

Sefton Council

Green Space, Trees and Development
Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Sustainability Report



January 2008

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Section 1 Background

Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and Sustainability Report

1.1 This document is the Sustainability Report of the draft Green Space, Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It sets out the process undertaken to ensure that the draft SPD will help to achieve sustainable development, i.e the sustainability appraisal (SA). The sustainability report sets out how decisions with regard to sustainability have been taken and show how these have influenced the SPD process. It is also intended to provide a snapshot of the current social, economic and environmental situation so we can monitor the impact of the SPD.

Methodology

1.2 The sustainability appraisal process was carried out in two parts in line with government guidance

- the production of a scoping report setting out the scope of the sustainability appraisal
- the production of this sustainability report

1.3 The scoping report stage sets out the sustainability baseline for Sefton, with particular emphasis on green space issues. This includes a review of relevant policies and strategies, baseline data and a look at sustainability issues and problems through site visits and consultation. All these tasks helped inform the setting up of a sustainability framework, which was used in the later stage of the process. The scoping report was available for consultation during April 2007 with changes made as a result of comments. Section 2 of this sustainability report summarises the main findings from the scoping stage.

1.4 The appraisal of the draft SPD was carried out using the framework agreed by the scoping report. Using a simple scoring system the draft SPD was scored against each of the sustainability objectives in the framework. The table below sets out the scoring system used.

++	major positive
+	minor positive
0	neutral
-	minor negative
--	major negative
?	unknown

1.5 A small appraisal team consisting of council officers from a number of departments carried out the appraisal using the sustainability framework. The outcome of the appraisal was a series of recommendations which would seek to mitigate any areas the appraisal team thought the SPD may be weak in terms of sustainability. The results of this appraisal are set out in detail in section 3.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.6 The need to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was introduced by European Legislation and brought into English Law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This sets a requirement to assess the environmental implications of certain types of plans and programmes and to determine whether an SEA is required. Guidance that was produced for SA incorporates the requirements for SEA.

1.7 As the methodology for sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment have many similar elements, it is recommended that these be carried out together. The guidance for undertaking sustainability appraisal is designed to ensure that the requirements for SEA are also met. Both processes will therefore be combined into a joint document at both the scoping stage and the full sustainability report.

1.8 In this document any reference to Sustainability Appraisal should also be read to include Strategic Environmental Assessment. Within the document the SEA requirements will be signposted at the beginning of the relevant section to allow for easy reference. Appendix 1 sets out a checklist of the SEA requirements and in which section of the SA process they will be met. This sustainability report therefore also incorporates an Environmental Report under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations.

Section 2 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

What the SEA Directive says [adapted]

The Environmental Report should provide information on [among other things]:

- *the relationship of the SPD with other relevant plans*
- *the environmental protection objectives, which are relevant to the SPD, and the way they have been taken into account during its preparation*
- *a snapshot of the current state of the environment and how that would change without implementing the plan or programme and*
- *the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected by the SPD.*

2.1 The scoping report stage of the appraisal process consists of a number of key tasks that are intended to set the context for carrying out the appraisal. In line with the regulations the Scoping Report was consulted on with a number of key organisations and was made available to the general public.

2.2 The following is a summary of the context review, baseline data, sustainability issues and the sustainability framework taken from the Scoping Report. The full scoping report can viewed on our website at www.sefton.gov.uk/greenspace or obtained on request from the Local Planning Team

Context Review

2.3 What was clear from a review of relevant plans and programmes was that open spaces and trees are important elements in the creation of sustainable communities. Many stress that Council officers and Members must value open spaces and trees and should be willing to take political, creative and financial risks in order to improve them. In most cases they are a highly valued part of the public realm, contributing to an area's identity and character and important for a variety of reasons. These include:

- **Biodiversity** - Open spaces of all sizes and trees are used by wildlife and valued by people for this reason
- **Urban Cooling** - vegetation can cool the air and absorb atmospheric pollutants, particularly important in urban areas.
- **Health** - open spaces have the potential for a positive impact on physical and mental health and overall sense of well-being.
- **Sustainable Transport** - parks or green areas often provide routes between spaces or destinations and form valuable sections of the cycling and walking network.
- **Recreation** - open spaces provide safe settings for sports and play, which is crucial for child development.
- **Heritage** - parks and gardens can be of significant historical value, often forming an essential part of Conservation Areas and providing the setting for listed buildings.
- **Economy** - good quality open spaces good tree cover can have a positive local economic impact by increasing the property values of surrounding streets. Open spaces and landscapes can aid urban regeneration and boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities.
- **Community and culture** - parks and open spaces can encourage social interaction, often providing a venue for community events.

As a result, many pressures are put on such spaces to provide biodiversity, recreation space, and visual amenity, which demand high standards of maintenance and design.

2.4 Maintenance of open spaces is a particular issue, with the conclusion that people most value spaces that are well maintained. Run down and badly maintained open spaces contribute to a feeling of dissatisfaction with urban life and can worsen the sense of physical and social decline in an area. If they are not well looked after or used, open spaces can become the focus of antisocial behaviour or crime.

2.5 In terms of design, open spaces or green infrastructure, including trees, in new developments and regeneration schemes must be an integral feature and of a high design quality, as well as safe and accessible. The principle of excellence and creativity of design in open spaces should apply wherever the space is located – regardless of the social profile, economic position or cultural heritage of the area.

2.6 Local Authorities are also encouraged to think creatively about the different uses to which open space can be put. For example, existing or new green infrastructure can be used to improve water quality and flood control as part of sustainable drainage systems. This is particularly relevant given the threat posed by climate change.

2.7 Existing parks and green spaces should also be afforded appropriate protection, whether this is for their historical or biodiversity value. Habitats and species Biodiversity Action Plans set out strategy for the protection and enhancement of habitats for a variety of species while the English Heritage Register lists protect historical parks and open spaces.

2.8 Overall, many of the documents conclude that matters concerning open space and nature conservation must be recognised as strategically important. To ensure this, the Council must produce and maintain a coherent policy regarding local standards for the provision of trees and open space (including outdoor sport and play space) through consultation, considering quantity, quality and accessibility.

Baseline data

2.9 Sefton has a population that has declined over recent decades but which is expected to stabilise, or possibly increase over the next few years. Population density is considerably higher in Sefton (five times higher) than the average for the rest of England and four times that of the North West region. This population is also older on average than in surrounding Local Authorities.

2.10 In terms of economic well-being, over a quarter of Sefton's population lives in the most deprived super output areas in the country – this is almost twice the national average. Almost a quarter of children in Sefton live in families that are income deprived – higher than the national average.

2.11 Most Sefton residents feel that over the past three years, community activities have improved or stayed the same. This is a higher proportion than in Liverpool, and very close to the national average. Election turnout is higher in Sefton than nationally, and significantly higher than turnout in Liverpool. The vast majority of Sefton residents (around 88%) also believe that race relations have improved or remained the same over the past three years.

2.12 Overall there is an effective use of land in Sefton with a high proportion of homes built on previously developed land. Over half of the total land area is designated as greenbelt, 7% as Urban Greenspace and almost a quarter of the borough is classed as best and most versatile agricultural land. In contrast however, Sefton also has a high number of sites of 'potential concern' with respect to land contamination in the Local Authority area – over 8500 sites.

2.13 Almost a quarter of land and highways in Sefton are assessed as having unacceptable levels of litter – almost 10% higher than in neighbouring Liverpool or the North West average. In terms of

air quality, local estimates for CO₂ emissions – both domestic and total – are below the national average. Travel to work data shows that most of the borough's population travel to work by car although a higher than national average number travel by public transport at 14%. Overall, for all journeys Sefton has lower than average traffic flows – considerably less than neighbouring Liverpool, but as with Liverpool's, these are increasing.

2.14 Health statistics show that at 40%, Sefton has a higher than national average percentage of households where one or more person has a limiting long-term illness. This is coupled with a lower than national average life expectancy – particularly for men.

2.15 Most people in Sefton feel safe when in open spaces and parks during the day and the percentage has improved recently. However, only a small percentage of people (15% in March 2007) said they felt safe or fairly safe in parks and open spaces after dark. Sefton has a better than average record for road safety with fewer road accident casualties involving pedestrians. Over 60% of Sefton residents believe there is a significant problem with rowdy or drunken behaviour in their local area. This percentage is higher than in Liverpool (50%) or nationally (48%).

2.16 Data for culture and leisure reveals that around 7% of the population of Sefton live within 20 minutes travel of a range of good quality sporting facilities. This is significantly lower than the national average of just over 30%. Three parks in the Borough have been awarded Green Flag status with 23 being managed to these standards.

2.17 According to a recent playing pitch and team survey, Crosby and Bootle have the most pitches in the Borough for all pitch-based sports. Aintree and Maghull are the most poorly served for all sports – having no mini-football, rugby or hockey pitches. Football is the most played sport in Sefton – with the most active teams. Cricket, Hockey and finally Rugby follow this. Matching availability of facilities, Bootle and Crosby had the highest total number of active teams. Cricket is most popular in Southport, although this area was not matched by having the highest number of cricket grounds. Hockey pitch provision does not seem to match demand – particularly in Formby and Southport.

Sustainability Issues

2.18 This stage gathered together the information from the first two stages and supplemented it using information gathered through meetings, research and site visits. Additional issues that were identified include that many spaces have poor accessibility; some have specific problems with anti-social behaviour and fly tipping; many green spaces have lost their function following closure of schools and old peoples homes etc and others are poorly maintained. This section also looked at the range of issues around green and open spaces and set out the implications for the sustainability framework.

Sustainability Framework

2.19 Using the gathered information a sustainability framework was developed which would be used to appraise the draft Green Space, Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document. This framework includes a list of sustainability objectives, key questions and indicators. The framework is provided in Appendix 6. The sustainability objectives are what we hope the planning document will help to achieve. These are separated into **primary objectives** and **secondary objectives** according to how relevant or how achievable we feel they are. 12 primary objectives have been chosen for the framework. These are:

- Sefton as a great place to live, relax, work and do business
- Better access to services
- Quality new development
- Restoring and keeping land quality
- More walking, cycling and use of public transport
- Improving *your* environment
- Dealing with climate change

- Conserving nature – species and habitat
- Caring for Sefton’s buildings and heritage
- Caring for the landscape
- A safer Sefton with less crime
- Better health for everyone

2.20 These are the main objectives against which the document will be scored. A further 7 secondary objectives have also been chosen to consider when developing the planning document. Both primary and secondary objectives have a series of key questions that will help determine how well any development is expected to perform.

2.21 Indicators are a measure of performance. They will help to show how well the implementation of the Green Space, Trees and Development SPD is doing in meeting the sustainability objectives. They will also be able to show the areas that need changing to improve performance. Indicators are only provided for the key sustainability objectives, as it is difficult to isolate the impact of the SPD on those particular objectives.

Do you think we have accurately identified the sustainability issues relevant to open space in Sefton?

Do you think the sustainability framework was suitable to appraise the draft Green Space, Trees and Development SPD?

Section 3 Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

What the SEA Directive says [adapted]

An environmental report should set out the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the SPD and any reasonable alternative options

Sustainability Appraisal of saved policies

3.1 Government guidance states that ‘where the SPD has been prepared on the basis of a DPD or saved plan, policy or policies which have not been subject to SA, then the authority will need to carry out a SA of that policy and report on those.’

3.2 The policies within the adopted UDP, which the Open Space, Trees and Development SPD will supplement, were subject to sustainability appraisal. The results of this appraisal are provided in Appendix 2. However, this process did not comply with the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment or latest government guidance on carrying out sustainability appraisals. Therefore, in addition to the original appraisal, each of the main UDP policies relevant to the draft SPD have been tested against the sustainability appraisal framework set out in the previous section.

3.3 The results of this additional appraisal are set out in Appendix 3. Although this is a useful exercise, as it provides a further opportunity to test for areas that may be weak in sustainable terms, it is essentially a retrospective exercise. There is no scope to amend or review adopted UDP policies through the preparation of this appraisal or the SPD. Therefore only those sustainability objectives considered primary, and therefore most likely to be affected by the SPD, have been considered in the appraisal.

3.4 However this process has shown that overall the UDP policies (which the draft SPD supplements) are generally considered sustainable with just a couple of minor exceptions. A couple of these are due to the potential conflict with policy G2 ‘Improving Public Access to Urban Greenspace’. This may conflict with some of the sustainability objectives, namely ‘Dealing with Climate Change’ and ‘Conserving nature – species and habitat’ as increased public access may lead to increased traffic and disturbance. It was also identified that protecting particular greenspaces or creating others with no security or management may result in areas which attract anti-social behaviour.

Appraisal of SPD objectives

3.5 The objectives of an SPD set out what it is intended to achieve. The draft SPD has 2 objectives. To ensure that these objectives are compatible with sustainability objectives they have been tested against them. The results of this comparison can be found in Appendix 4.

3.6 In this comparison exercise, positive overall scores were given as it was felt that the SPD objectives were consistent with the principles of sustainability. It was also concluded that the SPD objectives were fairly general and specific conflicts would not be apparent at this stage.

Developing the draft SPD options

3.7 Given that this SPD is essentially setting out how UDP policies apply the scope to develop a range of strategic options was limited. As a result the only options that were considered as part of the appraisal process were either having a SPD or having no SPD. Given that the decision has been made to produce a SPD, primarily so the area can be developed in a comprehensive manner, the option of having no SPD was not appraised as a discrete exercise. However, we have assessed the

draft SPD by comparing it to the current (i.e. no SPD) option. The value of this approach is that it allows us to assess the draft policies in detail for potential improvements in sustainability terms rather than in comparison to unrealistic options.

Appraising the draft SPD

3.8 Using the sustainability framework, agreed as part of the scoping report process, the draft SPD was appraised and scored using the system set out on page 1. The results of the appraisal are set out in Appendix 5. In those areas where it was felt the score could be improved suggestions were made to mitigate these weaknesses. These are set out in the next section.

Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

3.9 Throughout the appraisal there have been no identified areas where a negative effect of implementing the draft SPD was anticipated. This reflects the topic of the SPD, which in itself is a key element of sustainability, i.e. improvement to local environment. However, a number of scores of slightly positive were awarded, indicating that there are areas where the draft document could be improved. A number of recommendations were suggested which could help improve the sustainability of the draft SPD.

Table 1 Recommendations from appraisal

There should be more emphasis on environmental improvements of town centres for the benefit of their non-resident populations. All measurements and focus seems to be on distance of green space from housing. There is no mention of other communities e.g. in Bootle where there is a high population of office workers. Taking account of their needs may include providing attractive green spaces for use during lunch breaks.

The document could make clearer the positive influences of green space on the climate. It was suggested that a separate 'Climate Change' section could be included on this subject within the Action Plan to recognise this – possibly under the 'quality' or 'environment' section.

Difference the process has made

3.10 Although the appraisal concluded that the draft SPD scored well in sustainability terms, a number of amendments were recommended which sought to improve the sustainability of resultant development. Table 2 sets out the changes that have been incorporated within the draft SPD prior to its approval for consultation purposes.

3.11 In addition the principles of sustainability have been embedded throughout the policy writing process. This has occurred as policy makers have helped with the appraisal process. The draft SPD was also written once many of the issues and problems had been determined.

3.12 The appraisal process has also helped to decide which would be the most suitable indicators to use to measure the SPD. It was concluded that rather than have duplication, the SPD indicators should be chosen from the list of indicators developed for the sustainability appraisal. In effect the performance of the SPD in sustainability terms will be the measure of the effectiveness of the SPD overall.

Table 2 Statement of the difference the sustainability appraisal has made

There are two main areas where the sustainability appraisal recommended changes

Environmental improvements to town centres

The accessibility standards for parks and accessible nature spaces do focus on distance from homes. This can be measured, whereas information about employment and visitor numbers in major employment locations and town centres is more difficult to collect. However, the SPD includes for the first time detailed guidance on the provision of green space linked to major industrial, commercial and leisure developments – which includes offices and retailing. This may lead to some new green space in town centres which will benefit staff and visitors, or to commuted sum provision for enhancement of existing green spaces elsewhere. The SPD makes clear that priorities for spending commuted sums for enhancing existing green space and new street tree planting are determined by the green space strategy and other linked strategies, taking into account the green space standards and the views of Area Committees and Planning Committees. Thus the Green space Strategy is the more appropriate place for a higher priority for town centre enhancements to be reflected.

Climate change

Appendix 2 (Benefits of green space and trees) already recognises the positive contribution of green space and trees in helping to mitigate for and adapt to climate change. However, the climate change benefits are now specifically listed as examples of benefits and functions of green space and trees in section 2. Also, an extra addition within section 4, in relation to new green space provision within major commercial, industrial or leisure development sites, now states by way of example that as well as their recreation or nature functions such green spaces may also provide a sustainable drainage system which forms a storm water storage and soakaway area: or provides a shade or temperature buffer.

Do you agree with the conclusions of the draft SPD?

Do you agree with the list of recommendations for change to the draft SPD to ensure resultant development is more sustainable?

Are there any other key points with regards to sustainability that you think should be raised?

Section 4 Monitoring

What the SEA Directive says [adapted]

Authorities should monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the SPD in order to identify at an early stage unexpected negative effects, so that measures to improve the situation can be made.

The Environmental Report should set out the approach that will be taken to monitor the performance of the SPD.

4.1 The sustainability framework contains a range of indicators that will be used to monitor the sustainability performance of the Open Space, Trees and Development SPD (see Appendix 6). These indicators will be reported on each year within the Planning & Economic Regeneration Department's Annual Monitoring Report. Through this report the performance of the SPD will be assessed and decisions taken on whether it needs to be amended.

Do you think the monitoring framework, including the list of indicators, is adequate to assess how successful the SPD will be in sustainable terms?

Section 5 Preparation of the SA Report

What the SEA Directive says [adapted]

Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes:

- *the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and how these factors interact. These effects should include long, medium and short and temporary and permanent.*
- *an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with*
- *the measures taken to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the SPD*

5.1 This report was prepared in line with guidance with its main purpose, as a consultation document, taken into consideration. This report is intended to provide the general public with an audit trail for some of the decisions for the content of the draft Open Space, Trees and Development SPD. It is also intended to show how sustainability concerns have been considered in the policy development process.

5.2 This document is a consultation document (see next section) and as such is subject to revision depending on comments received. A final sustainability report will accompany the adopted SPD.

Section 6 Consulting on the draft SPD and SA

What the SEA Directive says [adapted]

The statutory authorities and the public shall be given an early and suitable opportunity to express their opinion on the draft SPD and the accompanying environmental report before it is adopted.

The environmental report and comments made during consultation shall be taken into account during the preparation of the SPD and before its adoption.

When the SPD is adopted, the statutory authorities and the public should be informed and the following items shall be made available:

(a) the adopted SPD;

(b) a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the SPD including the reasons for choosing the SPD as adopted; and

(c) the measures decided concerning monitoring

6.1 As is required by regulations this sustainability report is being made available for consultation alongside the draft Green Space, Trees and Development SPD. Both these documents are being consulted on in line with our Statement of Community Involvement for a 6-week period. Comments can be made on any aspect of this sustainability report although questions are provided throughout for guidance.

6.2 Comments should be made either by post, e-mail, fax or using our online comments form (details below) to be received no later than **5pm 20 March 2008**

Post: Local Planning Team, Planning & Economic Regeneration Department, 1st Floor Magdalen House, Bootle L20 3NJ.

E-mail: lan.loughlin@planning.sefton.gov.uk

Fax: 0151 934 3561

Online Comments Form: <http://consult.sefton.gov.uk/> (then select relevant document)

6.3 A consultation statement will be produced following the consultation period that will set out what consultation that has taken place, comments received, our responses and any changes made to the sustainability report and SPD as a result of the comments.

Appendix 1 Strategic Environmental Assessment checklist

As we are combining the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment within the Sustainability Appraisal process it is useful to provide a checklist of the SEA requirements. This will ensure each requirement is met and can be located within in the different stages of the SA. Some of the SEA requirements will be met at different stages and in other documents. Where the requirements are or will be met is signposted in the table below.

The SEA directive's requirements	Where this will be covered
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plan and programmes.	Section 1 of the Sustainability Report and background and the Scoping Report.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan of programme.	The Scoping Report and summarised in section 2 of the Sustainability Report
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The Scoping Report
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	The Scoping Report
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	The scoping report
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	The Sustainability Report
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment the plan or programme.	The Sustainability Report
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	The Sustainability Report
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	The Sustainability Report and Task A4 of the Scoping Report
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	The Sustainability Report
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision making process and the	The Sustainability Report and the Scoping Report

The SEA directive's requirements	Where this will be covered
extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment.	
Consultation of authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report.	Task A5 of the Scoping Report and Statement of Community Involvement
Consultation of authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme.	Sustainability Report and Statement of Community Involvement
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making.	Final Supplementary Planning Document(s)
When the plan or programme is adopted, the public shall be informed and the following made available – the adopted plan or programme, the environmental report and the measures decided concerning monitoring.	In line with the Statement of Community Involvement.
Monitoring of the significant effects of the plan or programme's implementation.	The Annual Monitoring Report

Appendix 2 Original sustainability appraisal of the relevant UDP policies

Current Policy No.	Policy Title	Score	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Recommendations	Detailed Response	Summary in Plan
CS2	Restraint on development and protection of environmental assets	+	A distinction is needed between critical assets and constant capital. Also need to consider the difference between quantitative and qualitative nature of assets. Need to add in a third layer to cover local assets e.g. trees. May need to look at local distinctiveness in relation to landscape and conservation areas, using different definition from design in development. Need to look at basis of policy carefully measuring no harm or loss and no net loss.	Policy changed to move away from an environmental capital approach to a greater emphasis on environmental assets. After this, structure of the Strategy section was changed to give 3 Core Strategy (CS) policies. Policy SP10 was carried forward, with some changes, as policy CS2 'Restraint on development and Protection of Environmental Assets'. This has only one layer of protection - with Part 2 policies setting out the detail of the relative importance of different assets, and what development can be allowed for each.	No changes needed.
NC1	Site protection	+/-	Revise policy, consider hierarchy of protection and the possibilities for enhancement. SP10 'Nature Conservation' talks about enhancements, this should form the starting point with avoid and minimise harm as fallback situations. In the worst case scenario mitigation may be acceptable.	Policy has been substantially changed since the appraisal. Policy has been revised to strengthen protection of sites and make the hierarchy clearer between national/international and local/regional sites when considering whether development can take place as an exception. Enhancement is not dealt with in this policy as it is covered in NC3 'Habitat Protection, Creation and Management'.	Policy changed to clarify hierarchy of sites, while enhancement is covered in Policy NC3 'Habitat Protection, Creation and Management'.
NC2	Protection of species	+	Strengthen policy, add in hierarchy, include enhancements and relate policy to SP10 'Nature Conservation' and NC1 'Site Protection'.	Policy has been substantially changed since the appraisal. Policy strengthened and need to enhance habitat added. (SP10 'Nature Conservation' has been deleted.)	Policy changed to refer to the need for habitat enhancement.

Current Policy No.	Policy Title	Score	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Recommendations	Detailed Response	Summary in Plan
NC3	Habitat protection, creation and management	-	Review relationship with SP10 'Nature Conservation'/ former NC1 'Site Protection', NC2 'Protection of Species' and former NC3 'Proposed Local Nature Reserves' and remove overlap. Consider the need to complement habitat fragmentation element of the policy with identification of core and buffer areas and wildlife corridors on the Plans Proposal Map. This could form part of a spatial ecological framework for Sefton. The creative conservation element of this policy could be included as a separate policy within this section.	Hierarchical approach to species not accepted. Policy has been substantially changed since the appraisal. Policy now clearly deals with management and protection which would include habitats within designated sites. Policy also encourages enhancement, management and creation of new habitat. This policy would support any spatial ecological framework for Sefton if prepared.	Policy changed to strengthen approach to management and enhancement.
CPZ4	Coastal Park	++	No changes recommended.	No changes recommended.	No changes needed.
G1	Protection of urban greenspace	+	Consider inserting new wording ' greenspace is maintained to ensure the same level of access and amenities for local people'. Consider modifying wording to include reference to improvement and appropriate management of greenspace e.g. as part of final paragraph of policy. Consider identifying a requirement for greenspace as part of urban regeneration initiatives (either as new policy or within regeneration policies).	Para 1 (iii) of policy has been amended, in part to reflect sustainability appraisal, and now gets this point across. Paras 1 (iv) and 1 (v) seek to enhance these elements. Para 2 protects the value of urban greenspaces. Overall the purpose of this policy seeks to protect rather than enhance, but in practice enhancement is likely to be an outcome of all the exceptions listed in para1. New urban greenspace is covered by DQ3 'Public Greenspace and Development' – this policy aims to protect existing greenspaces. Explanation to DQ3 covers this issue.	Policy changed to ensure that public access levels are maintained.

Current Policy No.	Policy Title	Score	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Recommendations	Detailed Response	Summary in Plan
G2	Improving public access to urban greenspace	+	Insert new wording 'protect environmental capital within Urban Areas' Consider modifying policy to make reference to the quality of compensatory greenspace provided.	Policy has been amended and sets out broad parameters for improvements in quality of the greenspace.	Policy changed to give a clearer framework for improving the quality of urban greenspace.
G3	Urban greenspace systems	0	Consider expanding explanation to clarify definition of link. Consider modifying policy to provide level of protection for links consistent with other greenspace policies.	Policy has been strengthened to include the words 'physical or visual links', and to ensure consistency with explanation.	Policy changed to improve the definition of 'links'.
G4	Development adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool canal	+	Consider modifying policy, or including references in explanation to protecting freshwater habitat and water quality. Consider modifying policy to require towpath access from all new development and clarify type of access in explanation or by reference to other policies.	It is considered that this policy should not duplicate other legislative controls, or other Plan policies. Canal water quality <i>per se</i> is beyond the scope of the Plan. EP2 'Pollution' includes general water quality issues –e.g. surface water run-off implications. Nature conservation and urban greenspace policies deal with habitat issues. Access issues considered too detailed for the policy. Design Supplementary Planning Guidance may give some guidance.	Policy not changed as water pollution is covered by other regulations.
G5	Protection of recreational open space	+	Consider modifying policy to make reference to building associated with recreational open space	It is difficult to assess whether there is need for existing or new buildings associated with recreational open space and may be difficult to enforce. Policy G1 'Protection of Urban Greenspace' offers guidelines for sites which are greenspaces. Green Belt policies and PPG2 'Green Belt' provide guidance on new buildings on recreation spaces in the Green Belt.	Policy not changed as it is considered inappropriate to protect recreational buildings associated with open space.

Current Policy No.	Policy Title	Score	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Recommendations	Detailed Response	Summary in Plan
G6	Built recreational facilities	+/-0			No changes made, as location of facilities will be subject to paragraphs 13.41c and 13.41d above, and the future recreation study results.
G7	Strategic paths for countryside recreation	+	Consider strengthening policy with regard to enhancing or creating routes. Modify wording to include general reference to walking as well as cycling. Consider including references to Greenways in introduction	Policy does not specifically mention the difference between routes that are already there, and so should be enhanced, and routes that are still proposed. However, the policy is now qualified by 'subject to detailed route alignments being satisfactory', which deals with proposed routes or alternative provision. Walking and cycling are specifically mentioned in the explanation. Green Ways are part of the Strategic Footpath Network and therefore do not need specific mention.	Policy not changed. Explanation changed to clarify position on new routes.
G8	Countryside recreation areas	+	Suggest inserting; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2(iv) prejudice the nature conservation (or biodiversity contribution) of the site. 3 ...towards the enhancement of the nature conservation and recreational function 	Wording of policy changed. Changes include clarification of harm, including issue of buildings. No mention of nature conservation made in the policy, but explanation strengthened to make clear that these interests are covered by policy CS2 'Restraint on Development and Protection of Environmental Assets' and the nature conservation policies. Explanation also strengthened to illustrate the types of enhancement that would be acceptable. This policy will contribute to securing of environmental improvements in conjunction with planning applications, together with the	Policy not changed to refer to importance of nature, as chapter 11 policies deal with this.

Current Policy No.	Policy Title	Score	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Recommendations	Detailed Response	Summary in Plan
				GBC8 'Landscape Renewal Areas' and GBC5 'Landscape Character' policies in particular.	
G9	Aintree racecourse recreational area	+	Consider clarifying policy with regard to potential recreational uses that would be included.	Policy strengthened to mention outdoor recreation, and explanation gives more guidance on 'harm'.	Paragraph 1 of policy strengthened to clarify type of recreation.
H5	Historic parks and gardens	+	No change recommended.	No need to change.	No changes needed.

Appendix 3 Testing the relevant UDP policies against the sustainability framework

	CS2	NC1	NC2	NC3	CPZ4	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	HC5	DB	DQ4
Sefton as a great place to live, relax, work and do business	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
Better access to services	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	+
Quality new development	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
Restoring and keeping land quality	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0
More walking, cycling and use of public transport	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	++	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0
Improving your environment	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++
Dealing with climate change	++	++	+	++	++	++	-	++	0	+	0	0	++	+	++	++	++
Conserving nature - species and habitat	++	++	++	++	++	++	-	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	++	++	++
Caring for Sefton's buildings and heritage	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	++	+	0	+	++	++	++	+	+
Caring for the landscape	++	++	++	++	++	++	0	+	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	++	0

	CS2	NC1	NC2	NC3	CPZ4	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	HC5	DB	DQ4
A safer Sefton with less crime	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	++	0
Better health for everyone	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	++

Appendix 4 Testing the SPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal objectives

	To set out standards for provision of green space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, focussing especially on parks and gardens and amenity green space.	To set out in more detail our requirements for developers to provide green spaces and trees in association with development, in line with our planning policy, and how this will be achieved in practise.
Sefton as a great place to live, relax and do business	++	++
Better access to services	+	+
Quality new development	++	++
Restoring and keeping land quality	+	+
More walking, cycling and use of public transport	+	+
Improving your environment	++	++
Dealing with climate change	+	++
Conserving nature - species and habitat	+	++
Caring for Sefton's building and heritage	+	+
Caring for the landscape	++	++
A safer Sefton with less crime	+	+
Better health for everyone	+	+
More and successful businesses	+	+
Thriving towns and local centres	+	+
Reducing the use of natural resources	+	+
Good air quality	+	+
Good water quality	+	+
Reducing inequalities and increasing opportunities for everyone	+	+
Community involvement and a fair and robust society	++	+

Appendix 5 Sustainability appraisal of draft SPD

Primary SA Objective	Key Questions	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic Scale of impact
Sefton as a great place to live, relax, work and do business	Will the SPDs help to improve Sefton's image as a place to live, relax, work and do business?	++	Medium	Long	Regional
More or improved green spaces will enhance the image of the area – attracting potential residents, visitors and investors alike. It was recognised that quality green space is an important factor in decisions of relocating to an area and the strategy, as set out in the SPD, will have a definite positive effect on this. The effect of this is likely to be felt in the medium term, with positive effects lasting over a long period. The scale of the effect will reach beyond the local area, hopefully drawing people in from outside Sefton.					
Better access to services	Will the SPD ensure services are more accessible? Will the SPDs ensure access to green and open spaces is available equally to all Sefton's communities? Will the SPD help to improve access to the wider countryside?	0 ++ +	0 Medium Medium	0 Long Long	0 Local Regional
The appraisal team was uncertain whether the draft SPD would necessarily improve access to services in general. Although it may be possible open up alternative routes to local centres and other areas of service clusters, it was felt the main aim of the document was the provision of open space for leisure and recreational use.					
The SPD will provide data and maps, which will identify areas of deficiency of both open space and natural space. This will be used to negotiate with developers and to direct funding into meeting an identified need. This method should ensure that all Sefton's residents would have access to good quality open spaces. This will not happen in the short term, but if delivered will last for the long term.					
Quality new development	Will the SPDs encourage a high level of design in new green and open spaces? Will the SPDs encourage green and open spaces to be managed to a high standard?	+ +	Short Short	Long Long	Local-Regional Local-Regional

Primary SA Objective	Key Questions	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic Scale of impact
	Will the SPDs ensure buildings close to green and open spaces are designed to respect their setting?	o	o	o	o
	<p>It is suggested that the draft SPD could emphasise these aspects more strongly. This was considered an important aspect and although the document alludes to this, there could be clearer reference to the requirement for good design of buildings in and around green spaces. The second point concerning management of green spaces up to a high standard could make clearer its links to quality and value of different green spaces. Improving the quality of green and open spaces could implemented in the short term and have long term benefits that are not only of benefit to the immediate locals but possibly to the wider region also, particularly if applied to the higher tier parks.</p> <p>It was felt that the design of buildings close to green and open spaces was outside the remit of this draft SPD, and would be picked up within specific design guidance.</p>				
Restoring and keeping land quality	Will the SPD help bring brownfield land back into use?	+	Medium	Long	Local
	Will the SPD help protect areas of brownfield land which may have biodiversity value?	o	o	o	o
	Will the SPDs help to bring underused sites back into use?	+	Short	Long	Local
	<p>There is little mention of bringing brownfield land back into use as green space – perhaps this point could be strengthened?</p> <p>Underused sites could include school fields becoming available for wider public use under the extended schools programme.</p>				
More walking, cycling and use of public transport	Will the SPDs help encourage more sustainable forms of travel?	+	Long	Long	Global
	Will the SPDs help reduce the need for car-use?	o	Medium	Long	Global
	Will the SPDs seek to expand the walking and cycling network?	++	Medium	Long	Regional

Primary SA Objective	Key Questions	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic Scale of impact
Improvement in appearance of and access to green space is likely to encourage more people to use it as part of a short journey on foot or bicycle. However it is expected that such journeys will be short and probably for leisure. Most existing car trips for shopping and work are unlikely to be affected to any great degree. It was felt that any move towards people using alternative forms of transport would be a more long-term affect, as people often needed time to change habits. The benefits of meeting the first two objectives would have global impacts as part of a wider move towards reducing carbon emissions.					
	It was felt the draft SPD would have a definite positive effect on the walking and cycling network, with specific mention of this in the document. This would probably be something that would be impacted on in the medium term and be of benefit in the regional context.				
Improving your environment	Will the SPD help improve local 'grot spots'?	++	Short	Long	Local
	Will the SPD discourage fly tipping and litter?	+	Medium	Long	Local-Regional
	Will the SPD distinguish between high and low value green space?	++	Short	o	Regional
	Will the SPD result in more trees and open space?	+	Medium	Long	Local-Regional
Better management and maintenance is likely to result in more use of green spaces, which should discourage further fly tipping and other defacement. This should occur through greater surveillance and self-policing. Improvements to 'problem' areas may also be resolved by bringing back into use neglected open spaces, particularly if there is a recognised deficiency in the area. These issues could be tackled in the short to medium term and can, if maintained, have long-term benefits to a local area.					
The anticipated Focus Groups, which will be carried out as part of the evidence base for expanding on the areas of deficiency, should reveal the public's views on the value of their local green spaces. This will be reflected in the strategy.					
Dealing with climate change	Will the SPD help to adapt Sefton for climate change?	+	Long	Long	Global
The effective management, improvement and creation of greenspaces will contribute to offsetting the effects of global warming. However it was thought this could be emphasised more in the document (see later suggestions). Any effects under this objective would take a long time to be felt, but would have long-term global implications.					

Primary SA Objective	Key Questions	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic Scale of impact
Conserving nature – species and habitat	Will the SPD encourage the protection of species and habitats?	+	Short	Long	Global
	Will the SPD encourage the protection and growth of green networks as a way of conserving nature?	+	Short	Long	Global
	Will the SPD seek to include new areas of habitats in green and open spaces?	++	Short	Long	Local
It was felt that the first two objectives would be partly met through the draft SPD. However it was considered that this was not, or meant to be, the main focus of the document. Effects could be felt immediately if tackled, with long-term global benefits. Provision of new green space could help provide new habitat areas at the local level.					
Caring for Sefton's buildings and heritage	Will the SPD help protect Sefton's historic parks?	++	Short	Long	Regional
	Will the SPD help ensure any important 'green' setting for historic/listed buildings are maintained?	+	Short	Long	Local-Regional
It is implicit that historic parks will be protected. Again this protection could be implemented immediately with long-term benefits. While it is out the scope of this draft SPD to protect listed or historic buildings, the strategy should protect any open space setting that they may be in.					
Caring for the landscape	Will the SPDs help protect countryside sites and landscape character?	++	Short	Long	Regional
Countryside sites are included under the definition of green space. Protection of these spaces could be immediate and the effects could be long term as sites are protected into the future. Many of these sites could be of regional significance.					
A safer Sefton with less crime	Will the SPD encourage the creation of safer green spaces, taking account of crime prevention measures?	++	Short	Long	Local

Primary SA Objective	Key Questions	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic Scale of impact
The strategy mentions including crime prevention measures in design of new open spaces or maintenance of existing. These can be implemented immediately, but would be expected to have a long-term impact if crime rates fall and parks are perceived to be safer.					
Better health for everyone	Will the SPDs encourage more healthy activities?	+	Short	Long	Local
	Will the SPDs help provide areas for informal and formal exercise?	++	Short	Long	Local
Improved access to and better managed or maintained parks and open spaces will encourage more use for formal or informal recreation for local residents. This will help encourage people to live healthier lifestyles, but only as part as a wider package of measures. Ensuring all of Sefton's residents have access to open spaces, including green gyms and allotments, ensures that the draft SPD a definite positive for the second key question. Benefits would most likely be at the local level as it is unlikely people would travel far for informal exercise.					
Secondary SA Objective	Key Question	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic scale of impact
More and successful businesses	Will improved landscaping provide a better setting for businesses in Sefton?	+	Medium	Long	Local - Regional
Green space improvements will help improve the area's image to investors. Although changes may take a period of time to implement and take effect, the impacts could be expected to spread wider than the immediate area.					
Thriving town and local centres	Will better landscaping improve the appearance of town and local centres, encouraging regular use?	+	Medium	Long	Local - Regional
Similar to a number of other issues, improvements to the area around Sefton's town and local centres is implied rather than specifically mentioned. Improvements to open spaces adjacent to, and particularly open spaces which provide links to, should help to increase use of town and local centres and make them look attractive. Open spaces near centres should be designed to reflect their surroundings and function, and as such the effects of the SPD to immediately affect this objective may be limited.					

Secondary SA Objective	Key Question	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic scale of impact
Reducing the use of natural resources?	Will improving networks of green spaces encourage more people to walk or cycle to destinations?	+	Medium	Long	Regional
	New footpaths / cycleways are expected to be provided as part of improvements. By providing safer or more convenient routes, it is hoped that people will be more likely to choose to walk or cycle. As this infrastructure will take some time to provide, the impacts are likely to be medium term.				
Good air quality	Will the SPDs maintain or improve the air quality of the local area?	+	Short	Long	Local
	Providing more trees and green areas in general, will help absorb atmospheric CO ² and therefore help to improve air quality. The effects of this can be reasonable quick. In general the effects will impact mostly on the local area in which the improvements are made.				
Good water quality	Will the SPD maintain or improve the water quality in or adjacent to open and green spaces?	+	Long	Long	Global
	Improvement of green spaces or new provision may mean more natural percolation of rainwater and reduce hard surface run-off – therefore improving the quality of water in the area. The strategy implies SUDS may be encouraged which will also help improve local water quality.				
Reducing inequalities and increasing opportunities for everyone	Will the SPD help to ensure equality of services for all? Will the SPD ensure that all communities in Sefton have access to good quality green spaces?	+	Medium	Long	Local
	Maps produced, as part of the strategy will enable green space deficiencies to be identified. New areas of green space can be sought in these areas or funds used to improve existing provision. To ensure deficiencies across the borough are met, the impacts are highly unlikely to be short-term.				
Community involvement and a fair and robust society	Will the SPD ensure valuable community green spaces are protected?	+	Short	Long	Local

Secondary SA Objective	Key Question	Likely impact of SPD	Immediacy of impact	Longevity of impact	Geographic scale of impact
	Will the SPD take into account community opinion when considering a strategy for existing green spaces?	++	Short	Long	Local
<p>The Action Plan seeks to involve the community at an early stage, consulting on the need for new green spaces and the improvement of existing areas. Focus Groups are scheduled to take place for this purpose – these will help identify ‘valuable community greenspaces’. Involving the public and protecting valuable community assets are tasks that can be implemented immediately and which have long-term positive effects.</p>					

Comments

Throughout the appraisal there have been no identified areas where a negative effect of implementing the draft SPD was anticipated. This is probably due to the strategic nature of the document and the fact its aims are broad. It also reflects the topic of the SPD, which in itself is a key element of sustainability, i.e. improvement to local environment. However, as a consequence of this many scores of slightly positive were awarded, rather than definitive positive. As the draft SPD is not to give detailed policy implementation advice the scores are acceptable. A number of recommendations, below, set out how the appraisal group concluded the draft SPD could be strengthened.

- There should be more emphasis on environmental improvements of town centres for the benefit of their non-resident populations. All measurements and focus seems to be on distance of green space from housing. There is no mention of other communities e.g. in Bootle where there is a high population of office workers. Taking account of their needs may include providing attractive green spaces for use during lunch breaks.
- The document could make clearer the positive influences of green space on the climate. It was suggested that a separate ‘Climate Change’ section could be included on this subject within the Action Plan to recognise this – possibly under the ‘quality’ or ‘environment’ section.

Appendix 6 Sustainability appraisal framework for Green Space, Trees and Development SPD

Primary Objectives		
Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Sefton as a great place to live, relax, work and do business	Will the SPD help to improve Sefton’s image as a place to live, relax, work and do business?	Total number of VAT registered businesses in the Sefton area. Population of Sefton.
Better access to services	Will the SPD ensure services are more accessible? Will the SPD ensure access to green and open spaces is available equally to all Sefton’s communities? Will the SPD help to improve access to the wider countryside?	Location of parks compared to population density Length of public rights of way in Sefton
Quality new development	Will the SPD encourage a high level of design in new green and open spaces? Will the SPD encourage green and open spaces to be managed to a high standard? Will the SPD ensure buildings close to green and open spaces are designed to respect their setting?	Number of new developments achieving CABE’s silver or gold Building for Life awards in Sefton. No of trees planted in new developments as a result of UDP policy DQ3.
Restoring and keeping land quality	Will the SPD help bring brownfield land back into use? Will the SPD help protect areas of brownfield land which may have biodiversity value? Will the SPD help to bring underused sites back into use?	Area of brownfield land brought back into use in Sefton.
More walking, cycling and use of public transport	Will the SPD help encourage more sustainable forms of travel? Will the SPD help reduce the need for car-use? Will the SPD seek to expand the walking and cycling network?	% of resident population of Sefton who travel to work by foot, bicycle or public transport. % of resident population of Sefton who travel to work by car. Extent of walking and cycling network in Sefton (miles/km) % children either walking or cycling to school

Primary Objectives		
Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Improving your environment	<p>Will the SPD help improve local 'grot spots'?</p> <p>Will the SPD discourage fly tipping and litter?</p> <p>Will the SPD distinguish between high and low value green space?</p> <p>Will the SPD result in more trees and open space?</p>	<p>% land and highways assessed as having unacceptable levels of litter and detritus.</p> <p>Reported incidents of fly tipping in Sefton.</p> <p>% of residents who think that over the past 3 years, the parks & open spaces in their local area have improved or stayed the same.</p> <p>Number of trees planted as a result of section 106 agreements.</p> <p>% residents very or fairly satisfied with parks or open spaces</p>
Dealing with climate change	<p>Will the SPD help to adapt Sefton for climate change?</p>	<p>Area of land in Sefton covered by woodland.</p> <p>Number of trees planted as a result of section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Area of Green Space land in Sefton.</p>
Conserving nature – species and habitat	<p>Will the SPD encourage the protection of species and habitats?</p> <p>Will the SPD encourage the protection and growth of green networks as a way of conserving nature?</p> <p>Will the SPD seek to include new areas of habitats in green and open spaces?</p>	<p>Area of land (outside SSSIs) designated as Local Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>Number of schemes to restore or protect wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Number of green spaces hosting species listed on the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>
Caring for Sefton's buildings and heritage	<p>Will the SPD help protect Sefton's parks?</p> <p>Will the SPD help ensure any important 'green' setting for historic/listed buildings are maintained?</p>	<p>Number of parks managed to Green Flag standard.</p> <p>Number of parks awarded Green Flag standard.</p>
Caring for the landscape	<p>Will the SPD help protect countryside sites and landscape character?</p>	<p>Extent of the greenbelt in Sefton</p>
A safer Sefton with less crime	<p>Will the SPD encourage the creation of safer green spaces, taking account of crime prevention measures?</p>	<p>% of Sefton residents who feel very safe/safe in daytime in parks or open spaces</p> <p>% of Sefton residents who feel very safe/safe after dark in parks or open spaces</p>

Primary Objectives		
Sustainability Objective	Key Questions	Indicators
Better health for everyone	<p>Will the SPD encourage more healthy activities?</p> <p>Will the SPD help provide areas for informal and formal exercise?</p>	<p>% of Sefton residents within 20 minutes travel time (urban – walking, rural – driving) of a range of 3 different types of sports facility, at least one of which has achieved a quality mark.</p> <p>Life expectancy at birth (years): Females/males</p>

Secondary Objectives	
Sustainability Objective	Key Questions
More and successful businesses	Will improved landscaping provide a better setting for businesses in Sefton?
Thriving towns and local centres	Will better landscaping improve the appearance of town and local centres, encouraging regular use?
Reducing the use of natural resources	Will improving networks of green spaces encourage more people to walk or cycle to destinations?
Good air quality	Will the SPD maintain or improve the air quality of the local area?
Good water quality	Will the SPD maintain or improve the water quality in or adjacent to open and green spaces?
Reducing inequalities and increasing opportunities for everyone	<p>Will the SPD help to ensure equality of services for all?</p> <p>Will the SPD ensure that all communities in Sefton have access to good quality green spaces?</p>
Community involvement and a fair and robust society	<p>Will the SPD ensure valuable community green spaces are protected?</p> <p>Will the SPD take into account community opinion when considering a strategy for existing green spaces?</p>