



# Sefton Local Plan

(Proposed Modifications)



**Sustainability Appraisal Addendum**

**(update)**

**May 2016**

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# 1 Introduction

1.1 AECOM is commissioned to undertake a sustainability appraisal (SA) in support of the Sefton Local Plan. SA is a process for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. This Addendum has been prepared to document the implications of proposed modifications to the Local Plan.

1.2 An SA Addendum was published in December 2015, to present an appraisal of the modifications proposed at that time. This latest Addendum presents an updated appraisal, which considers the sustainability implications of the most recent proposed modifications to the Plan.

1.3 It is important to read this addendum alongside the main SA Report which contains further detail on the scope of the SA and provides the context in which these policies have developed<sup>1</sup>.

## 2 Non-technical summary

2.1 The Council has proposed a number of modifications to Plan policies. These modifications have been subject to sustainability appraisal to identify any significant effects on the environment, economy and communities.

### 2.1 Summary of changes

2.2 The Council has proposed a series of changes to the Local Plan. Some of these changes are minor and are unlikely to lead to any significant effects. Other changes are considered to be ‘major’ and thus here is potential for some effects upon the environment, economy or communities. These changes are summarised in the table below and are the focus of this SA Addendum.

Policy	Summary of proposed modifications
<b>MN1 Housing and employment requirements</b>	Commitment to a plan review and an additional 500 homes to be planned for.
<b>MN2 Site allocations</b>	Some sites have been deleted / added
<b>MN3 Land East of Maghull</b>	Housing will not be permitted until an SPD has been produced. Clarity on the minimum older persons housing that should be provided. Clarity on the need to provide a distributor road and bus route. Clarity on the improvements to existing rights of way. Clarity on the need to reduce flood risk and avoid zones 2 and 3
<b>MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate</b>	Site deleted.

<sup>1</sup> This report is an Addendum to the Main SA Report, and should be read as such. It is not intended to represent an ‘SA Report’ in the context of the SEA Regulations, which requires the presentation of certain information in the SA Report. It is not appropriate, proportionate or in the interests of effective consultation to repeat all this information in the Addendum.

<b>MN6A Moss Lane, Churchtown</b>	New policy.
<b>MN8: Safeguarded sites</b>	Change to site boundaries.
<b>ED2 Retail and Town Centres</b>	<p>Clarity that retail, leisure and other town centre uses located outside of existing centres must demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that they would not prejudice the delivery of existing, committed, and planned public and private investment within any existing defined centres</li> <li>• that no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any existing centres will arise from the proposed development, including to local consumer choice and trade in defined centres and the wider area, up to five years from the time the application is made.</li> </ul>
<b>ED3 Primarily Industrial Areas</b>	Clarify and strengthen the importance of ensuring B1, B2 and B8 are prioritised.
<b>ED5: Tourism</b>	Changes widen the influence of the policy, which is more positive. Update SA to reflect this (though <u>significant</u> effects are unlikely)
<b>ED7: Southport Central Area</b>	Positive implications for heritage.
<b>ED8: Southport seafront</b>	Removal of Marine Park element (though this is now a separate policy).
<b>ED8A Marine Park</b>	New policy
<b>ED8B: Aintree Racecourse</b>	New policy
<b>HC2: Housing mix, type and choice</b>	Threshold for applying mix and tenure splits increased from 15 to 25 dwellings. Threshold for accessibility standards increased from 15-50 dwellings. Addition of clause relating to custom and self-build homes. These changes are likely to have effects on the SA findings.
<b>IN2: Transport</b>	Clause 7 ought to have positive implications for the reduction of heavy goods traffic and carbon emissions.
<b>EQ2: Design</b>	Changes relating to areas of lesser quality ought to be positive, by encouraging enhancement rather than continuation of negative trends. The addition of a clause requiring consideration of solar gain is more positive than the draft policy with regards to energy and climate change. The addition of requirements relating to urban edge sites ought to have positive effect on landscape character. Overall, the changes are likely to lead to changes to the SA findings.

<b>EQ8 Flood Risk</b>	<p>Clarity on the flood risk measures required for ground floor and basement access.</p> <p>Clarity on the need for long term access and maintenance to SuDS.</p> <p>Clarity on the role of SuDs in controlling water quality and habitats.</p>
<b>EQ9 Public Open Space</b>	<p>Clarity on the requirements and standards with regards to new public open space.</p> <p>Clarity on the preference for on-site provision.</p>
<b>EQ10: Food and Drink</b>	<p>Policy changes add clarity, which should ensure a more positive effect upon health and amenity. Update SA findings.</p>
<b>NH1 Environmental Assets</b>	<p>Clarity on the requirements for mitigation and compensation.</p> <p>Removes reference to heritage (which is covered in other policies)</p>
<b>NH8 Minerals</b>	<p>Clarity and strengthening with regards to requirements to safeguard minerals and supporting infrastructure.</p>
<b>NH9A: Heritage Assets</b>	<p>New policy.</p>
<b>NH11-14: Heritage related policies</b>	<p>Policy changes give flexibility if development would provide overriding public benefits. If the public benefits are determined to outweigh the loss, then it is also likely that there could be positive effects upon health and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Site specific policy changes</b>	<p>Additions to site policies to clarify mitigation and enhancement measures.</p>

## 2.2 Alternatives considered

2.3 No reasonable alternatives to the majority of the proposed modifications have been identified. This is largely due to the following reasons:

- alternative approaches to the policies had already been explored in previous stages of the SA process;
- The proposed modifications do not change the principles of the policies, rather they add further detail on specific aspects of the policy.

2.4 The only exceptions to are to Policy MN3, where there are potential options to where the 20ha serviced business park could be located, and Policy ED2, which has options on the extent of town centre boundaries. These options are considered in more detail in sections 5 and 6 of this report respectively.

2.5 For MN3 Land East of Maghull, the business park could feasibly be located in any part of the site, including:

- A site in the north east of the site adjacent to the motorway junction
- A linear site adjacent to the motorway,
- A linear site the northern edge of the site or
- A site at the south of the site.

2.6 The appraisal found that there were minimal differences between these detailed locational options.

2.7 The preferred approach is to identify a broad location for the business park at the north east section of the site close to junction one of the motorway. This is identified at proposed figure 6.1 of the Local Plan.

2.8 Although the broad location has been set in Policy MN3, an SEA will be carried out when a site Supplementary Planning Document is produced that will explore potential significant effects, mitigation and enhancement measures in more detail.

2.9 For the extent of the town centres under Policy ED2 there were two main options considered.

- Have a contained centre restricting the extent of the centre to the core area of existing town centres uses
- Have a wider centre boundary that covers areas at the margins of existing centres uses, but including a Primary Shopping Area designation within this to contain retail uses.

2.10 The conclusion was that whilst there weren't significant differences between the two options the Council's preferred approach was to have slightly wider boundaries for its town [and district] centres. It was considered this may help to improve accessibility, which in turn may reduce car use and, most importantly, help regenerate town centres, tackle vacancies and better link up parts of the centres that are 'detached' from one another.

## 2.3 Appraisal findings

2.11 This section sets out a summary of the effects of the policies subject to proposed modifications and discusses any further effects that the modifications are predicted to generate.

Sustainability theme	Cumulative effects of modifications on SA findings
Economy	The majority of modifications have no discernible effect on the economy. New policies ED8A and MN6A are positive as they support job growth and economic activity. Together, these policies are not predicted to have a significant effect on the findings of the SA. When considered alongside all other policies in the Local Plan (including those not subjected to modifications) no cumulative effects are predicted. Therefore, although the implications of the modifications are positive for the economy, the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged (i.e. It is predicted to have a significant positive effect on the economy overall)
Local Centres	Only one modification (ED8A) is predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. There are no cumulative effects and the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged with regards to the impact of the Plan on local centres (i.e. a largely neutral effect overall).
Communities	Only one modification (MN6A) is predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. There are no cumulative effects and the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged with regards to communities (i.e. overall, a significant positive effect is predicted)
Housing	The modifications would have positive implications for housing as the overall target has been increased. Uncertainties relating to policy EC8 affecting the viability of schemes has also been removed following the modifications to this policy. Overall, the modifications support the findings of the SA relating to housing (i.e. a significant positive effect), but with a slight improvement in the likelihood that housing targets will be delivered.
Accessibility	Only two modifications (MN6A / EQ9) are predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. EQ9 improves access to green infrastructure, whilst the new site at Moss lane is predicted to have mixed effects, with an increase in car travel likely, but at the same time improved cycling and pedestrian links. Overall, the modifications are not likely to have a noticeable effect on the conclusions relating to accessibility (i.e. a neutral effect overall across the borough).
Health and wellbeing	The proposed modifications relating to four plan policies are predicted to change the SA findings relating to health and wellbeing. The changes are all positive, with benefits for specific communities associated with strategic sites, areas of poorer quality and also for young people. Overall, the modifications consolidate the findings of the SA relating to health and wellbeing (i.e. a significant positive effect).
Climate change	The proposed modifications relating to four plan policies are predicted to change the SA findings relating to climate change. These changes primarily relate to improvements to green infrastructure, which ought to be positive with regards to resilience to climate change. Overall, the modifications consolidate the findings of the SA relating to Climate Change (i.e. a significant positive effect).

Sustainability theme	Cumulative effects of modifications on SA findings
Flooding	Overall the effects of the modifications across the borough are predicted to be positive, with a number of sites in particular having improved flood management clauses that should reduce flood risk in those locations. The modifications support the SA findings that predict a neutral effect on flooding would occur overall.
Environmental quality	Although generally positive, the majority of modifications are not predicted to have a noticeable effect on the SA findings.
Landscape	<p>Three modifications (MN3 / ED8A / EQ2) are predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. The effects are mostly locally specific, relating to the sites in question, and reduce the uncertainty that mitigation or enhancement would be secured. EQ2 however, sets principles for development on the urban fringe that ought to provide greater protection for landscape than would be the case in the absence of the plan. Consequently, a significant positive effect on landscape character is predicted in the longer term, as mitigation and enhancement schemes associated with development at strategic sites is secured and matures.</p> <p>Overall, these additional positive effects lead to a change in the conclusions for landscapes, with the plan being predicted to have a minor positive effect overall (rather than a neutral effect predicted at Submission stage),</p>
Biodiversity	Overall, the modifications are predicted to have generally positive effects upon biodiversity across the borough, with particular sites benefiting from a stronger policy approach. Despite this, the overall findings of the SA remain unchanged, with an uncertain negative effect recorded. Having said this, the likelihood of negative effects is thought to be lower given the clarity on enhancement and compensation required.
Culture and heritage	<p>Changes to policy ED8A are predicted to be positive, which is an improvement from the Submission version of the Plan. A number of other policies have also been strengthened with regards to heritage protection and enhancement in specific localities and more generally. In isolation, these changes to policies would not lead to a noticeable effect. However, in combination, it is predicted that the modifications could lead to a <b>significant positive effect</b> on culture and heritage in specific locations in the long term.</p> <p>Taking the modifications into consideration alongside the rest of the Plan, rather than a neutral effect (As predicted at Submission stage), a minor positive effect is predicted, it is likely that some parts of the borough could be enhanced.</p>



## 2.4 Mitigation and enhancement

2.12 No mitigation or enhancement measures were identified throughout the appraisal process. This is largely due to the fact that the proposed modifications in themselves have been made to enhance positive effects and to mitigate any negative effects.

## 2.5 Monitoring

2.13 At the current stage (i.e. within the SA Report and Addendum), there is only a need to present measures *envisaged* concerning monitoring. Two significant effects were identified as a result of the proposed modifications. These are outlined below alongside proposed monitoring measures.

Significant effects identified	Proposed monitoring measures
Proposed changes to policies NH9-NH14, alongside other plan (site specific) policies with positive implications for culture and heritage (particularly new policy ED8a), are predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on culture and heritage.	<p>Number of listed buildings at risk</p> <p>Number of Conservation Areas 'at risk'</p> <p>Number of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk'</p> <p>Parks with green flag status</p> <p>Redevelopment / reuse of vacant buildings</p>
Proposed changes to Policy EQ2 [in combination with other plan policies] is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on landscape character on the urban fringe.	<p>Approvals in the greenbelt / safeguarded land and % inappropriate,</p> <p>Area of new public open space / green infrastructure approved.</p> <p>Landscape character condition and sensitivity at the urban fringe before and after strategic development.</p> <p>Density of development at urban fringe sites compared to surrounding residential communities.</p>
Policy MN3 is predicted to have a significant positive effect on accessibility for the south of Sefton given that the subsidised bus route will run for 5 years instead of 3; and the role of cycle and pedestrian routes has been strengthened.	<p>Development contributions to infrastructure improvement schemes.</p> <p>Travel to work by transport mode.</p> <p>Bus patronage on new routes through/to Land East of Maghull.</p> <p>Length of cycle and pedestrian routes secured at Land East of Maghull.</p>

### 3 Summary of changes to the Plan

3.1 The Council has proposed a series of changes to the Local Plan. Some of these changes are minor and are unlikely to lead to any significant effects. Other changes are considered to be ‘major’ and thus here is potential for some effects upon the environment, economy or communities. These changes are summarised in the table below and are the focus of this SA Addendum. The detailed proposed modifications to the Local Plan can be found in the examination library [www.sefton.gov.uk/examlibrary](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/examlibrary)

3.2 Table 3.1 below lists the modifications that have been ‘screened in’ to the SA process given their potential to have an effect on the SA findings. A number of modifications were ‘screened out’ as they were deemed unlikely to have any effect on the SA findings. Appendix A contains a schedule of all proposed changes, and the rationale for screening these in or out of the SA.

*Table 3.1 Summary of proposed modifications and corresponding policies*

Policy	Summary of proposed modifications
<b>MN1 Housing and employment requirements</b>	Commitment to a plan review and an additional 500 homes to be planned for.
<b>MN2 Site allocations</b>	Some sites have been deleted / added
<b>MN3 Land East of Maghull</b>	Housing will not be permitted until an SPD has been produced. Clarity on the minimum older persons housing that should be provided. Clarity on the need to provide a distributor road and bus route. Clarity on the improvements to existing rights of way. Clarity on the need to reduce flood risk and avoid zones 2 and 3
<b>MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate</b>	Site deleted.
<b>MN6A Moss Lane, Churchtown</b>	New policy.
<b>MN8: Safeguarded sites</b>	Change to site boundaries.

<b>ED2 Retail and Town Centres</b>	<p>Clarity that retail, leisure and other town centre uses located outside of existing centres must demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that they would not prejudice the delivery of existing, committed, and planned public and private investment within any existing defined centres</li> <li>• that no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of any existing centres will arise from the proposed development, including to local consumer choice and trade in defined centres and the wider area, up to five years from the time the application is made.</li> </ul>
<b>ED3 Primarily Industrial Areas</b>	Clarity and strengthen the importance of ensuring B1, B2 and B8 are prioritised.
<b>ED5: Tourism</b>	Changes widen the influence of the policy, which is more positive. Update SA to reflect this (though <u>significant</u> effects are unlikely)
<b>ED7: Southport Central Area</b>	Positive implications for heritage.
<b>ED8: Southport seafront</b>	Removal of Marine Park element (though this is now a separate policy).
<b>ED8A Marine Park</b>	New policy
<b>ED8B: Aintree Racecourse</b>	New policy
<b>HC2: Housing mix, type and choice</b>	Threshold for applying mix and tenure splits increased from 15 to 25 dwellings. Threshold for accessibility standards increased from 15-50 dwellings. Addition of clause relating to custom and self-build homes. These changes are likely to have effects on the SA findings.
<b>IN2: Transport</b>	Clause 7 ought to have positive implications for the reduction of heavy goods traffic and carbon emissions.
<b>EQ2: Design</b>	Changes relating to areas of lesser quality ought to be positive, by encouraging enhancement rather than continuation of negative trends. The addition of a clause requiring consideration of solar gain is more positive than the draft policy with regards to energy and climate change. The addition of requirements relating to urban edge sites ought to have positive effect on landscape character. Overall, the changes are likely to lead to changes to the SA findings.
<b>EQ8 Flood Risk</b>	<p>Clarity on the flood risk measures required for ground floor and basement access.</p> <p>Clarity on the need for long term access and maintenance to SuDS.</p> <p>Clarity on the role of SuDs in controlling water quality and habitats.</p>

<b>EQ9 Public Open Space</b>	Clarity on the requirements and standards with regards to new public open space. Clarity on the preference for on-site provision.
<b>EQ10: Food and Drink</b>	Policy changes add clarity, which should ensure a more positive effect upon health and amenity. Update SA findings.
<b>NH1 Environmental Assets</b>	Clarity on the requirements for mitigation and compensation. Removes reference to heritage (which is covered in other policies)
<b>NH8 Minerals</b>	Clarity and strengthening with regards to requirements to safeguard minerals and supporting infrastructure.
<b>NH9A: Heritage Assets</b>	New policy.
<b>NH11-14: Heritage related policies</b>	Policy changes give flexibility if development would provide overriding public benefits. If the public benefits are determined to outweigh the loss, then it is also likely that there could be positive effects upon health and wellbeing.
<b>Site specific policy changes</b>	Additions to site policies to clarify mitigation and enhancement measures.

## 4 Consideration of alternatives

4.1 The table below sets out the consideration of whether there are any reasonable alternatives to each proposed modification. Alternative approaches to a range of plan issues were considered at earlier stages of plan making (discussed in the main SA Report). At this stage, the focus is on whether there are alternatives to the proposed modifications, not to the whole policy approach.

Policy	Alternatives considered
<b>MN1 Housing and employment requirements</b>	An increase in the overall housing target of 500 dwellings has been proposed. A range of alternative strategies have already been appraised prior to the submission of the Local Plan. The spatial strategy [i.e. meeting needs where they arise] still remains broadly the same as only one additional site has been proposed.
<b>MN2 Site allocations</b>	The full range of reasonable site options has been considered throughout the plan preparation process.
<b>MN3 Land East of Maghull</b>	<p>The business park could feasibly be located in any part of the site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A site in the north east of the site adjacent to the motorway junction</li> <li>• A linear site adjacent to the motorway,</li> <li>• A linear site the northern edge of the site or</li> <li>• A site at the south of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Section 5 of this report discusses these alternatives in further detail.</p> <p>The remainder of the policy sets out requirements to ensure that positive effects are maximised and negative effects are minimised. This is driven by evidence and consultation feedback and there are no meaningful alternatives to the remainder of the policy.</p>
<b>MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate</b>	Other employment sites could potentially be deleted. However, there has already been an appraisal of all site options for employment. Therefore, there are no reasonable alternatives.
<b>MN6A Moss Lane, Churchtown</b>	The policy sets out requirements to ensure that positive effects are maximised and negative effects are minimised. This is driven by evidence and consultation feedback and there are no meaningful alternatives to the remainder of the policy.
<b>MN8: Safeguarded land</b>	The site boundaries have been amended.
<b>ED2 Retail and Town Centres</b>	Proposed changes do not change the principle of the policy to protect the viability and vitality of local centres, but allows some flexibility. Proposed changes are proposed to the extent of the town and district centres. No reasonable alternatives to the policy are identified. There are alternatives in the extent of Sefton’s Town and District centres. Section 6 of this report discusses these alternatives in further detail.

Policy	Alternatives considered
<b>ED3 Primarily Industrial Areas</b>	There is evidence to suggest that B1, B2 and B8 uses should be protected and promoted. The proposed changes strengthen the policy in this regard and it is not considered necessary to test alternative approaches at this stage.
<b>ED5: Tourism</b>	Changes add detail relating to heritage assets in response to consultation feedback. There are no reasonable alternatives.
<b>ED7: Southport Central Area</b>	Changes add detail relating primarily to heritage assets in response to consultation feedback. There are no reasonable alternatives.
<b>ED8: Southport seafront</b>	Marine park element of the policy removed. However, this is now contained in a new policy, so there are no significant changes. There are no reasonable alternatives.
<b>ED8A: Marine Park, Southport</b>	Marine park policy was previously covered as part of ED8. However, this is now covered in ED8A, so there are no significant changes. There are no reasonable alternatives.
<b>ED8B: Aintree Racecourse</b>	The policy sets out some general principles to development at Aintree Racecourse. There are not reasonable alternatives to this policy.
<b>HC2: Housing mix, type and choice</b>	The original policy contained lower thresholds for applying minimum numbers of house types and sizes. The modifications increase these thresholds, which presents an alternative to the submitted policy. Appraisal of further alternatives is not considered necessary given that they are established through evidence and should be subject to viability testing anyway.
<b>IN2: Transport</b>	No reasonable alternatives have been identified.
<b>EQ2: Design</b>	No reasonable alternatives have been identified.
<b>EQ8 Flood Risk</b>	The proposed changes set out specific requirements for vulnerable properties. These are sensible flood risk management measures and it is not considered that there are any reasonable alternatives to the changes.
<b>EQ9 Public Open Space</b>	The proposed changes clarify local standards for open space and the preference for on-site provision (unless it is unfeasible). An alternative approach would be to rely on a more generic policy, but this essentially represents the submitted version of the policy which has already been appraised. No other alternatives are considered reasonable.
<b>EQ10: Food and Drink</b>	The submitted version of the policy represents an alternative that does not set an exclusion zone for hot food takeaways. There are no further reasonable alternatives identified.

Policy	Alternatives considered
<b>NH1 Environmental Assets</b>	The proposed changes set out the assets that are of principle importance for heritage in Sefton. An alternative approach would be to rely on a more generic policy, but this essentially represents the submitted version of the policy which has already been appraised. No other alternatives are considered reasonable.
<b>NH8 Minerals</b>	There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed modifications, which do not change the principles of the Policy.
<b>NH9A: Heritage Assets</b>	Policy represents elements of policy NH1, which previously covered aspects of heritage that are now included in policy NH9A.
<b>NH11-14: Heritage related policies</b>	There are no meaningful reasonable alternatives to the proposed changes; which set out procedural changes so that the policies are more flexible.
<b>Site specific policy changes</b>	Policy changes only clarify mitigation and enhancement measures that have arisen in response to consultation, SA findings and other evidence. There are no reasonable alternatives.

## 5 Alternative locations for a business park at Land East of Maghull

5.1 The amended policy MN3 Land East of Maghull identifies a broad location for the business park. This is provided in the proposed figure 6.1 of the Local Plan and identifies the location in the north east quadrant of the site. This location is adjacent to junction one of the M58.

5.2 A Supplementary Planning Document [SPD] for this site will be prepared. The Council have determined that the SPD will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This assessment has been undertaken to identify any initial potential concerns that may be apparent from identifying the road location of the business park. At this stage further detail on access, layout, design and other key planning considerations for the business park are unknown and these will be assessed at the detailed Strategic Environmental Assessment of the SPD.

5.3 The business park could feasibly be located in any part of the site, including:

- A site in the north east of the site adjacent to the motorway junction
- A linear site adjacent to the motorway,
- A linear site the northern edge of the site or
- A site at the south of the site.

5.4 The table below sets out a high level appraisal of each option against each SA Topic.

SA Topic	Identified effects
Economy	The principle of locating a business park at this site is predicted to be positive regardless of location. In terms of the potential location of the business park it is not considered that each option will be demonstrably different from each other with the edge given to locations that have easier access to the motorway junctions. It is likely that the options that locate the business park close to the motorway junction and is visible from the motorway will be a more attractive proposition for businesses to consider locating there.
Local Centres	It is not considered that the different options for the location of the business park on land east of Maghull [Policy MN3] will have any noticeable difference on this sustainability theme. Positive effects would be achieved for each option relating to the increased spending in local centres that could occur as a result of business locating nearby.
Communities	It is not considered that the different options for the location of the business park on land east of Maghull [Policy MN3] will have any noticeable difference on this sustainability theme. The effects on communities of a new business park would be positive due to the potential to provide jobs and homes to deprived communities.
Housing	Establishing a business park near to new housing is positive in terms of promoting housing that is close to jobs. However, it is not considered that the different options for the location of the business park on land east of Maghull [Policy MN3] will have any noticeable difference on this sustainability topic.



SA Topic	Identified effects
Accessibility	<p>The policy seeks to secure a bus route through the site which will improve access to the business park regardless of its location. It may be that locating the business park close to the rail stations [both existing and proposed] will improve accessibility, although the rail stations will be no more than 600-800 metres from the entrance of the business park, regardless of where it is located.</p> <p>Whilst the location of the business park adjacent to the motorway junction will improve access to cars and commercial vehicles, access by public transport won't be any different for the different options for locating the business park.</p>
Health and wellbeing	<p>A business park ought to have beneficial effects as access to a job is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. It is not considered that the different options for the location of the business park on land east of Maghull [Policy MN3] will have any noticeable difference on this sustainability theme. However, options that locate the business park closer to existing residential areas could be more positive with regards to promoting walking and cycling to access work, although wherever the business park is located the entrance won't be more than 600-800 metres from the rail station.</p>
Climate change and resource use	<p>As discussed above [under accessibility] it is difficult to determine any demonstrable difference between options to locate the business park in different parts of the site. Whilst locating the business park immediately adjacent to rail stations may encourage fewer people to access the employment area by car this is not expected to be significant as much of the site will be accessible by bus in any case and no part of the site is too far from the rail stations.</p>
Flooding	<p>None of the options would be at significantly greater risk of flooding than the others. Therefore, it is predicted that the different options would have insignificant effects and there would be no discernible differences between the options.</p>
Environmental quality	<p>On balance, the options do not perform significantly different from one another with regards to environmental quality. Whilst options that locate the business park close to the motorway could reduce traffic in residential areas, they would be less likely to promote rail travel. Conversely, options close to the railway stations are more likely to promote rail travel, but vehicle traffic might be more likely to be pass through residential areas.</p>
Landscape	<p>A strategic site in this area could have negative implications on landscape character, and this might be particularly the case for the business element of development which would involve larger buildings and vehicular movements. However, it is not predicted that the different options for the location of the business park on land east of Maghull [Policy MN3] will lead to a noticeable difference on this sustainability theme. Each location has the potential for negative effects, and mitigation measures to reduce these effects. It may be considered that locating the business park close to the east of the site will have greater impact on the open countryside further to the east, but the potential to mitigate this issue remains. As the landscape in this part of the borough is generally flat, any large units would be noticeable wherever they were located.</p>

SA Topic	Identified effects
Biodiversity	The location of the business park is unlikely to lead to a difference in the effects upon biodiversity.
Culture and Heritage	There are no designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the site. The location of the business park is unlikely to lead to a difference in the effects upon heritage.

### **The preferred approach**

5.5 The preferred location for the business park has been identified in the policy as in the north east of the site close to junction 1 of the M58. This is to maximise the economic benefits of having a key location with excellent links to the strategic road network. Nevertheless the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Supplementary Planning Document will consider in greater detail the impacts of the detailed master planning of the site.

## 6. Alternative approaches to the extent of Sefton's Town and District Centres

6.1 The modifications to the Policy Map of the Sefton Local Plan propose to expand the extent of Sefton's Town and District Centres [i.e. Southport, Bootle, Formby, Crosby, Maghull and Waterloo]. These are shown at maps 11 to 16 of the 'Proposed Modifications to the Policy Map' document.

6.2 The following options have been identified for the extent of Sefton's Town and District Centres:

- Have a contained centre restricting the extent of the centre to the core area of existing town centres uses
- Have a wider centre boundary that covers areas at the margins of existing centres uses, but including a Primary Shopping Area designation within this to contain retail uses.

6.3 These options are not considered to be 'reasonable alternatives' the context of SA, in that they do not present significantly distinct policy options. However, to aid in the understanding of the potential sustainability effects of these approaches, a high level appraisal has been undertaken, and is presented in the table below for each SA Topic.

SA Topic	Identified effects
Economy	Wider centres will help provide greater choice for businesses that tend to have a town centre location. These are in accessible locations so often are ideally located for people to access employment, particularly those with low income and lack of private transport. However, spreading the centre further could lead to a 'dispersal' of retail and other centre uses, which could dilute the attractiveness of the centre in terms of its compact form and accessibility. However, the Council have also added, in many of its centres, a Primary Shopping Area to focus retail uses. This should help retain these core areas as the main focus for shopping, whilst the rest of the centre can diversify to include other uses such as restaurants, leisure and cultural activities.
Local Centres	Having wider defined centres will help improve the choice of accommodation available to retailers and other 'town centre' businesses. This should restrict the ability of these businesses of by-passing the sequential test and locating in out-of-centre locations. It could be argued that having larger centres could dilute or disperse facilities in a centre, causing higher vacancy rates and causing a poor environment. However, the Council have also added, in many of its centres, a Primary Shopping Area to focus retail uses. This should help retain these core areas as the main focus for shopping, whilst the rest of the centre can diversify to include other uses such as restaurants, leisure and cultural activities.

SA Topic	Identified effects
Communities	As indicated above, wider centres may encourage more businesses in a central, accessible location. These locations are easy to access by people of all incomes and often support low income jobs. Providing a greater choice in accommodation for leisure and cultural uses also helps support local communities. There is little difference between the options though.
Housing	The effect on housing would be negligible for both options. Policy ED2 sets out that residential development is allowed in certain circumstances in town centres. Whilst there are more restrictions for residential development in the areas covered by a wider town centre designation the policy is quite flexible. The extent of the wider centre designations is relatively modest and the impact of Sefton's housing strategy is negligible.
Accessibility	Expanded centres should limit the amount of new retail, leisure, office and other town centres uses being located out-of-centre. Expanded centres should provide a good flexible mix of accommodation. This could help ensure these uses are in areas accessible by public transport, which all centres are. However, whilst a more tightly drawn boundary may result in a number of town centres uses locating out-of-centre, they will still have to be in accessible locations to meet the sequential test. The difference therefore would only be negligible.
Health and wellbeing	The only effect on health identified is that wider centres may allow for more fast food takeaways. The Local Plan has a policy that seeks to restrict these uses to defined centres. Expanding these centres does therefore allow for a wider choice in accommodation. However, whilst more tightly bound centre boundaries could restrict the proliferation of A5 uses, by restricting choice, this is likely to be negligible given that many of our centres have high vacancy rates in any case. Conversely, a wider boundary could lead to fewer concentrations of fast food takeaways compared to a tighter boundary. The effects are not predicted to be significant for either option.
Climate change and resource use	As previously mentioned a wider definition of the centres would potentially restrict out-of-centre developments. This should encourage retailers and other uses to locate in the centres which are far more accessible by public transport. This is unlikely to reduce car use by any great degree.
Flooding	Whilst the wider centres may encompass areas of higher flood risk the impact will be negligible. The Local Plan contains strong policies on flood protection and mitigation regardless of whether the proposal is in town centre or not.
Environmental quality	<p>A wider definition of the centres may, as discussed above, encourage more shops and other town centre uses being located in centres. As the centres are in locations accessible by public transport this may reduce car use. At a local level this may help improve air quality, although the impact is likely to be marginal.</p> <p>A wider extent of centres is likely to bring back into use more vacant buildings, particularly if it discourages out-of-centre development. However, the wider centre designation may result in uses 'dispersing' across a wider area. The introduction of a primary shopping area, within many of the centres, should help to keep the core areas as the main location for retail.</p>

SA Topic	Identified effects
Landscape	The extent of the centres will not have any effect upon landscape.
Biodiversity	The extent of the centres is unlikely to have any identifiable effect on biodiversity.
Culture and Heritage	Whilst the wider centres may encompass a number of listed buildings and other heritage assets, which could be affected both positively and negatively depending upon design and uses. However, the effects would be negligible. The Local Plan contains strong policies on the protection of heritage assets regardless of whether they are in the defined town centres or not. Therefore, there is little difference between the two options, apart from the potential to encourage greater re-use of vacant buildings (which ought to be positive).

### **The Preferred Approach**

6.4 The Council's preferred approach is to have wider town centres with smaller primary shopping areas, for retail development, within them. It is considered that this will reduce the ability for applicants to locate development, for which a town centre location is desirable, into out-of-centre locations. This should help to improve accessibility, which in turn may reduce car use and, most importantly, help regenerate town centres, tackle vacancies and better link up parts of the centres that are 'detached' from one another.

## 7 Appraisal of proposed modifications

7.1 The appraisal identifies and evaluates ‘likely significant effects’ on the baseline / likely future baseline associated with the proposed modifications, drawing on the sustainability topics and issues identified through scoping as a methodological framework.

7.2 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the policy measures under consideration. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and (in particular) the future baseline.

7.3 In light of this, where likely significant effects are predicted this is done with an accompanying explanation of the assumptions made. In many instances it is not possible to predict likely significant effects, but it is possible to comment on the merits of the Plan (proposed modifications) in more general terms.

7.4 It is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within the SEA Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. The potential for ‘cumulative’ effects is also considered. These effect ‘characteristics’ are described within the appraisal as appropriate under each sustainability topic.

7.5 The appraisal of the proposed modifications is set out within separate tables for each of the sustainability topics listed below (which are derived from the SA Framework).

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Economy              | - Climate Change and resource use |
| - Local Centres        | - Flooding                        |
| - Communities          | - Environmental quality           |
| - Housing              | - Landscape                       |
| - Accessibility        | - Biodiversity                    |
| - Health and wellbeing | - Culture and Heritage            |

7.6 To give the appraisal ‘added structure’, each policy with proposed modifications is assigned one (or more) of the following symbols in-line with predicted ‘broad implications’. To reflect the different impacts that proposed modifications could have, the policies may be scored as both positive and negative against the same SA Objectives. This reflects the fact that the Local Plan could have different impacts in different locations and circumstances.

✓ Positive implications   - Negligible implications   ✘ Negative implications   ? Uncertainty

7.7 It is important to note that these symbols are not used to indicate ‘significant effects’. Where significant effects are predicted, these are highlighted in the accompanying text; with the text coloured as follows: .....there would be a **significant positive effect**.

7.8 The appraisal focuses on the effects of the modifications, rather than an appraisal of the policies in their entirety (*which has already been presented in the main SA Report*). Where the effects of policies remain unchanged, the modifications are predicted to have a neutral effect. However, this does not necessarily mean that the effect of the policy is neutral. To aid in differentiating the effects of the policies and the [additional] effects of the modifications, the appraisal tables include the original ‘score’ assigned to each policy, and the score including the modifications.

## 7.1 Economy

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Economy</b>	1. Encourage economic growth and investment  2. Reduce unemployment and skills  5. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.	Will the plan provide sufficient land for business development? Will the plan Support Sefton’s key employment sector (ports and tourism)? Will the plan help to diversify the local economy? Will the plan help to encourage investment within Sefton? Will the plan help to reduce the number of people out of work? Will the plan improve access to education and training? Will the plan help to retail and improve employment opportunities? Will the plan help match skills to Employment opportunities?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
<i>With mods</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

7.9 Policy MN1 allocates an additional 500 homes over the plan period, which would have a positive effect on the economy. This policy is already predicted to have a significant positive effect on the economy. The modifications do not lead to a change in these findings.

7.10 Policy MN3 is a strategic mixed use site, including the requirements for a 20 hectare [net] of serviced business park. It also clearly sets out a range of infrastructure that will be needed to support economic growth in this area, such as public transport links and a new motorway junction. This ought to ensure that development is attractive to businesses. Provision of a large number of homes is also beneficial to the wider economy by supporting jobs in the construction industry and providing a good choice of homes for the local workforce. However, proposed modifications are not likely to have any further effects than those predicted at Submission stage.

7.11 The additional policy of MN6A Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown, reflects a similar score for other housing allocations as new homes provides for the addition of jobs in the construction and ancillary industries. The deletion of the site south of Formby Industrial Estate as an employment area (MN2/MN5) reduces the overall provision of employment area available in Sefton, but the overall provision will still be over 80ha and this has been determined to be sufficient to meet Sefton’s need. This is not predicted likely to have a significant effect on the overall conclusions relating to the economy.

7.12 Policy MN3 is unlikely to have any further positive effects on the economy compared to those that were predicted in the Submission version of the Local Plan. However, MN6a introduces a new policy that is likely to have additional positive effects compared to the Submission Plan.

7.13 Policy ED2 helps to divert investment in to Sefton's local centres and this will help support employment opportunities in accessible locations. Even with the preference of established retail parks and well connected out of centre locations over other out of centre locations, this policy still scores positively as residents will be able to access these places to use the facilities or for employment, particularly as the extent of the centres has been widened. Although positive, the policy changes are unlikely to have a significantly different effect to those predicted for ED2 in the SA Report at Submission stage.

7.14 Policy ED3 is particularly important for safeguarding important employment land that is in short supply, and will be required to offset the loss of employment land associated with the Port expansion. The proposed modifications provide further clarity on the role of B1, B2 and B8 employment uses, as well as strengthening the protection of existing areas. This is positive, but unlikely to generate significant effects.

7.15 Policy ED5 widens the influence and importance of tourism to the economy, which is positive, but the effects are not predicted to be significant as substantial changes to visitor numbers and spending are unlikely to occur over the plan period as a result of this policy.

7.16 The new policy on Marine Park, Southport [ED8A] provides the guidance to ensure that the tourism and visitor economy is maximised, making the most of Southport Seafronts cultural and heritage assets. This ought to have a positive effect on the economy by supporting appropriate regeneration of this important site. It should be noted that positive effects were predicted relating to this site for ED8. Therefore, though the policy has been improved, the overall effects of the plan are essentially the same.

7.17 New Policy NH9a requires development to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings. Modifications to Policy ED7 and NH11-14 should also have positive effects on heritage, whilst adding flexibility in exceptional circumstances. However, whilst the historic environment is important to the visitor economy, these changes alone are not predicted to have any significant effects upon the economy.

7.18 Policy EQ8 could have beneficial effects for the economy by seeking to reduce flood risk. The effects are not predicted to be significant though.

7.19 The proposed modification to Policy IN2 [section 7] sets out that the Council will support initiatives to reconnect the Port of Liverpool to the rail network. Whilst this is a positive change, it is not predicted to alter the SA findings (i.e. a positive (but not significant) effect upon the economy).

7.20 It is predicted that the modifications to policies MN8, ED8B, HC2, EQ2, EQ9, EQ10, NH1 and NH8 will have no effect on this sustainability theme.



## 7.2 Local Centres

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Local centres</b>	<p>3. Support the Rural Economy</p> <p>4. Maintain vibrant town, local and village centres.</p>	<p>Will the plan protect farming and other established rural businesses? Will the plan help to diversify the rural economy</p> <p>Will the plan help rural residents to access employment?</p> <p>Will the plan prioritise retail, leisure or office development in and around existing town and local centres?</p> <p>Will the plan result in a significant loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?</p> <p>Will the plan encourage more people to use existing centres?</p> <p>Will the plan make centres more attractive to businesses, including shops, leisure and offices?</p>

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

7.21 Deleting the proposed allocation to the south of Formby Industrial Estate is likely to protect Formby Centre from competition as it was proposed that this would have included an element of retail. This means that the overall strategy is slightly more beneficial with regards to Local Centres (MN2). However, the effects are not significantly greater.

7.22 Whilst the development of both land east of Maghull [MN3] and Moss Lane [MN6A] will result in the loss of agricultural land, the impact on the rural economy will be negligible. These sites are identified in any case in Policy MN2 and these policies merely add further detail. Land east of Maghull in particular will create a large population at the edge of Maghull that will have good access [through the provision of a new bus route] to Maghull District Centre. This ought to be positive with regards to supporting the vitality of local centres. The proposed modifications are unlikely to have any significant further effects than those identified in the SA Report.

7.23 Policy ED2 directs retail, leisure and main town centres uses in the first instance to existing centres, which ought to have a positive effect on the vitality of local centres. The proposed modifications to Policy ED2 will, even with the extent of the centres widened, strengthen the protection of Seftons' town centres by setting clearer requirements for the sequential test and impact test. This will have positive effects, but not lead to significant changes in the SA findings.

7.24 The new policy on Marine Park [ED8A] seeks the regeneration of a key location near to Southport Town Centre. Linked trips should help to support the existing town centre facilities, which would lead to further positive effects on the baseline associated with SA Objective 4.

7.25 The changes to Policy ED10 that seek to restrict A5 uses [hot food takeaways] within 400m of a school will only apply outside defined town, district and local centres so the impact of this modification will be negligible.

7.26 It is not predicted that policies ED3, ED5, ED7, EQ8, EQ9, EQ10, HC2, NH1, NH8, NH11-14 (including the modifications) will have a significant or demonstrable effect on this sustainability theme.

## 7.3 Communities

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Communities</b>	<p>6. Reduce inequalities and social deprivation</p> <p>7. Reduce crime and improve safety</p> <p>11. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in decision making.</p>	<p>Will the plan help to improve the conditions and prospects of people living in the most deprived areas?</p> <p>Will the plan help to support the regeneration priorities of the Council and its' partners?</p> <p>Will the plan help to reduce inequalities according to ethnicity, gender, age and other groups?</p> <p>Will the plan help to reduce crime and the fear of crime?</p> <p>Will the plan help to protect personal safety and reduce accidents?</p> <p>Will the plan help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable?</p> <p>Will the plan encourage people to get involved in local decisions and become more active in their communities?</p>

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	✓✗	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
<i>With mods</i>	✓✗	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓			-	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9 -14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓
<i>With mods</i>	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓

7.27 Access to a decent home and a good job are key factors in helping to tackle poverty and deprivation; which also has knock on long-term benefits in terms of reducing crime and building attractive communities. Policies MN1-3 MN6A, ED2 and ED3 all seek to secure the provision or protection of housing and/or employment opportunities. Therefore, along with other plan policies, these would contribute to a **significant positive effect** on the baseline. The modifications to these policies (i.e. an additional 500 homes under MN1, changes to site allocations under MN2) are not predicted to generate further effects.

7.28 Policy ED8 was predicted to have a positive effect on communities due to the support for the regeneration of Marine Park. A new policy (ED8A) has been established to cover the Marine Park, which is therefore predicted to have similar positive effects. Though policy ED8 is now predicted to have a neutral effect rather than a positive effect, this doesn't reflect a change to the plan, rather where the policy details sit within the Plan.

7.29 Other proposed modifications throughout the plan help support the positive scores already predicted for Local Communities (For example).

- MN3 clarifies the importance of and requirement to secure infrastructure improvements as part of this development. This gives greater certainty that the positive effects predicted on the community will be realised.
- ED2 ought to support local centres particularly as the extent of the centres has been widened, which are often relied upon by surrounding communities.
- IN2 ought to have positive effects on communities by reducing levels of HGV traffic.
- EQ2 ought to lead to better designed communities, especially those that are 'poor quality'.

- EQ9 - The provision of good quality open space through policy EQ9 is a key part of regenerating local areas, reducing inequalities and strengthening communities. The modifications ought to have a slightly more positive effect on communities by setting out clearer requirements and standards with regards to new open space. The preference for on-site provision should also help to ensure that existing communities benefit from development, which is positive where development is in proximity to deprived areas in particular.

## 7.4 Housing

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
Housing	8.Meet Sefton’s diverse housing needs	Will the plan help to meet Sefton’s housing needs? Will the plan help to meet Sefton’s affordable and specialist housing need? Will the plan provide a diverse choice of housing?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
Original Policy	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
With mods	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
Original Policy	-	✓	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
With mods	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

7.30 The addition of a new housing allocation at Shorrocks Hill, Formby [MN2.14A] is predicted to have a positive effect by delivering housing and in particular providing more scope to tackle the affordability issues within Formby. The higher overall housing requirement in Policy MN1 also helps to provide greater flexibility and certainty that housing targets will be achieved. Together, these modifications are predicted to increase the likelihood that these policies (in combination) will have a **significant positive effect** on housing (as predicted in the SA Report).

7.31 Policies MN3 and MN6A both provide the basis for the delivery of new homes in these areas. Whilst Policy MN2 allocates these sites for housing, these policies set out specific requirements for the delivery of access and other improvements that will make the homes accessible. These policies would therefore have a positive effect on the baseline related to housing.

7.32 Policy MN3 now (as a result of the proposed modifications) has a specific requirement for older person homes, which should lead to further positive effects on meeting housing needs.

7.33 The requirements of Policy EQ8 may make some housing schemes more difficult to deliver, due to the requirements to reduce surface water run-off and SuDS, and this may make some schemes unviable, although through the proposed modifications the policy now makes it clear this should only be when it is ‘reasonably practical’. This should ensure that negative effects are avoided and thus a neutral effect is predicted.

7.34 No further proposed modifications are predicted to have an effect on housing.

## 7.5 Accessibility

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Accessibility</b>	9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport.	Will the plan promote a wider range of local services and facilities? Will the plan increase accessibility to existing services and facilities? Will the plan encourage use of sustainable travel? Will the plan improve links between areas?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	✓✗	✓✗	✓✗	-	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	✓✗	✓✗	✓✗	✓✗	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-

  

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	✓	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-

7.35 Policies MN3 and MN6A both support employment and housing provision at strategic mixed used developments. The associated increase in traffic is predicted to have negative effects, but this should be offset by the requirement to secure strategic improvements to infrastructure. For example both policies provide specific policy measures that will promote the use of sustainable modes of transport and travel such as walking, cycling and public transport. Policy MN3 also states that contributions will be secured to fund infrastructure improvements, contribute to the new train station and park and ride at Maghull North. Both policies seek to secure and subsidise bus routes through the site.

7.36 Nevertheless, whilst these measures will help to provide choice in transport the level of growth in these areas will still result in an increase in car trips. For that reason the policies will have both positive and negative implications for this sustainability issue. It is considered that the policies provide a sufficient approach to minimising the impact of this issue. The proposed modifications clarify the requirements for transport infrastructure improvements. Whilst this is beneficial, the proposed changes would not lead to significant further positive effects compared to the Submitted version of the Policy.

7.37 Policy ED2 seeks to direct leisure, retail and other main uses to Sefton's main centres. This ought to have a positive effect in terms of improving access to existing and new services and facilities particularly as the extent of the centres has been widened. Whilst this policy is inherently positive, the effects are not considered to be significant, as these patterns of development would be necessary anyway through the NPPF. Whilst the proposed changes to policy ED2 do add retail parks and accessible out of centre locations into the hierarchy, the policy still prioritises Sefton's existing centres and these are in accessible locations. The proposed changes are therefore not predicted to have a significant effect.

7.38 The proposed modifications to EQ9 would lead to positive effects as it now sets out more specific requirements for achieving standards of open space provision for local communities. The

principle of on-site provision as first preference should help to ensure that residents have local access to adequate open space, which ought to reduce the need to travel. The policy is also clearer with regards to the need to mitigate potential effects upon public rights of way, whilst enhancing links will be a requirement where appropriate.

7.39 A proposed modification to Policy MN3 [Land East of Maghull] requires that the subsidised bus route is supported for five years rather than three. This will help ensure that the route is established and make it more likely that it will continue after this period. The policy also now requires the upgrading of the existing footpath through the site too. Consequently, the positive effects of the policy are predicted to be more positive (and significant) when compared to the submission version.

7.40 Proposed modifications to Policy ED2 will help to further protect existing town and local centres. As these are the locations for most shops and services this will help to better maintain accessibility. Although these effects are positive, no significant changes to the SA findings are predicted.

7.41 Despite some minor improvements to accessibility in town centres, on green infrastructure, and at new development on Land East of Maghull, overall across the borough, the modifications are predicted to have a neutral effect on accessibility.

## 7.6 Health and wellbeing

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
Health and wellbeing	<p>10. Provide environments that improve health and social care.</p> <p>20. Provide a quality living environment.</p>	<p>Will the plan provide and protect areas that can be used for formal and informal recreation?</p> <p>Will the plan provide for environments that would help the mental health and wellbeing of residents?</p> <p>Will the plan ensure high levels of design?</p> <p>Will the plan help to create places where people choose to work and do business?</p> <p>Will the plan help to create attractive local neighbourhoods?</p> <p>Will the plan help to foster a sense of civic pride and identity?</p>

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
Original Policy	✓	✓	✓	-	?	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-
With mods	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓

  

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
Original Policy	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓
With mods	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓

7.42 Modifications to MN1 and MN2 are unlikely to have an effect on health and wellbeing, as the overall levels of housing supply is not substantially different. Having said this, allocation of a new housing site at Shorrocks Hill in Formby ought to have a positive effect on health through the provision of an element of affordable housing.

7.43 The removal of the site south of Formby Industrial Estate as an employment site means that any positive effects on health and wellbeing associated with this allocation (job opportunities, enhanced recreation facilities) will no longer be realised. The effect on the overall strategy however, is not predicted to be significant.

7.44 Both policies MN3 and MN6A provide for opportunities for outdoor recreation. The revised policy MN3 will continue to have a positive effect on this sustainability theme as it prioritises the existing centres for investment which help provide attractive places where people will choose to live/work and create civic pride. It also promotes active travel, which can benefit health and wellbeing.

7.45 Similarly, the guidance for the development of Marine Park (ED8A) will help create a significant visitor destination for Southport which will help improve the identity of Southport. This policy also requires high quality design, new open space and pedestrian links, which should have a positive effect upon health and wellbeing.

7.46 Policy ED2 seeks to ensure centres retain their vibrancy, opportunities and distinctiveness by refocusing leisure, retail and other services back into town, district and local centres. ED2 therefore has potential to generate additional employment and improve the public realm in Sefton's urban centres, which should promote these areas as desirable places to work and live particularly as the



extent of the centres has been widened. The proposed modifications would not lead to any differences in these predicted effects.

7.47 Modifications to IN2 ought to have positive implications for health and wellbeing by seeking to reduce HGV movements. This could improve air quality, with knock on benefits for health.

7.48 Policy EQ2 is predicted to have positive effects on health and wellbeing by securing high quality design. The proposed modifications improve the approach to enhancing the character of areas that are of 'poorer quality'. This should be positive with respect to the health of residents living in such areas, though the effects are not predicted to be significant.

7.49 EQ8 provides further clarity and details related to flood risk, surface water and foul drainage flooding. These are issues that, if they occur, can have a negative effect on health and wellbeing. Therefore, the modifications should help to increase the likelihood that the policy will help to better manage these risks. The effects are positive, but not likely to be significant.

7.50 EQ9 is predicted to have a positive effect on health and wellbeing by ensuring that local residents have access to good quality open space. The modifications provide a more flexible approach to providing new open spaces as part of development. This ensures that open space is provided where it is needed most and can be funded appropriately. The previous approach was more generic and sought to include public open space on all developments over 50 dwellings regardless of access to existing facilities. The modifications cover a wider range of developments (from 11 dwellings), and directs enhancements to areas that are not already well served. This should help to avoid costs on sites where open space is less critical, and potentially support improvements to other aspects of the development. Therefore, proposed modifications ought to ensure that positive effects are more likely to be realised, as there is a refocusing on access to greenspace, as well as improving quality.

7.51 A number of site allocations also clarify the mitigation and enhancement that will be required with respect to the loss and creation of open space / recreation.

7.52 EQ10 is more proactive in seeking to address obesity in children by setting restrictions (with exceptions) on hot food takeaways within 400m of secondary schools and further education establishments. This is predicted to have a positive effect upon health for young people. However, the effects are not predicted to be significant as healthiness is influenced by a wider range of factors.

7.53 Policy NH1 is predicted to have a positive effect as access to biodiversity and culture can have a beneficial effect on health and wellbeing. The proposed modifications are not predicted to have any further positive effects with regards to health and wellbeing.

## 7.7 Climate change and resource use

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
Climate Change and resource use	12. Mitigate and adapt to climate change.	Will the plan help to reduce carbon emissions? Will the plan reduce car use? Will the plan promote energy efficiency? Will the plan promote renewable energy production?
	15. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources	Will the plan promote an increase in trees, open space and other green infrastructure? Will the plan reduce the amount of natural resources used (energy, water, minerals)? Will the plan help reduce waste and promote recycling?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
Original Policy	✓	✓✗	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
With mods	✓	✓✗	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
Original Policy	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
With mods	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-

7.54 Policy MN3 and MN6a support the delivery of new employment sites in areas accessible by public transport. This ought to improve access to jobs for local people, meaning that there would be a reduced need to travel outside of Sefton for work. Furthermore, these site policies seek to establish improved connectivity with surrounding areas by enhancing walking, cycling and public transport links. This too should help to minimise greenhouse gas emissions associated with increased traffic generated from these developments.

7.55 As mentioned in the section on accessibility the policy for land East of Maghull [MN3] now has a need for a subsidised bus route for 5 years. This is likely to make public transport an easier choice for many residents and is likely reduce the reliance of cars, with a consequential reduction in carbon emissions. Though positive, the effects are not predicted to be significantly different from the effects predicted in the SA.

7.56 Policies MN3 and MN6A and ED8A require the provision of open space and green infrastructure, which has the potential to have positive effects in terms of improving resilience to climate change. Whilst policies MN3 and MN6a support new development (which in itself generates demand for energy and produces waste), no significant effects are predicted on resource use. In the absence of these allocations it is still possible that development could come forward and standards for energy and waste are set out nationally.

7.57 Policies EQ9 and NH1 set out the requirement for new developments to protect and enhance green infrastructure, which should have a positive effect on climate change resilience. The proposed modifications to policy EQ9 seeks to strengthen the approach to protecting and securing new areas of open space. Whilst this is primarily for amenity value, increased green infrastructure can have benefits for climate change resilience. Consequently, a positive effect is now predicted for EQ9.

7.58 NH8 seeks to minimise the need for mineral extraction and for the restoration of sites used for mineral extraction, which ought to have a positive effect in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed modifications are predicted to have no effects beyond those identified for the Submitted version of the Policy.

7.59 Proposed modifications to Policy ED2 strengthen the role of centres particularly as the extent of the centres has been widened, which should further encourage development in accessible locations (thereby reducing the emphasis on car travel). Therefore, the policy is now predicted to have a positive effect on climate change through the reduction of emissions from car usage. The updated Design Policy [EQ2] is now predicted to have a positive effect on climate change due to the references to take advantage of solar gain and flexibility for future conversion.

7.60 Changes to policy IN2 should consolidate the positive effects predicted on climate change by encouraging a reduction in heavy goods vehicle movements.

7.61 Overall across the borough, the modifications are predicted to have a positive (but not significant) effect upon climate change.

## 7.8 Flooding

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Flooding</b>	13. Reduce the risk from flooding	Will the plan reduce the risk from flooding to existing homes and businesses? Will the plan ensure new development is built in areas with low flood risk? Will the plan help reduce surface water flooding?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	✓?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-

7.62 The majority of the proposed modifications have had little effect upon flooding.

7.63 The most relevant modifications are to Policy EQ8, which incorporates a range of measures that emphasise the importance of managing flood risk and surface water within Sefton over the plan period. This policy reflects guidance outlined in Section 10 (paragraph 103) of the NPPF. However, EQ8 does provide clarity on the level of surface water run off that would be acceptable with new developments. In this respect, the policy is positive as it requires brownfield developments to achieve a reduction in run-off rates and volumes by 20% compared to existing levels. The proposed modifications also add further detail to flood mitigation measures required for basement and ground flood level properties in vulnerable areas. This should have further positive effects on flood risk, but a significant effect would not be anticipated from these changes alone.

7.64 Policy HC5 (Gypsies and Travellers) has been modified to ensure that any new site should be safe from risk from flooding. However, this would be expected anyway to accord with the NPPF and other Local Plan policies, so a neutral effect is predicted.

7.65 A number of site specific policy modifications have been proposed, which explicitly seek to manage flooding. This includes MN2.6 (flood storage areas), MN2.16, MN2.3, MN2.31 (Identify opportunities to reduce flood risk through a site FRA). This should help to remove some of the uncertainty regarding the effects of policy MN2 with regards to flood risk. Overall the effects of the modifications across the borough are predicted to be positive, with a number of sites having improved flood management clauses.

7.66 The strategic mixed use site to the East of Maghull does contain a watercourse with a small portion of the site at risk of fluvial flooding. The corresponding policy (MN3) seeks to ensure that buildings are not located in areas at risk of flooding and that SUDs are incorporated to ensure that overall flood risk is reduced both on and adjacent to the site. Consequently this policy has now been assessed as having a positive effect.

7.67 Within the updated EA Flood Maps almost half of the Moss Lane site (MN6A) is in flood zone 3 and the development of this site may present a risk from flood risk. However, once flood defences are taken account of the risk is significantly reduced and most of the site would be considered flood zone 1. The Council also has strong flood risk policies and this policy specifically requires flood risk mitigation.

7.68 Policy NH1 sets out measures for the protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure within Sefton over the plan period. This should contribute towards managing flood risk if green infrastructure is delivered in appropriate areas throughout Sefton.

7.69 Overall the effects of the modifications across the borough are predicted to be positive, with a number of sites in particular having improved flood management clauses.

## 7.9 Environmental quality

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Environmental quality</b>	14. Reduce pollution  17. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings.	Will the plan help reduce air pollution? Will the plan help reduce water pollution? Will the plan help reduce soil pollution? Will the plan help reduce noise pollution? Will the plan help reduce light pollution?  Will the plan help bring back into use previously developed land? Will the plan help bring back into use vacant buildings?  Will the plan encourage the remediation of contaminated land?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	✓✗	✗	✗?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>With mods</i>	✓✗	✗	✗	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓

  

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	?	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	?	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓

7.70 The site to the east of Maghull [MN3] is of a scale that, even with measures to improve access to public transport, there is likely to be an increase in car use. This may increase air pollution. It is difficult to determine the impact of policy MN3 over and above the impact of the allocation of the site in Policy MN2 or to estimate the impact of the improved public transport. However, the modifications should improve the likelihood that negative effects can be mitigated, as the bus route will be subsidised for longer and pedestrian and cycle links enhanced.

7.71 Site MN6A is not of the scale as land east of Maghull and the impact on this sustainability theme, particularly with the requirements for improved public transport, is likely to be limited.

7.72 Policy ED2 seeks to prioritise Sefton's existing centres. This will not only encourage the re-use of existing buildings, but also promote services and facilities in areas that have good public transport. Similarly the policy for Marine Park [ED8A] promotes a visitor attraction, with improved access to and through the site, in an accessible location. Car use should be reduced with the implementation of these policies resulting in lower levels of pollution.

7.73 Policy EQ8 is primarily concerned with the issue of flood risk, although it does seek to ensure that Sustainable Drainage Systems should control pollution and enhance water quality. The requirement for new and improved open space and landscaping in development, as set out in the modified Policy EQ9, should have beneficial effects on water and air quality. Open space and trees help to reduce local pollution and open spaces provide places for people to escape areas of pollution.

7.74 NH1, in its modified state, continues to provide the strategic approach to Sefton's environmental assets, many of which provide an important resource in mitigating environmental impacts.

7.75 Policy NH8 focuses on mineral extraction. In terms of environmental quality, extraction can only go ahead if no unacceptable adverse impacts are demonstrated, along with mitigation or any negative impacts. This includes factors such as noise pollution, dust, air quality and lighting. After any extraction takes place the Policy requires a high quality environmental restoration. The proposed modifications provide clarity on the types of infrastructure that should be protected to safeguard minerals and associated infrastructure. This will help to ensure that activities relating to the recycling of minerals and wastes are protected, which ought to have beneficial effects on mineral resources.

7.76 The Policy on Minerals [NH8] has also been strengthened in respect of water quality, however it is considered this change is not sufficiently significant that the score for this sustainability topic be amended.

7.77 Although there are some improvements to policies that ought to help minimise pollution, the effects of the modifications are not predicted to be significant at a local or borough-wide level.

## 7.10 Landscape

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
Landscape	16. Protect Sefton's valued landscape, coast and countryside	Will the plan help to protect and enhance areas valued for its landscape, including Sefton's coast and countryside? Will the plan restrict inappropriate development in areas valued for its landscape (including areas of coastal change)?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
Original Policy	-	?	-?	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
With mods	-	?	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
Original Policy	-	-	?	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓
With mods	-	-	?	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓

7.78 Policies MN3 and MN6A (allocated through policy MN2) will lead to the development of large areas of open countryside at the edge of the urban area. This could have negative effects on the character and function of the landscape in these areas. However, the policies require appropriate landscaping, within or at the edge of the open countryside. For example MN3 sets out the provision of a new 'main park'. The new policy for Moss Lane, Churchtown (MN6A) also sets out very specific requirements for ensuring the new development has an appropriate buffer into the wider countryside. This should help to remove uncertainties and mitigate any potential negative effects at these sites.

7.79 The rewritten Design Policy (EQ2) sets out the importance of new development respecting its setting and that key views of landscape are retained or enhanced. It also sets out more explicit requirements relating to development on the urban fringe to ensure that a smooth transition into the countryside is achieved. This should provide greater protection for landscapes than would be achieved in the absence of the Plan, so EQ2 is predicted to have a **significant positive effect**.

7.80 The new and amended policies on Heritage Assets seek to protect the historic landscape, which is positive. However, the effects are not predicted to be significant given that other Plan policies previously covered these factors satisfactorily.

7.81 The new Policy on Marine Park [ED8A] includes a requirement for high quality landscaping. This is a site in a high profile location and the effect of this policy is therefore predicted to be positive.

7.82 Policy EQ9 has been unchanged in the section that relates to landscaping and is predicted to have a positive effect on this sustainability theme by requiring minimum standards of tree planting and landscaping for new developments, as well as setting out the requirement for high quality open space for certain developments. These measures should help to mitigate the effect of development at greenfield and greenbelt sites on the edge of the urban areas.

7.83 Strategic Policy NH1 sets out the strategic principles for the protection of Sefton's landscape and natural assets. This policy requires the protection and management of Sefton's natural assets, including enhancement and expansion, which should have a positive effect on maintaining a positive and naturally functioning landscape. The proposed modifications continue to provide the strategic policy approach to Sefton's environmental assets without having any further significant effects.



## 7.11 Biodiversity

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Biodiversity</b>	18. Protect and enhance biodiversity	Will the plan help protect and enhance existing areas of biodiversity value? Will the plan create new areas of biodiversity value?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	✘	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	✘	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	?	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	?	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-

7.84 Policy MN2 now includes a reference to an ecological improvement area at the site at Ainsdale High. Whilst this is a positive effect on biodiversity on a local level, this doesn't change the overall negative effects across the borough as the site allocation is only a small site of many others, which could also affect biodiversity (although certain sites are to be subject to an individual HRA).

7.85 The development of large strategic sites could affect biodiversity through the loss and disturbance of habitats. However, policies MN3 and MN6A both have specific requirements for new habitat creation within the policy text. It is predicted that this should result in a positive outcome for biodiversity at these two sites.

7.86 Policy ED8A supports appropriate development in areas adjacent to sensitive biodiversity sites. However, it is made clear that development which could adversely affect the integrity of the adjacent internationally important sites would not be allowed. It also requires landscaping as part of the redevelopment of the site, and this is likely to also be of biodiversity value. Therefore, this policy is likely to have a positive effect on biodiversity.

7.87 Policy ED8 is no longer recorded as having a positive effect on biodiversity, as this element of the policy has been transferred to ED8A. Although the policy has been strengthened regarding the Marine Park, the principles are essentially the same as they were in ED8. Therefore, overall the modifications do not lead to a difference in effects across these two policies.

7.88 Policies ED2 and ED3 are predicted to have negligible effects on biodiversity, and this position is the same in light of the proposed modifications.

7.89 Policy EQ9 sets out the requirement for new or enhancement of public open space in relation to new development. Whilst this is primarily concerned with recreation space it is likely to have some benefit for biodiversity too. The policy also requires landscaping and the protection [replacement if lost] of trees which should have a beneficial impact on this sustainability theme. The proposed modifications are unlikely to lead to further effects on biodiversity.

7.90 NH1, in its modified state, continues to provide the strategic approach to Sefton's environmental assets and continues to positively support the protection and enhancement of Sefton natural assets [including natural habitats and the ecological network].

7.91 Policy NH8 requires sensitive and high quality environmental restoration and aftercare of minerals and waste sites. This ought to have beneficial effects on biodiversity in the longer term. The proposed modifications are not predicted to have any significant effects.

7.93 Policies NH1-3 have all been amended to provide greater clarity on the importance of Sefton's natural habitat and how these will be protected, enhanced and compensated for as a last resort. Whilst the effects for these policies are still not predicted to be significant, it is considered that the amended policies are stronger.

7.94 Overall, the modifications are predicted to have generally positive effects upon biodiversity across the borough, with particular sites benefiting from a stronger policy approach.

## 7.12 Culture and heritage

Sustainability Themes	SA Objectives	Supporting questions
<b>Culture and Heritage</b>	19. Protect and enhance Sefton's culture and heritage	Will the plan preserve or enhance Sefton's cultural and heritage assets? Does the plan provide sufficient opportunity and encouragement for regeneration activity and improvements to cultural heritage?

	MN1	MN2	MN3	MN6A	MN8	ED2	ED3	ED5	ED7	ED8	ED8A
<i>Original Policy</i>	?	?	-	-	-	?	-	✓	✓	✓	-
<i>With mods</i>	?	?	-	-	-	?	-	✓	✓	✓	✓

	ED8B	HC2	IN2	EQ2	EQ8	EQ9	EQ10	NH1	NH8	NH9-14
<i>Original Policy</i>	-	-	?	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓
<i>With mods</i>	-	-	?	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓

7.95 Policy MN2 allocates a number of strategic development sites, which collectively could have negative effects on the historic environment. However, individual site policies seek to mitigate potential negative effects, which make them less likely to cause harm and more likely to secure enhancement. Consequently, the effects of MN2 are likely to mixed depending on the ability to avoid, mitigate and enhance heritage. An uncertain effect is still predicted at this stage.

7.96 Although 'Land at Moss Lane' (MN6A) is close to North Meols Conservation Area, the Policy seeks to preserve the setting of this conservation area and its implementation should therefore have a neutral effect on heritage assets. The potential for enhancement ought to be encouraged as part of this development.

7.97 The site to the land east of Maghull (covered by Policy MN3) does not have any designated heritage assets and the effect is predicted to be neutral as enhancements to heritage and culture are unlikely. The modifications do not alter this prediction.

7.98 Policy ED2 promotes a range of retail, leisure and other town centre uses in Sefton's existing town and other centres. The explanatory text explains that this could include cultural uses. It is difficult to determine the effect of this policy on this issue as the key cultural and heritage assets are those that exist already and scope for new cultural assets, particularly those that may be suited to a town centre locations, is likely to be limited. Having said this, the policy seeks to protect the vitality of town centres for retail uses, and this ought to have a positive effect on the setting of heritage assets. The modifications ought to support the role of the centres, which in principle could encourage greater re-use of buildings and reduce the possibility of buildings and areas becoming underused. Whilst these changes are positive, the effects of this policy are still considered to be unclear.

7.99 Policy ED8A requires the development of the key site at Marine Drive, Southport to compliment the historic seaside environment, including retaining the views and setting of the key historic assets in the area, such as the pier and Kings Garden.

7.100 Although development in this location has potential for implications on heritage, the policy is protective and more proactive about enhancement. Therefore positive effects on heritage are predicted.

7.101 Policies ED5, 7 & 8 have each been amended to add specific elements of protection to the heritage element of the sites in question. These changes should ensure that the positive effects predicted on heritage are more likely to be realised.

7.102 Policy NH1 has been amended to cover environmental assets only [heritage assets now covered under new policy NH9A]. As a result, the effects upon heritage for NH1 are now predicted to be neutral (rather than positive). However, new policy NH9A and modified policies NH11-14 provide comprehensive coverage of the Council's planning approach to the protection of the range of heritage assets in the borough. The modifications are predicted to be positive for retaining the character of heritage assets, whilst giving flexibility if development would provide overriding public benefits. Collectively, these policies were predicted to have significant positive effects at Submission stage. The modifications further support the likelihood of these effects being realised.

7.103 Overall, the policies (as modified) discussed above are predicted to work synergistically to achieve an improvement in the condition and setting of heritage assets compared to the baseline position. Consequently, a **significant positive effect** upon heritage and culture is predicted.

7.104 The effects of the plan overall (including all unmodified policies), still remain unclear, as it will depend upon the success of site specific policies and core policies in securing mitigation and enhancement. However, rather than a neutral effect, it is likely that some parts of the borough could be enhanced, and so overall, a minor positive effect is predicted.

## **8 Mitigation and enhancement**

8.1 No mitigation or enhancement measures were identified throughout the appraisal process. This is largely due to the fact that the proposed modifications in themselves have been made to enhance positive effects and to mitigate any negative effects.

8.2 It should also be acknowledged that mitigation and enhancement measures were identified in the appraisal of these policies at previous stages of the plan preparation process. The exception is the two new policies MN6A and ED8a, but no mitigation or enhancement measures were identified for these policies either.

## 9 Cumulative effects and conclusions

9.1 The cumulative and synergistic effects of the proposed modifications are illustrated in the table below.

9.2 A short discussion of each modification follows, summarising the difference the proposed modifications have made compared to the original SA findings for each policy and any in combination effects. This matrix does not show the effect of all the policies in their entirety; rather it demonstrates which modifications have led to tangible changes to the SA findings.

9.3 There are a number of modifications that have not led to different 'scores', and are therefore left 'blank' in the matrix below. This does not mean that they have had no effect at all, rather that the effects were already predicted to be positive or negative, and the modifications did not have a pronounced enough effect to change these scores.

	Economy	Local centres	Communities	Housing	Accessibility	Health and wellbeing	Climate change	Flooding	Environmental quality	Landscape	Biodiversity	Culture and heritage
MN1												
MN2								✓				
MN3					✓			✓	✗	-		
MN6A	✓		✓	✓	✓✗	✓	✓				✓	
MN8												
ED2							✓					
ED3												
ED5												
ED7												
ED8												
ED8A	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
ED8B												
HC2												
IN2												
EQ2							✓			✓		
EQ8				-		✓						
EQ9					✓		✓					
EQ10						✓						
NH1												
NH8												
NH9-14												

Sustainability theme	Cumulative effects of modifications on SA findings
Economy	The majority of modifications have no discernible effect on the economy. New policies ED8A and MN6A are positive as they support job growth and economic activity. Together, these policies are not predicted to have a significant effect on the findings of the SA. When considered alongside all other policies in the Local Plan (including those not subjected to modifications) no cumulative effects are predicted. Therefore, although the implications of the modifications are positive for the economy, the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged (i.e. It is predicted to have a significant positive effect on the economy overall)
Local Centres	Only one modification (ED8A) is predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. There are no cumulative effects and the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged with regards to the impact of the Plan on local centres (i.e. a largely neutral effect overall).
Communities	Only one modification (MN6A) is predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. There are no cumulative effects and the conclusions of the SA remain unchanged with regards to communities (i.e. overall, a significant positive effect is predicted)
Housing	The modifications would have positive implications for housing as the overall target has been increased. Uncertainties relating to policy EC8 affecting the viability of schemes has also been removed following the modifications to this policy. Overall, the modifications support the findings of the SA relating to housing (i.e. a significant positive effect), but with a slight improvement in the likelihood that housing targets will be delivered.
Accessibility	Three modifications (MN3 / MN6A / EQ9) are predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. EQ9 improves access to green infrastructure, whilst the new site at Moss lane is predicted to have mixed effects, with an increase in car travel likely, but at the same time improved cycling and pedestrian links. Policy MN3 is predicted to have a significant positive effect on accessibility for this part of Sefton, given that the subsidised bus route will run for 5 years instead of 3, and the role of cycle and pedestrian routes has been strengthened. Therefore, the modifications are likely to have a noticeable effect on the conclusions relating to accessibility (i.e. a positive effect on accessibility in the south of the borough, and largely neutral effects elsewhere).
Health and wellbeing	The proposed modifications relating to four plan policies are predicted to change the SA findings relating to health and wellbeing. The changes are all positive, with benefits for specific communities associated with strategic sites, areas of poorer quality and also for young people. Overall, the modifications consolidate the findings of the SA relating to health and wellbeing (i.e. a significant positive effect).
Climate change	The proposed modifications relating to four plan policies are predicted to change the SA findings relating to climate change. These changes primarily relate to improvements to green infrastructure, which ought to be positive with regards to resilience to climate change. Overall, the modifications consolidate the findings of the SA relating to Climate Change (i.e. a significant positive effect).

Sustainability theme	Cumulative effects of modifications on SA findings
Flooding	<p>Overall the effects of the modifications across the borough are predicted to be positive, with a number of sites in particular having improved flood management clauses that should reduce flood risk in those locations. The modifications support the SA findings that predict a neutral effect on flooding would occur overall.</p>
Environmental quality	<p>Although generally positive, the majority of modifications are not predicted to have a noticeable effect on the SA findings.</p>
Landscape	<p>Three modifications (MN3 / ED8A / EQ2) are predicted to change the SA findings relating to this sustainability theme. The effects are mostly locally specific, relating to the sites in question, and reduce the uncertainty that mitigation or enhancement would be secured. EQ2 however, sets principles for development on the urban fringe that ought to provide greater protection for landscape than would be the case in the absence of the plan. Consequently, a significant positive effect on landscape character is predicted in the longer term, as mitigation and enhancement schemes associated with development at strategic sites is secured and matures.</p> <p>Overall, these additional positive effects lead to a change in the conclusions for landscapes, with the plan being predicted to have a minor positive effect overall (rather than a neutral effect predicted at Submission stage),</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Overall, the modifications are predicted to have generally positive effects upon biodiversity across the borough, with particular sites benefiting from a stronger policy approach. Despite this, the overall findings of the SA remain unchanged, with an uncertain negative effect recorded. Having said this, the likelihood of negative effects is thought to be lower given the clarity on enhancement and compensation required.</p>
Culture and heritage	<p>Changes to policy ED8A are predicted to be positive, which is an improvement from the Submission version of the Plan. A number of other policies have also been strengthened with regards to heritage protection and enhancement in specific localities and more generally. In isolation, these changes to policies would not lead to a noticeable effect. However, in combination, it is predicted that the modifications could lead to a <b>significant positive effect</b> on culture and heritage in specific locations in the long term.</p> <p>Taking the modifications into consideration alongside the rest of the Plan, rather than a neutral effect (As predicted at Submission stage), a minor positive effect is predicted, it is likely that some parts of the borough could be enhanced.</p>



## 10 Monitoring and next steps

### 10.1 Monitoring

10.1 At the current stage (i.e. within the SA Report and Addendum), there is only a need to present measures *envisaged* concerning monitoring. As such, Table 16.1 in the main SA Report suggests measures that might be taken to monitor the effects (in particular the significant effects) highlighted by the appraisal of the plan.

10.2 The effects of proposed modifications are largely insignificant, and so the monitoring measures outlined in the SA Report are considered to be sufficient. However, significant environmental effects have been identified for culture and heritage as a result of the proposed modifications. The table below sets out the proposed monitoring measures for culture and heritage in the monitoring framework.

Significant effects identified	Proposed monitoring measures
<p>Proposed changes to policies NH9-NH14, alongside other plan (site specific) policies with positive implications for culture and heritage (particularly new policy ED8a), are predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on culture and heritage.</p> <p>No significant effects were predicted for culture and heritage in the SA of the Submitted version of the Local Plan. These changes are therefore a noticeable improvement to the submitted plan.</p>	<p>Number of listed buildings at risk</p> <p>Number of Conservation Areas 'at risk'</p> <p>Number of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk'</p> <p>Parks with green flag status</p>
<p>Proposed changes to Policy EQ2 [in combination with other plan policies] is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on landscape character on the urban fringe.</p> <p>Overall across the borough, a neutral effect on landscape was predicted in the SA of the Submitted version of the Local Plan. These changes are therefore a noticeable improvement to the submitted plan.</p>	<p>Approvals in the greenbelt / safeguarded land and % inappropriate,</p> <p>Area of new public open space / green infrastructure approved.</p> <p>Density of development on allocated sites at urban fringe sites compared to surrounding residential communities.</p>

Significant effects identified	Proposed monitoring measures
<p>Policy MN3 is predicted to have a significant positive effect on accessibility for the south of Sefton given that the subsidised bus route will run for 5 years instead of 3; and the role of cycle and pedestrian routes has been strengthened.</p>	<p>Development contributions to infrastructure improvement schemes.</p> <p>Travel to work by transport mode.</p> <p>Bus patronage on new routes through/to Land East of Maghull.</p> <p>Length of cycle and pedestrian routes secured at Land East of Maghull.</p>

## 10.2 Next steps

10.3 The Local Plan has been 'submitted' for consideration by an Independent Planning Inspector at Examination. The Inspector will judge whether or not the Plan is 'sound'.

10.4 During the examination period the Council has prepared a number of proposed modifications to the Local Plan which have been appraised through the SA.

10.5 The proposed modifications and the SA Report (including this Addendum) have been submitted to the Inspector and a further round of consultation is being undertaken.

10.6 At the time of adoption an SA 'Statement' must be published that sets out (amongst other things):

- How this SA findings and the views of consultees are reflected in the adopted Plan,  
*i.e. bringing the story of 'plan-making / SA up to this point' up to date; and*
- Measures decided concerning **monitoring**.

## Appendix A: Schedule of modifications

Modifications	SA implications
Changes to background information	No change to SA findings. The effects of the changes would be picked up at policy level
Change to objectives	No change to SA findings. The principles of the objectives remain the same.
SD2 Principles of Sustainable Development	Positive implications – update SA to reflect changes, particularly relating to flood risk
MN1 Housing and employment requirements	c500 more homes – Update SA to reflect allocations. Positive implications of committing to a plan review.
MN2 Site allocations	Update SA to reflect changes
MN3: Land East of Magull	Adds detail that is likely to have implications in the SA
MN4: Land North of Formby Industrial Estate	No change to SA findings likely.
MN5: Land South of Formby Industrial Estate	Site deleted, reflect this in the SA findings.
MN6: Land at Brackenway, Formby	Minor changes. Not likely to need updates to SA.
MN6A: Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown	New site – SA needs updating.
MN8: Safeguarded Land	Check whether smaller site areas have positive implications for environmental factors.
ED1: The port and maritime zone	Changes not likely to have a significant effect on SA findings. Although there is increased clarity, the principles to the policy remain the same.
ED2: Centres	Sequential test and impact test both set clearer requirements – could have implications in the SA.
ED3: Existing employment areas	Provides greater clarity on the requirement to demonstrate that alternative uses are appropriate. Update SA findings.
ED4: Mixed use areas	Minor changes unlikely to have any implications.
ED5: Tourism	Changes widen the influence of the policy, which is more positive. Update SA to reflect this (though <u>significant</u> effects are unlikely)
ED6: Regeneration areas	Minor changes unlikely to have any implications.
ED7: Southport Central Area	Positive implications for heritage – update SA.
ED8: Southport seafront	Removal of Marine Park element (though this is now a separate policy)
ED8a: Marine Park	Additional details relating to heritage and setting. Update in SA.

<b>Modifications</b>	<b>SA implications</b>
Ed8b: Aintree Racecourse	New policy. Significant effects not likely as the principles are covered by other plan policies. However, SA needs updating to reflect the inclusion of a policy.
ED9: Crosby Centre	Includes reference to the need to enhance the setting of St Michaels Cross. Whilst this is a positive addition, it is unlikely to have significant effects as other plan policies ought to encourage such actions.
HC1: Affordable and special needs housing	Changes to the % split of affordable housing.
HC2: Housing mix, type and choice	Threshold for applying mix and tenure splits increased from 15 to 25 dwellings. Threshold for accessibility standards increased from 15-50 dwellings. Addition of clause relating to custom and self-build homes. These changes are likely to have effects on the SA findings.
HC3: Residential development	Minor changes, no significant change to SA findings.
HC5: Planning for Gypsies and Travellers	Minor change, no significant change to SA findings.
HC7: Education and care institutions in the urban area	Changes do not change the principles of the policy.
IN1: Infrastructure and developer contributions	Changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.
IN2: Transport	Clause 7 ought to have positive implications for the reduction of heavy goods traffic and carbon emissions.
EQ1: Planning for a healthy Sefton	Minor changes, no implications for the SA.
EQ2: Design	Changes relating to areas of lesser quality ought to be positive, by encouraging enhancement rather than continuation of negative trends. The addition of a clause requiring consideration of solar gain is more positive than the draft policy with regards to energy and climate change. The addition of requirements relating to urban edge sites ought to have positive effect on landscape character. Overall, the changes are likely to lead to changes to the SA.
EQ3: Accessibility	Changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.
EQ5: Air quality	Changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.

<b>Modifications</b>	<b>SA implications</b>
EQ8: Managing flood risk and surface water	Policy adds further detail and clarity. Positive implications, though unlikely to lead to significant changes to the SA.
EQ9: Provision of Public open space, strategic paths and trees in development	Changes to requirements and thresholds that could affect the SA findings.
EQ10: Food and Drink	Policy changes add clarity, which should ensure a more positive effect upon health and amenity. Update SA findings.
NH1: Natural assets	Clarifies the need for compensation as a last resort, which is positive for biodiversity. Removes reference to heritage (which is covered in other policies) Update SA to reflect changes.
NH2: Protection and enhancement of nature sites, priority habitats and species	Changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.
NH3: Development in the nature improvement area	Changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.
NH5: Protection of open space and countryside recreation areas	Minor changes do not change the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA.
NH8: Minerals	Provides more flexibility and clarity on the suitability of development in areas safeguarded for minerals. Positive implications for minerals.
NH9A: Heritage Assets	New policy – need to appraisal in the SA
NH9: Demolition or substantial harm to heritage assets	Adds flexibility to the policy that allows development in exceptional circumstances. This could be positive for housing and the economy. If the public benefits are determined to outweigh the loss, then it is also likely that there could be positive effects upon health and wellbeing.
N10: Works affecting listed buildings	Changes proposed are an element of other plan policies, so the overall effects on the SA findings are not expected to be significant.
NH11: Development affecting Conservation Areas	Policy additions ought to be more positive for retaining the character of Conservation Areas, whilst giving flexibility if development would provide overriding public benefits.
NH12: Development affecting registered parks and gardens	Policy changes give flexibility if development would provide overriding public benefits. If the public benefits are determined to outweigh the loss, then it is also likely that there could be positive effects upon health and wellbeing.

<b>Modifications</b>	<b>SA implications</b>
NH13: Development affecting scheduled monuments and non-designated archaeology	Changes made do not alter the principles of the policy. No implications for the SA findings.
NH14: Development affecting non-designated heritage assets	Minor changes. No implications for the SA.
Site specific changes	These should all be reviewed and the SA updated accordingly.