.4 Do you support the use of Local Plan designations to protect valued environmental, recreational and community assets while directing development to the most appropriate locations? If not, why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. NEXT STEPS

13.1 Following the close of the first consultation period on 5 January 2027, the Council will review all feedback to the scoping consultation and Call for Sites exercise. Responses will be analysed to identify key issues, opportunities and concerns raised, helping to ensure we are aligned with the views of Knowsley's residents and stakeholders from the beginning of the plan-making process. Reviewing consultation responses will help us to:

- Understand local priorities and aspirations for growth and development
- Identify potential planning issues that may need investigating
- Refine the scope of evidence that will inform Local Plan content
- Consider additional themes, sites or opportunities that arise from consultation

GATEWAY 1 SELF-ASSESSMENT

13.2 We understand the importance of listening to feedback and we want to ensure that your feedback is being taken onboard. Once the scoping consultation period has concluded, we will complete a self-assessment as mandated by the Government's new plan-making framework, informed by feedback from the consultation stage. The Council are required by Government to publish the Gateway 1 self-assessment before 30 April 2027.

13.3 As required by the self-assessment framework, we will review and confirm:

- The scope and objectives of the Local Plan
- The key planning issues and opportunities facing Knowsley
- The development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- The programme and timetable for plan preparation
- Governance and decision-making arrangements
- Knowsley's engagement strategy for stakeholders and community engagement
- The evidence requirements to support plan preparation

13.4 Consultation feedback will be published after the Gateway 1 self-assessment, providing a summarised overview of the main issues raised throughout the engagement period, followed by a response to how we will address these issues in the new Local Plan.

13.5 Passing through Gateway 1 signifies Knowsley's readiness to commence the development of a new Local Plan, with the necessary foundations in place to support the deliverance of a sound, deliverable and legally complaint Local Plan.



The evidence base will continue to be developed to inform the emerging vision, spatial strategy and policy framework that will be consulted on in the second consultation stage: Local Plan content and evidence.

LOCAL PLAN CONTENT AND EVIDENCE CONSULTATION

13.6 The information gathered through this scoping consultation, together with the supporting evidence and ongoing stakeholder engagements, will support the preparation of a Proposed Content and Evidence document, which in turn will trigger the second formal consultation period, currently timetabled for autumn 2027.

13.7 The Content and Evidence Base document will establish different options that we could consider during plan-making. It will include:

- A vision – this will describe the type of place we aspire to make Knowsley in the future
- Aims and objectives – including up to 10 measurable outcomes that helps ensure the vision is developing as intended
- A spatial strategy – a broad framework that sets out the long-term approach to the location of development such as housing, employment and infrastructure across Knowsley
- Policy approaches – proposed approach to the planning policy to be contained within the Local Plan.
- An evidence base summary – bringing together the technical studies and evidence that have supported the plan-making process to this stage

MOVING FORWARD

13.8 The Council recognises the importance of preparing a Local Plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of Knowsley's communities while supporting sustainable growth, environmental improvement and economic prosperity. The Scoping Consultation is therefore an important first step in a wider plan-making process that will continue over the coming years.







Knowsley Council would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to engage with this consultation and looks forward to continuing to work with communities and stakeholders in shaping Knowsley's future.





Knowsley Council

Knowsley BETTER TOGETHER

Designed by Knowsley Communications. Copyright © 2026 Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley