The Local Plan sets out Sefton Council’s planning strategy for the Borough over the period from 2012 to 2030. It identifies key proposals, allocates land for development and sets out detailed policies which the Council will use to determine planning applications.

The Local Plan has been prepared under the planning system introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Planning Act 2008, the Localism Act 2011 and the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013. These Acts require planning policies to be prepared through a Local Plan. It is produced in accordance with the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and has had regard to National Planning Practice Guidance.

Consultation has [to date] included a range of methods at each different stage of production based on the standards set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. Particular emphasis was placed on early consultation with all appropriate groups.

Early consultation was split into a number of distinct phases:

- consultation on **Issues** was undertaken during 2009. This involved a number of workshops, discussion groups, newsletters and presentations.
- consultation on **Options** was undertaken during 2011. This involved drop in sessions, discussion groups, presentations, and consultation documents available for comment.
- consultation on the **Preferred Option** was undertaken during the summer of 2013.
- consultation on ‘**Additional Sites**’ [further sites proposed during the Preferred Option consultation] was undertaken during June to August 2014.

These stages were advertised widely and documents available in locations throughout Sefton. At the Options and Preferred Options stage we also gave presentations and feedback sessions to a range of groups and organisations and ran numerous events when members of the public could discuss emerging plans with officers.

At Publication stage we will also widely advertise and make documents available for comment for an eight week period.

Objectives of the Local Plan will have linked indicators that will be monitored annually through the Authority Monitoring Reports.

*The official starting point is at the point statutory bodies were consulted on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal*