

Sefton LDF – Sefton Submission Local Plan Examination November/December 2015

Statement of Common Ground by Sefton Council and National Trust (ref. 663)

10th November 2015

MAIN MATTER 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION AND RETAIL

Issue 5a: Whether the proposals for main employment areas and regeneration areas are positively prepared, effective and consistent with national policy.

Q5.3 *Does Policy ED5 provide sufficient clarity about the types of tourism development that is supported? Are there other important tourist locations that warrant being added to the four areas identified?*

1 Introduction

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to set out the areas of agreement, including in respect of the detailed Policy wording and supporting explanatory text, between Sefton Council and National Trust on matters relating to Policy ED5, and the supporting Background and Justification, at paragraphs 7.35 to 7.39B of the Council's Publication Local Plan having regard to the representations submitted by National Trust concerning that Policy and the related text (including in response to the proposed changes as approved by the Council in October 2015).

2 Common Ground Between Parties

2.1 Both parties agree that in preparing its Local Plan Sefton Council has sought to ensure that it provides a robust policy and spatial framework to deliver sustainable development, in sustainable locations, having regard to the requirements set out in the relevant government guidance.

- 2.2 Both parties agree that Policy ED5 is a necessary addition to the previous draft versions of the Plan as it should set out the Council's approach to tourism development.
- 2.3 Both parties agree that some minor changes to the detailed wording of Proposed Policy ED5 are appropriate to address the specific comments raised by National Trust in its response to the Submission Local Plan and its more detailed comments as set out in its Statement (dated 28th October 2015) in respect of Matter 5.3.
- 2.4 It is jointly proposed and agreed by the two parties that the text of Policy ED5 and the related text at paragraphs 7.35 to 7.39 of the Local Plan should be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to this Statement of Common Ground.
- 2.5 The principal agreed change is to include a second element to the Policy relating to location specific tourism assets outside the four strategic locations identified in the first part of the Policy. Related agreed changes and additional text are proposed to the Justification for the Policy.
- 2.6 The changes now proposed, and jointly agreed, are relatively modest but seek to ensure that in addition to the strategic tourism sites other location specific sustainable tourism development proposals are supported where they are consistent with the other policies in the Plan. The parties agree that these changes accord with paragraph 28 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.7 With the changes as set out in Appendix One it is agreed by both Sefton Council and National Trust that *"...Policy ED5 (would) provide sufficient clarity about the types of tourism development that is supported"*.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Sefton Council and National Trust consider that the suggested changes as set out in Appendix 1 to this Statement of Common Ground would satisfactorily address the issues that have been identified.

Signed:

.....*Steve Matthews*.....

On behalf of Sefton Council
13th November 2015

.....*Alan Hubbard*.....

Alan Hubbard
On behalf of National Trust
10th November 2015

Appendix 1: Amendments to Sefton Local Plan – Policy ED5 and Supporting Text

(NB – underlined text either adds to or replaces previously proposed text)

TOURISM IN SEFTON

- 7.35 Tourism is an important element of the economy of Southport and Sefton as a whole. Many people are employed directly in tourism-related jobs, and tourism generates demand for new and additional services that lead to the creation and growth of businesses. Southport is the main focus of tourism in Sefton. Over the last decade, more than £200 million has been invested in the infrastructure of Southport’s visitor economy, which supports over 4000 full time equivalent jobs.
- 7.36 Aintree Racecourse (the home of the ‘Grand National’), Crosby Coastal Park and the Antony Gormley ‘Another Place’ iron men statues, and the Formby coast are also important. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal and strategic paths such as the Trans Pennine Trail and Sefton Coast Path have a tourism as well as more local leisure role.
- 7.37 The aims for tourism in Sefton are set within the context of the ‘Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020’ and the ‘Southport Visitor Economy Strategy’, and are corporate priorities for Sefton. They recognise and try to enhance existing strengths of tourism in Southport, as part of economic growth and regeneration for Sefton and the City Region.
- 7.38 These strategies are set within the context of the need to limit visitor pressure on the Sefton Coast to make sure that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of its internationally important nature sites.

ED5 TOURISM

Strategic tourism locations

1. Tourism development will be supported in the following locations, subject to there being no adverse effects on the integrity of sites of international nature conservation importance, other natural and heritage assets, or to other Local Plan policies:

- Southport Seafront and Southport Central Area
- Crosby Coastal Park
- Aintree Racecourse
- Adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal

Other tourism development

2. Elsewhere sustainable tourism development will be supported in principle where it relates to location-specific tourism assets and is consistent with other Local Plan policies.

Policy links:

- MN7 Sefton’s Green Belt
- ED7 Southport Central Area
- ED8 Southport Seafront
- NH2 Protection and enhancement of nature sites, priority habitats and species
- NH4 The Sefton Coast and development
- Chapter 11 Natural and Heritage Assets Policies

National /regional context

- Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020, 2009

Explanation

- 7.39 The areas listed in the policy are amongst the most important areas for tourism in Sefton. Southport Seafront, Southport Central Area, Crosby Coastal Park and Aintree Racecourse are shown on the Policy Map.
- Policies ED6 'Regeneration Areas', ED7 'Southport Central Area' and ED8 'Southport Seafront' provide a more detailed overview of the policy approach to Southport Seafront and Southport Central Area.
 - Crosby Coastal Park covers the coastal area of public open space from Hightown to the boundary with the Liverpool Freeport at Waterloo and Seaforth. Its attractions include 'Another Place', Crosby Marine Lake, Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre, the extensive play area south of South Road and formal gardens within Waterloo Conservation Area.
 - Aintree Racecourse includes the main stands and facilities and other leisure and tourism facilities on the Ormskirk Road frontage, as well as the racecourse itself which lies mostly within the Green Belt.
 - The Leeds and Liverpool Canal passes through or adjacent to the built up area in Bootle, Litherland, Netherton, Aintree, Melling, Maghull and Lydiate, although part of the canal is in the Green Belt.
- 7.39A Other Local Plan policies with which tourism development must be consistent include those listed above, policy MN7 'The Green Belt', heritage policies in chapter 11, and other policies. For example, many sites in these locations are also Local Wildlife Sites or may raise other nature conservation or heritage issues.
- 7.39B Other tourism areas or assets in Sefton include the Hornby Centre, Trans Pennine Trail and Coast Path. Policy NH4 recognises the importance of golf courses and informal recreation located on the Sefton Coast. For example the National Trust's site at Formby Point is important for tourism, and the local economy, ecology and nature conservation. The tourism policy together with Policy NH4 'The Sefton Coast and development', and other relevant Local Plans policies, provide the framework for assessing development proposals on the Coast.

