

**Final Environmental Report of
the Sustainability Appraisal
(including Strategic
Environmental Assessment)
for
Bootle Area Action Plan**

**Adoption Document
November 2025**



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Note: Throughout this document, sustainability appraisal may be referred to as SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment as SEA. Bootle Area Action Plan may be referred to as the AAP. The National Planning Policy Framework may be referred to as the Framework.

Non-Technical Summary of the Bootle Area Action Plan Sustainability Appraisal

1. The Council agreed in 2020 to produce an Area Action Plan (AAP) for Bootle. This was to address some of the specific issues that Bootle was facing and to ensure that there was an appropriate Bootle focused planning policy document to support growth and regeneration in the town.
2. An AAP is a Development Plan Document and when adopted will form part of the Development Plan along with the Sefton Local Plan (2017) and will be used for decision making on planning applications as well as helping encourage sustainable growth in the Bootle Area.
3. The AAP has gone through all of its preparation stages and is due to be adopted by Sefton Council in January 2026. The plan preparation process and timescales can be seen in figure 1 (below):

Stage	Dates of Engagement/Examination	Progress
Issues and Options consultation	November 2021 to January 2022	Completed
Preferred Options consultation	August 2023 to November 2023	Completed
Publication	September to November 2024	Completed
Public Examination	December 2024 to October 2025	Completed
Adoption	January 2026	Due

Figure 1 – Bootle AAP stages

4. The AAP has been produced taking into account:

- Evidence and Studies (including the early draft SA/SEA)
- Public and Stakeholder feedback
- Existing national, LCR and local policy and investment documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework).

5. Both sustainability appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are legal requirements for plans such as the Bootle AAP, and there is guidance about each. A Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) helps to assess the sustainability of a Plan (in this case an AAP) and to see whether a Plan does deliver Sustainable development. SA also helped inform the writing of the AAP by identifying issues and also opportunities and recommendations to make the plan more sustainable.

6. A Strategic Environmental Assessment is specifically to assess the environmental impact of development. An SEA screening was carried out to test whether an EIA was required. The

screening concluded that one was required. An SEA can be done as part of an SA and hence this document is a joint SA/SEA.

7. The Government provides guidelines for stages for carrying out an SA/SEA. The stages are set out below in figure 2.

Stage	When	Progress
Stage A Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	July 2023	Completed
Stage B Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	December 2023	Completed
Stage C Prepare the Sustainability Report (Environmental Report)	July 2024	Completed
Stage D Seek representations on the Sustainability report from consultation bodies and the public	September to November 2024	Completed
Stage E Post adoption reporting and monitoring	Post adoption, from January 2026	On-going

Stages A, B and C

8. Stage A of the SA/SEA process was the scoping phase. This involved the following tasks:

- Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- Identify the baseline information for the Bootle AAP
- Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems in the Bootle area
- Developing a Sustainability framework for the Bootle AAP
- Consult the consultation bodies on the Bootle AAP

9. The result of stage A was that the baseline position was identified for a number of key issues, and a draft Sustainability Framework was produced which included 19 Sustainability Appraisal objectives, (four economic, six social and nine environmental), and a series of sub-questions and a set of potential monitoring indicators. The three statutory bodies (The Environmental Agency, Natural England and Historic England) were consulted, and the SA Framework was amended to take account of their comments.

10. Stage B (developing & refining alternatives and assessing effects) involved the following tasks:

- Testing of draft Bootle Area Action Plan objectives against the sustainability framework
- Developing Bootle Area Action Plan options including reasonable alternatives

- c. Evaluating the likely effects of the draft Bootle Area Action Plan and alternatives
- d. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
- e. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Bootle Area Action Plan.

11. The draft objectives of the AAP were tested against the Sustainability Framework and were considered to be sustainable.

12. There were no clearly distinct differing spatial options for the AAP. It was therefore considered that when considering alternative options, that three difference approaches were compared. These were:

1. An economy-led approach
2. A social/community-led approach
3. An environmental-led approach

13. All of these approaches were considered to have their strengths and weaknesses and it was considered that a mix of the three was the most appropriate.

14. The draft policies from the Preferred Options stage were considered and tested against the SA objectives in the SA Framework. It was considered that all of the policies were sustainable to some degree with only a few negatives effects identified, none of which were significant. However, there were quite a few recommendations made for how the policies in the AAP could be improved and made more sustainable. These recommendations were set out for the plan-making process to consider.

15. The monitoring proposal as set out in the SA Framework were considered appropriate to take forward.

16. Stage C (SA/SEA of the Publication Draft Bootle AAP) built on the work done in the previous two stages and in particular, the assessment of the plan objectives and policies from the Preferred Options stage. Stage C involved looking at what changes had been made to the AAP for the publication draft and whether sustainability recommendations that had been raised at the stage B assessment had been properly considered. The stage C assessment also looked into whether any significant effects had been identified and any mitigation measures needed.

17. The vision for the Publication draft Bootle AAP had been significantly expanded upon and was considered to provide a sustainable basis for the plan to flow from. The vision and objectives had been amended slightly but the big change was the addition of a new objective 15, that put the needs of children and young people into plan-making. This was considered to be a very sustainable and inclusive objective, meeting a number of economic and social SA objectives.

18. The policies had been updated since the previous (Preferred Options) stage, taking into account updated evidence, the comments from the public and stakeholders at the consultation, and the recommendations made at stage B of the SA/SEA process. All of the policies were considered to be weakly positive or highly positive for sustainability when assessed against the SA

Framework. The number of policies that were considered highly positive had gone up from seven to nine.

19. The most sustainable policies were as follows:

- BAAP1 Design
- BAAP2 Best Use of Resources
- BAAP3 Bootle Central Area
- BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre
- BAAP7 Local Shopping Parades
- BAAP9 Nature
- BAAP11 Public Greenspace
- BAAP20 Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge Regeneration Opportunity Area

20. Within some policies there were some minor negatives, for example BAAP14 *Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents*, may in a few cases potentially put off investment on some sites. However overall, the policies were considered positive.

21. Where recommendations from stage B had not been taken forward, there were good reasons why. In some cases, they were considered unnecessary, in other cases, changes were made in other ways to that recommended, but the desired result was still met. These changes were a matter of judgement. In all cases, the policies were still considered sustainable.

22. The SA/SEA did not identify any significant negative effects of the Bootle AAP. Economically, the biggest effect is expected to be felt from proposals in Bootle Town Centre and the planned investment in Bootle Strand shopping centre. The scale of the work proposed may result in some economic and social impact beyond the AAP area, but this is still not likely to be very significant and it is unlikely to be negative.

Stage D – Representations on the SA/SA Environmental Report from consultation bodies and the public

23. Sefton Council approved the Bootle AAP publication version and supporting documents, including the Environmental Report (stage C) and documents from earlier stages of the SA/SEA process in July 2024. Public consultation, including with the statutory bodies for SA/SEA consultation, took place from Friday 13th September 2024 until Monday 11th November 2024. No comments on the Environmental Report or earlier SA/SEA documents were received from any of the three statutory consultees or from the public during this period.

24. Following this consultation period, the Bootle AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16th December 2024. The Examination In Public ran from this date until the Report of the independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State was received by the Council on 16th October 2025. Hearings in relation to Bootle AAP were held on 17th June 2025.

25. The Council published online Proposed Modifications to the plan prior to the Hearings. These were discussed at the Hearings, considered by the Inspector and subject to formal consultation by the Council from 2nd July to 16th August 2025. These proposed amendments were limited in

number and were generally very minor largely to clarify specific issues. Therefore, the Proposed Modifications were considered not to have any significant impacts on the sustainability of the policies and Bootle AAP or for the SA/SEA and Environmental Report.

Stage E (next steps and on-going)

26. The next stage of the SA/SEA process for the Bootle AAP will be in line with Stage E (post-adoption reporting and monitoring). Stage B of the SA/SEA process established measures for monitoring the SA/SEA outcomes. These indicators are considered to be still appropriate at stages C, D and E. They should form the monitoring indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan and should be monitored annually following the adoption of the Bootle AAP.

27. The Bootle Area Action Plan is due to be adopted by Sefton Council in January 2026. An adoption statement for the Bootle AAP and an SA Post-adoption Statement will be published. The significant effects of implementing Bootle AAP will be monitored using the agreed Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework. Any adverse SA/SEA effects, or more general effects, will be responded to. The overall aim is to make sure that positive impacts and benefits of the Bootle Area Action Plan are as positive as possible and continue to outweigh any potential negative impacts identified in this Report. That is, the overall aim is to make sure that in its implementation phase, Bootle Area Action Plan continues to be as sustainable as possible.

Conclusions

28. It is considered that the Bootle AAP is a sustainable document and likely to largely give rise to positive effects. A few negative effects are anticipated, but none of these are likely to be significant and may be outweighed by the positive impacts. The monitoring indicators identified in stage B should be taken forward as part of the Sustainability Framework in stage E.

Chapter 1

Background

This document records Stage C of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process for the Bootle Area Action Plan, as required by section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹ and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

It focusses on preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report for the submission version of the Area Action Plan.

This document follows on from the stage B Scoping Report (December 2023) which focused on looking at the available alternatives and at identifying the likely effects. That followed stage A, the scoping stage.

Structure of this report

1.1 Chapter 1 will set out the background to the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental assessment (SA/SEA) of the Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP). Chapters 2 and 3 will summarise the previous Stages A and B of the SA/SEA. Chapter 4-6 will assess the Stage C of the SA/SEA into the Publication AAP. Chapter 7 refers to Stage D of the SA/ SEA process, which is seeking representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public. Chapter 8 draws conclusions for the Environmental Report. Chapter 9 sets out the next steps, relating to Stage E of the SA/SEA process; Monitoring and Post-adoption Statement. This sets out the monitoring indicators should be taken forward as part of the Sustainability Framework and monitored and reported annually.

What is the Bootle Area Action Plan?

1.2 The Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP) is a planning policy document that will influence how planning decisions will be made in the Bootle area. It will cover the period to 2040. The area includes Bootle and parts of Litherland and Seaforth that are south of Princess Way, Church Road and Dunningsbridge Road. The AAP also will help direct and encourage the appropriate development and investment into the area and seek to meets some of Bootle's development needs.

1.3 The AAP will set out policies that are specifically aimed towards the needs, issues and opportunities in the area. It will replace certain policies in the Sefton Local Plan, add a local dimension to other Local Plan policies and support others. Once adopted it will form part of the Development Plan for Bootle, and Sefton, alongside the Local Plan.

1.4 The area included in the AAP is shown in Figure 1.1 below.

¹ See [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

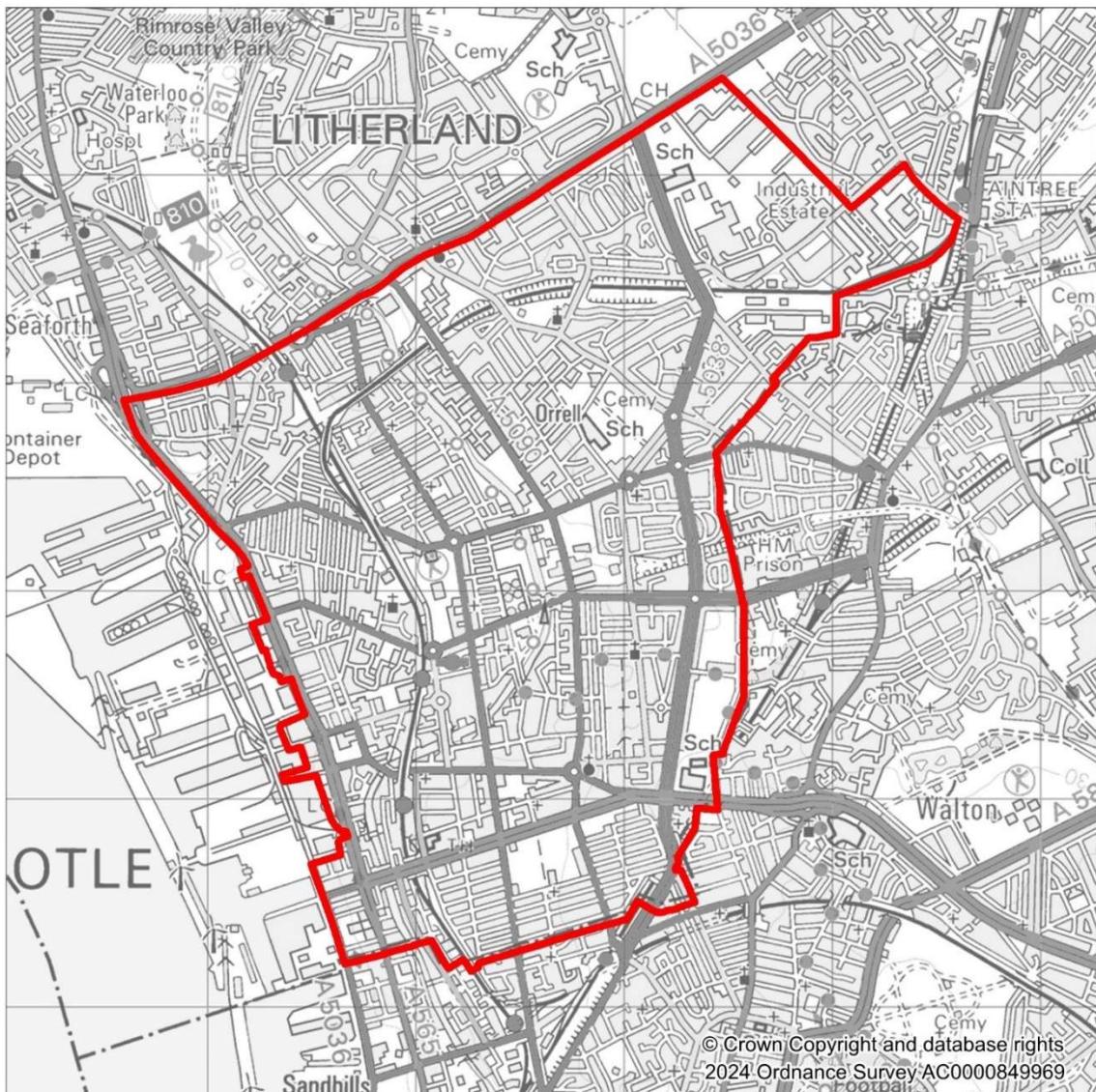


Figure 1.1 Map of showing the Bootle Area Action Plan Area

1.5 Bootle is one of the five main settlement areas in the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, the others being Crosby, Formby, Maghull (Sefton East) and Southport. Bootle is located in the south of the borough of Sefton, bordering part of Liverpool with which it shares close economic, social, cultural and transport links and a largely maritime heritage. The wider Bootle settlement area includes Bootle which is subject of this Action Area Plan; and also Litherland, Netherton and Seaforth. Figure 1.2 shows the plan area within the Sefton context.

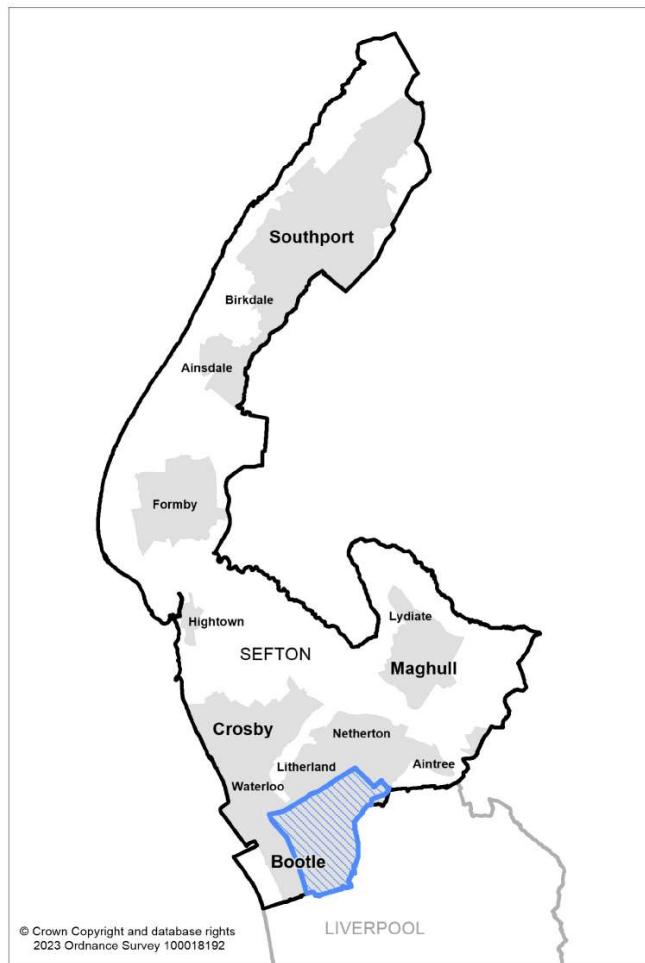


Figure 1.2 Bootle (in blue) shown within the context of Sefton borough.

What stage is the Bootle Area Action Plan at?

1.6 The AAP has to go through a number of stages of preparation and each stage is subject to public consultation and engagement. The stages and dates of public engagement can be seen below:

Stage	Dates of Engagement/Examination	Progress
Issues and Options consultation	November 2021 to January 2022	Completed
Preferred Options consultation	August 2023 to November 2023	Completed
Publication	September to November 2024	Completed
Public Examination	December 2024 to October 2025	Completed
Adoption	January 2026	In hand

1.7 The purpose of the publication draft was to publish a final draft of the plan to allow full public and stakeholder comments before the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. These comments are also sent to the Secretary of State. The publication draft was produced taking into account all of the previous evidence, consultation comments and the results of previous stages of the Sustainability Appraisal. The Bootle AAP publication version was approved by Sefton Council on 11th July 2024, alongside supporting documents, including the Environmental Report (stage C) and documents from earlier stages of the SA/SEA process.

1.8 Public consultation took place from Friday 13th September 2024 until Monday 11th November 2024. Representations were sought on the Bootle AAP and Environmental Report and other supporting documents. The statutory consultees for SA/SEA are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. No comments were received from these bodies or the public regarding the Environmental Report or earlier SA/SEA reports. This is stage D of the SA/SEA process.

1.9 After this consultation period, the Bootle AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16th December 2024. This was the start of the examination by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Hearings were held on 17th June 2025. The Council published proposed modifications to the plan prior to the Hearings. These were discussed at the Hearings, considered by the Inspector and subject to formal consultation by the Council from 2nd July to 16th August 2025. These proposed amendments were limited in number, and were generally very minor, largely to clarify specific issues or provide factual updates. They did not make a material difference to their sustainability or the sustainability of Bootle AAP.

1.10 The Inspector's Report was received by the Council on 16th October 2025. This found the Bootle AAP 'sound' and therefore the Council is proceeding towards adoption of the Bootle AAP and SA/SEA Environmental Report in January 2026.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Environmental Assessment?

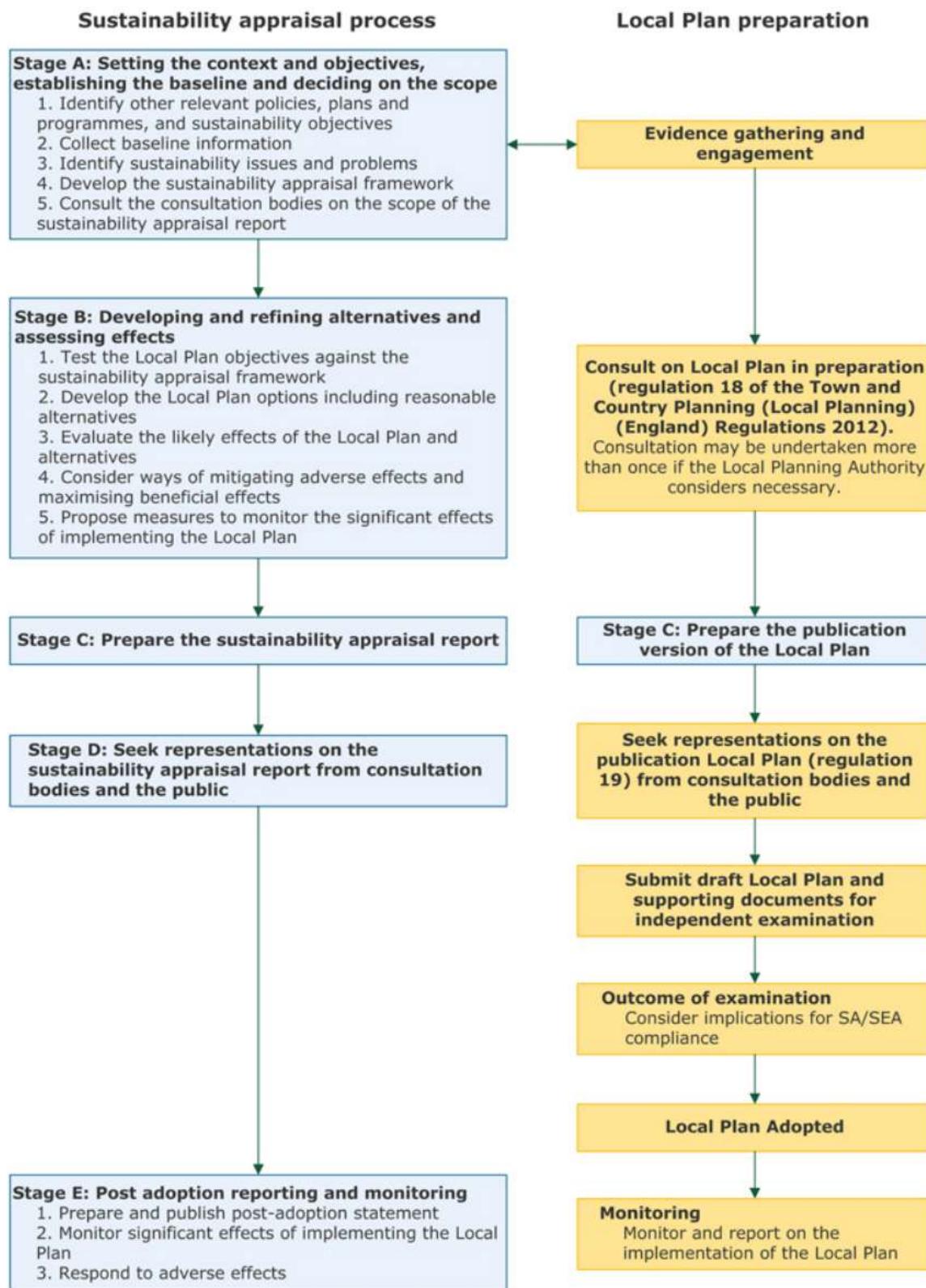


Figure 1.3 Stages in sustainability appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment²

1.10 Nationally, section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to carry out a sustainability appraisal of each of the proposals in a plan during its preparation. A sustainability appraisal is a system of assessment used by local planning

² See appendix 2 / [sea1_013.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://sea1_013.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk))

authorities to show that their development plans achieve sustainable development. National Planning Practice Guidance³ sets out more information about how sustainability appraisals must be carried out. An overview of the process is set out in Figure 1.3 (below).

1.11 The need to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was introduced by a European Directive and brought into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. SEA considers only the environmental effects of a plan, whereas sustainability appraisal considers the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts. Nevertheless, national Planning Practice Guidance says sustainability appraisal should be carried out in such a way that it also meets all the requirements of the SEA regulations. Therefore, this Sustainability Appraisal report is also a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report.

What stage of the Sustainability Appraisal Process are we at?

1.12 The following table summarised the stages of where the SA for the AAP is at:

Stage	When	Progress
Stage A Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	July 2023	Completed
Stage B Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	December 2023	Completed
Stage C Prepare the Sustainability Report	April 2024	Completed
Stage D Seek representations on the Sustainability report from consultation bodies and the public	September to November 2024	Completed
Stage E Post adoption reporting and monitoring	Post adoption, from January 2026	On-going

1.13 A sustainability process is designed to both assess and help in the writing of a plan. Stage A set the scope for how the sustainability of the plan would be assessed. Stage B looked into the strategic direction of the plan and what other alternatives could be considered. Stage B also assessed the policies in the Preferred Options draft of the AAP and made suggestions for how those policies might be made more sustainable. The stage B assessment was considered and taken into account when the Publication draft AAP was written. The stage C assessment was designed to bring together the stages A and B assessments and to assess the significant effects of the publication draft AAP. The Sustainability Appraisal process has been produced by Sefton Council officers.

³ See [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal)

1.14 Stage C of the Sustainability Appraisal/SEA process required Sefton council to 'Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal report' – the Environmental Report. The Government Advice is that the report for submission for the plan should include:

"An environmental report for the purpose of the regulations must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan policies and of the reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan. The sustainability appraisal report will need to show how these requirements have been met as well as recording the wider assessment of social and economic effects".

1.15 This chapter and chapters 5 to 7 look at how the Publication draft has changed since the Preferred Options draft AAP, including changes made as a result of recommendations made in stage B of the SA/SEA process, and what impact those changes have on sustainability. Chapter 8 refers to Stage D of the SA/ SEA process which is seeking representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public. Chapter 9 draws conclusions for the Environmental Report. Chapter 10 sets out the next steps, relating to Stage E of the SA/SEA process; Monitoring and Post-adoption Statement.

Chapter 2

Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope [Stage A]

2.1 Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal Process was required to achieve the following (also see figure 1.3 above) for the whole process:

1. Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
2. Identify the baseline information for the Bootle AAP
3. Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems in the Bootle area
4. Develop a Sustainability framework for the Bootle AAP
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the Bootle AAP

2.2 The purpose of stage A is to provide the whole framework and context for which the whole sustainability framework and assessment of the APP would be assessed. It provides a critical background to all the subsequent SA work. In parallel to this a SEA screening assessment was also carried out. The SEA can be incorporated into the SA. It is recommended that the stage A report is read in full as this sets out the full details. The following is just a summary.

Review of Relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.

2.3 The review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives identified a wide range of issues and documents that needed to be considered when doing the SA for the Bootle AAP. Many of these were identified by looking at what the National Planning Policy Guidance (the Framework) identifies as key sustainability issues as well as looking at key issues and options from the issues and options stage of the AAP and drew on the Sefton Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report.

2.4 This helped to identify objectives and targets that are relevant to the Bootle Action Area Plan and which it can help deliver. The key points and results of this step are set out in the stage A report and inform the identification of key sustainability issues for the Bootle AAP.

Identify the baseline information for the Bootle AAP

2.5 The collection of baseline data is required under Stage 1, Step 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal process shown in figure 1.3 above. The Strategic Environmental Assessment process also requires specific topics to be assessed (see below). This chapter will be organised largely on the basis of these topics.

2.6 This baseline data is required to provide information on the characteristics of an area, including the current state of the environment, and identify trends that are likely to continue without the implementation of a plan or policy (in this case the Bootle Area Action Plan).

2.7 The baseline data covers a range of different issues and topics to give a full picture of the current state of the Bootle Area Action Plan area (or the closest match to this area for some sources of data which use different boundaries). The data shows detailed information for Bootle on many of the issues identified in the section above, as well as other sustainability problems and

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment
<i>'Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan of programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'.</i>
<i>These aspects are defined 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.</i>

issues. Sometimes information for Bootle has been compared to that for Sefton as a whole or to a wider area, where this illustrates a greater magnitude of problems or opportunities for Bootle, and for the Area Action Plan to address.

2.8 It is not intended to repeat all of the baseline information identified here as can all be viewed in the stage A report. However, a summary of the baseline subjects is set out here in Figure 2.1:

Figure 2.1 Summary of baseline issues.	
Topic	Comments
Population	Bootle has a younger and slightly growing population compared to the rest of Sefton.
The Economy	<p>The nearby Port heavily influences the area with both positive (employment and investment) and negative issues (pollution and traffic).</p> <p>Long established employment areas with various types, sizes and quality of businesses.</p> <p>Lots of Offices and an education quarter.</p> <p>A large town centre with a high number of town centre jobs.</p>
Housing	<p>Large quantities of older terraced properties.</p> <p>Less choice of housing choice in terms of both tenure and housing type.</p> <p>Higher than average vacancy rates.</p>
Historic and built environment	<p>Quite a lot of variety in types of built structures although a lot of Victorian terraces.</p> <p>A quite high density area but still well served by public open spaces.</p>

Figure 2.1 Summary of baseline issues.

Topic	Comments
	There is a Conservation area and a few Listed Buildings but much of Bootle's heritage is not formally protected.
Crime rates	Bootle has a relatively high rate of crime for a number of types of serious criminal offences compared to the Merseyside averages.
Accessibility	Low levels of car ownership. Very good public transport.
Community, health, social and cultural matters	High sense of local pride. The area has higher proportions of residents in poor health. Bootle scores poorly in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
Natural Environment	Bootle has no open countryside with the plan area and no protected landscapes. There is plenty of green infrastructure with both parks and the canal.
Land, Natural Resources and Pollution	The area is highly urbanised and post-industrial. There is some significant ground contamination. Poor air quality is an issue in some localities with high levels of particulate emissions from road traffic.
Climate Change	Most of Bootle is in flood zone 1 and so not at high risk of flooding. Some areas have surface water drainage issues. Sefton Council have declared a climate change emergency.

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems in the Bootle area

2.9 This step deals with the issues identified in the previous two stages, (the review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives and the Identification of the baseline information for the Bootle AAP). These are set out in figure 2.2 below:

Figure 2.2 List of Sustainability issues identified

Sustainability Issue	Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
High levels of unemployment in Bootle, including amongst younger people. Lack of suitable skills and a need to match skills to jobs.	Reduce unemployment and improve skills.
Over reliance on the public sector for jobs. Fewer jobs per population than many other areas. Lack of easily developable land for employment development.	Encourage economic growth and investment.
High level of empty office space in Bootle's Office Quarter, which will make urban regeneration more challenging.	Encourage economic growth and investment in a range of sectors. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.
Bootle Strand, the rest of the town centre and local shopping parades are currently struggling with high vacancy rates and a poor range of services and shops.	Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.
Infrastructure provision (including public services, physical infrastructure and green infrastructure) and the scope for future investment is somewhat constrained by the densely built-up urban form and forms of infrastructure provision at the time much of Bootle was developed. Some types of existing infrastructure are at capacity, need upgrading or would struggle to accommodate additional development.	Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.
Bootle is generally a relatively deprived area compared to the rest of Sefton and nationally (10% most deprived nationally). There are economic, social and environmental inequalities within the plan area.	Reduce inequalities, secure social value and reduce social deprivation.
Crime, anti-social behaviour (including fly-tipping and litter) and the fear and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour are obstacles in the regeneration of local neighbourhoods and for people's quality of life.	Reduce crime and improve community safety.
Bootle has a lack of choice in the variety of homes in terms of size, tenure and quality, and at the same time a relatively high number of vacant homes which can cause issues with anti-social behaviour.	Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs.

Figure 2.2 List of Sustainability issues identified

Sustainability Issue	Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
Local perceptions are that there have been too many inappropriate and poor-quality conversions to flats and homes in multiple occupation in the Bootle area causing issues with residential amenity, noise, refuse, parking and the character of local areas.	Reflect the need for good design and a quality living environment, Reduce pollution.
The health of the population of Bootle is generally poorer than that in Sefton as a whole (e.g. higher proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness, obesity, heart disease) and there are also health inequalities within the plan area. The population is also ageing. Many people lead inactive lifestyles. There are implications including for health and other service provision, economic and social inequality and type and standard of future housing provision.	Provide environments that improve health and social care, Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs.
Bootle has a strong sense of community and pride, with a good network of resident and voluntary groups. However, there is a lot of scope to improve the way people engage with the plan making process and become more involved with the decision making process overall.	Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local-decision making.
Despite good public transport links, in such a heavily built-up area, it can be challenging to find space for sustainable travel (walking and cycling) infrastructure. Many people still choose to travel to or through Bootle by car for commuting. There are accessibility inequalities within the plan area, restricting access to services and facilities for some people.	Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport.
Sefton has declared a climate emergency and is working towards a net zero carbon operations for the Council by 2030. However, there are challenges to reducing carbon emissions from Bootle's generally older buildings stock and achieving affordable warmth.	Help Bootle adapt and mitigate to climate change.
Parts of Bootle are at risk of surface water flooding, and there is a residual risk from other sources of flooding.	Reduce the risk from flooding.
There is legacy of heavy industry in Bootle with many areas having suspected high levels of contamination.	Reduce pollution.

Figure 2.2 List of Sustainability issues identified

Sustainability Issue	Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
Impacts on local housing and the environment (e.g. noise, dust, traffic, odour, air quality, living conditions, depress investment and house prices) from nearby Port and its associated activities and the patchwork of industrial areas that are integrated within Bootle' residential areas	Reduce pollution, Reflect the need for good design and a quality living environment.
Poor air quality affects some areas of Bootle and leads to poor health and a poor living environment. There are 2 Air Quality Management Areas wholly or partly within the area.	Reduce pollution.
Planning should encourage effective use of land by using land that has been previously developed. There are high levels of vacant homes, shops and employment land and buildings in parts of Bootle.	Bring back derelict and underused land and buildings.
The amount of waste recycled in Bootle and Sefton has increased significantly in recent years, but some barriers to achieving the necessary on-going reductions including the relative lack of space for waste separation and storage in many areas. Energy use has decreased in recent times and may continue to do so in the future despite the age of the building stock.	Reduce waste and the use of natural resources.
The Leeds and Liverpool Canal and local parks, cemeteries and amenity spaces are important green and blue infrastructure for the otherwise densely-built up area in Bootle, and provide a local landscape context. This green and blue infrastructure provides a range of benefits and must be protected and enhanced despite a range of pressures including resources and anti-social behaviour.	Protect Bootle's landscapes and green and blue infrastructure.
Bootle has relatively few sites or areas with biodiversity and habitat value, compared to the rest of Sefton, and so there are access to nature inequalities for the community. Opportunities (including biodiversity net gain) should be taken to protect existing biodiversity, and enhance and extend sites and networks such as the Ecological Framework and the future Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Network. Opportunities should	Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle.

Figure 2.2 List of Sustainability issues identified

Sustainability Issue	Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
also be taken to improve access to nature sites and networks.	
Bootle has many heritage assets, some of which are vacant and currently have no long term viable alternative use. However, they are important to retain and can be a driver for regeneration. In general, the historic environment has social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits and so contributes to sustainable development.	Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage.
Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people. Good design in new development is a must-have rather than a nice to have. Development should respond positively to the character, local distinctiveness and form of its surroundings, and in areas of lesser quality enhance the character of the area rather than preserving or reproducing its negative aspects.	Reflect the need for good design and a quality living environment.

Develop a Sustainability framework for the Bootle AAP

2.10 The Sustainability Framework provide a means by which the environmental performance of Bootle Area Action Plan and alternatives can be assessed. It is a key component in the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process. The Sustainability Framework will be used to appraise the objectives, spatial strategy and detailed site specific and development management policies in Bootle Area Action Plan.

2.11 The Sustainability Framework is a recognised way for allowing the social, economic and environmental effects of Bootle Area Action Plan and alternatives to be tested. The Sustainability Appraisal objectives and Framework should both have regard to the topics listed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations and be informed by the previous Steps 1, 2 and 3 in para 2.1 above. The focus is on the key issues in the Bootle Area Action Plan area. The Sustainability Framework has 19 sustainability objectives. These have been grouped into three broad (and overlapping) groups. They are shown in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3 Bootle Area Action Plan Sustainability Appraisal objectives
Economic (4)
1. Encourage economic growth and investment
2. Reduce unemployment and improve skills
3. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth
4. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades
Social (6)
5. Reduce inequalities, secure social value and reduce social deprivation
6. Reduce crime and improve community safety
7. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision making
8. Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs
9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport
10. Provide environments that improve health and social care
Environment (9)
11. Mitigate and adapt to climate change
12. Reduce the risk from flooding
13. Reduce pollution
14. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources
15. Protect and enhance Bootle's landscapes and green and blue infrastructure
16. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings
17. Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle
18. Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage
19. Provide good design and a quality living environment

2.12 The full Sustainability Framework includes some supporting questions to help assess the sustainability of elements of the AAP as well as suggesting both direct and indirect indicators for future plan monitoring purposes. The full sustainability Framework is set out in the Stage A report.

2.13 The Framework also sets out a scoring system to allow transparency on how different aspects of the plan are doing against the SA Framework Objectives. The scoring system is set out in Chapter 3 as figure 3.2 below.

Consult the consultation bodies on the Bootle AAP

2.14 It is a requirement to consult the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England on the draft Scoping Report and draft EIA Screening Determination. The Council did so in May 2023. The responses are set out in Appendix 1. The responses helped refine the Sustainability Appraisal for stage B.

Chapter 3

Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects [Stage B]

3.1 This chapter summarises Stage B of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process for the Bootle Area Action Plan, as required by section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004⁴ and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

3.2 It focusses on developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects:

1. Testing of Bootle Area Action Plan objectives against the sustainability framework
2. Developing Bootle Area Action Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluating the likely effects of the draft Bootle Area Action Plan and alternatives
4. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Bootle Area Action Plan.

3.3 Stage B builds on the foundations of stage A and allows the opportunity to assess the early strategic thinking in the AAP as well as testing the first draft policies as set out in the Preferred Options AAP. This chapter is just a summary, and the full stage B report should be read in full for further details.

Sustainability Framework for Bootle Area Action Plan

3.4 Following stage A, the Sustainability Framework and scoring system was updated and refined in response to comments received from the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Sustainability Framework is a framework around which the plan objectives and policies are assessed. These can be seen below in figure 3.1, with the scoring system set out in figure 3.2.

Figure 3.1 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Supporting questions - Will the Plan ...:
Economic	
1. Encourage economic growth and investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide sufficient and suitable land for business/commercial development and encourage investment within Bootle?• Encourage economic growth and investment in a range of sectors, including green energy and green jobs?• Help increase occupancy rates in Bootle's office quarter?

⁴ See [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Figure 3.1 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Supporting questions - Will the Plan ...:
2. Reduce unemployment and improve skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce levels of unemployment in Bootle, including amongst younger people? • Increase skills & match these to local jobs, including green energy, the environment sector and green jobs? • Improve access to employment, education and training for Bootle residents?
3. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help secure the necessary infrastructure (including public services, physical infrastructure and green infrastructure) to support new development? • Help secure infrastructure improvements despite the constraints of the existing urban area?
4. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Bootle town centre to diversify so that it provides an attractive focus for retail, leisure, business, culture, community and other uses that support the community of Bootle? • Help achieve vibrant local shopping parades to provide the necessary range of local services?
Social	
5. Reduce inequalities , secure social value and reduce social deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to support the regeneration priorities of the Council and its' partners? • Help to reduce inequalities in health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities; including in relation to ethnicity, gender, age and other groups? • Help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable?
6. Reduce crime and improve community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime? • Help to improve natural surveillance?

Figure 3.1 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Supporting questions - Will the Plan ...:
7. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to get involved in local decisions and become more active in their communities?
8. Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a diverse choice of housing? • Help to meet Bootle's housing needs, including for a range of market housing and affordable and specialist housing? • Help to manage the number and distribution of Houses in Multiple Occupation within the area?
9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a wider range of local services and facilities? • Increase accessibility to existing services and facilities? • Encourage use of sustainable travel means including electric vehicles? • Help to reduce car use? • Improve links between different areas of Bootle, and to key employment areas, public services and facilities?
10. Provide environments that improve health and social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help make Bootle a healthier place to live • Provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle, for example by improving access to and provision of safe, high quality open space, walking and cycling networks and other green and blue infrastructure; improving access to new homes and jobs, accessibility; encouraging affordable warmth and water supply; managing air quality, pollution and waste and appropriately locating food and drink shops, hot food takeaways, drinking establishments, restaurants, cafes and other non-food and drink uses which have health impacts, having regard to other land uses in the local area.

Figure 3.1 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Supporting questions - Will the Plan ...:
Environment	
11. Mitigate and adapt to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to reduce carbon emissions? • Promote energy efficiency? • Promote renewable energy production? • Promote an increase in trees, open space, biodiversity and other green and blue infrastructure? • Promote enhanced management and maintenance of trees, open space and other green infrastructure, and enhanced public access?
12. Reduce the risk from flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk from surface water flooding to existing homes and businesses, for example by providing infiltration areas, soft-surfaced surface water storage areas (including rain gardens), new planting or green roofs?
13. Reduce pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help reduce air, water, soil and noise pollution, for example through type, location, design and layout of development, planted/naturalistic or engineered buffers and specific mitigation measures? • Encourage the remediation of contaminated land?
14. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of natural resources used (energy, water, minerals)? • Help reduce waste and promote recycling?
15. Protect and enhance Bootle's landscape and green and blue infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to protect, enhance or create green and blue infrastructure, including open space, nature, trees, the canal, soft-surfaced sustainable drainage systems, green roofs and green walls? • Protect and provide areas than can be used for formal and informal recreation?

Figure 3.1 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan	
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Supporting questions - Will the Plan ...:
16. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help bring back into use previously developed land? • Help bring back into use vacant buildings?
17. Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help protect and enhance, restore and connect new and existing areas of biodiversity value, as set out in the LCR Ecological Framework, any LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy or Network or through other corporate biodiversity priorities? • Create new areas of biodiversity value?
18. Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or enhance Bootle's cultural and heritage assets, including non-designated assets? • Provide sufficient opportunity and encouragement for regeneration activity and improvements to cultural heritage?
19. Provide good design and a quality living environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide environments that would help the mental health and wellbeing of residents, including outlook, no hidden spaces and integral green and blue infrastructure? • Achieve high design quality, use of quality materials and green and blue infrastructure? • Help to create places where people choose to live, work and do business? • Help to create attractive local neighbourhoods? • Help to foster a sense of civic pride and identity?

3.5 This is very similar to that agreed at the sustainability appraisal scoping stage, with the exception that the 'N' score now includes very limited impacts as well as no impacts. This change was made because experience showed a number of cases where there was a very slight impact but not enough to justify a '+' or '-' score. This scoring system is used throughout the rest of this document.

Figure 3.2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoring system						
Impact	Strong positive impact	Weak positive impact	No or very limited impact / not applicable	Positive and negative impacts broadly balanced	Weak negative impact	Strong negative impact
Score	++	+	N	0	-	--

3.6 It should be noted that the commentaries accompanying the scores are considered to be more important than the magnitude of the scores. That is, the boundary between a '+' and a '++' score, a '-' and a '--' or a '+' or '-' and a '0' score is acknowledged to be matter of judgement. The important points are whether the impacts (score) are positive or negative, and whether the objective or policy could be made more sustainable. Likewise, it is a matter of judgement as to when an impact should be recorded as 'not applicable' or 'no or very limited impact' rather than a limited '+' or '-' impact. In general, indirect impacts are scored as 'N', due to weak relationships between the impact and the likelihood of it occurring. It should also be noted that the final overall score is not a simple matter of averaging the scores as for some objectives and policies, some sustainability objectives may carry more weight than others.

Testing the Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework

3.7 To deliver and support the overarching vision for the Bootle area, a number of high-level strategic objectives and opportunities were identified. These were as follows:

Obj1	To meet the housing needs of Bootle's residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs
Obj2	To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and especially fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures
Obj3	To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community
Obj4	To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride
Obj5	To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network

Obj6	To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents
Obj7	To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life
Obj8	To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area
Obj9	To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings
Obj10	To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature as part of a high quality environment for Bootle, including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements
Obj11	To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle
Obj12	To set high standards of design for new buildings, infrastructure and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour
Obj13	To set standards in new development that help the Council respond to the challenge of climate change
Obj14	To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.
Obj15	To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle

3.8 The Objectives of the Preferred Options AAP were assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and scoring system and the broad results are set out in figure 3.3 below.

3.9 The results show that all of the objectives proved to be sustainable overall.

3.10 Plan objectives 4 (access), 10 (green and blue infrastructure) and 12 (design) are the most sustainable, having positive or very strongly positive scores across most sustainability objectives. Plan objective 7: 'To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life' is perhaps the least sustainable. This Plan objective has the potential to increase restrictions and costs for businesses and have some negative impacts on economic growth, infrastructure provision and bringing back derelict or under-used land into re-use. However, these potentially negative impacts must also be balanced against the impact of an improved environment and associated benefits of this.

3.11 A similar balance needs to be made in relation to Plan objectives 10 (green and blue infrastructure) and 13 (climate change), and the economic prosperity sustainability objective. Again, these environment-based initiatives may increase initial restrictions and development.

Bootle Area Action Plan objectives															
SA Objectives	1 Housing need	2 Energy efficiency	3 Preventing poor conversions	4 Access	5 Economic Growth	6 Jobs& skills	7 Amenity	8 Retail& Centres	9 Vacant land	10 Green& blue infrastructure	11 Health	12 Design	13 Climate Change	14 Heritage	15 Children & Young People
	+	+	+	++	++	++	0	+	+	+/0	+	+	0	+	+
1 Economic Growth	+	+	+	++	++	++	0	+	+	+/0	+	+	0	+	
2 Jobs & skills	N	N	N	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	N	N	+	
3 Infrastructure	++	+	+	++	++	++	0	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	
4 Centres	N	+	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	
5 Inequality	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	
6 Crime	+	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	N	N	
7 Community	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
8 Housing	++	++	++	++	+	N	++	N	+	+	+	++	++	+	
9 Access	N	N	N	++	++	+	N	++	+	++	+	++	+	N	
10 Health	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	
11 Climate Change	+	++	+	++	++	N	N	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	
12 Flood risk	+	+	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	++	+	+	++	N	
13 Pollution	+	++	+	++	+	N	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	

Bootle Area Action Plan objectives															
SA Objectives	1 Housing need	2 Energy efficiency	3 Preventing poor conversions	4 Access	5 Economic Growth	6 Jobs& skills	7 Amenity	8 Retail& Centres	9 Vacant land	10 Green& blue infrastructure	11 Health	12 Design	13 Climate Change	14 Heritage	15 Children & Young People
14 Resources	+	++	+	++	+	N	N	+	++	+	N	+	+	+	
15 Landscape	N	+	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	++	+	++	++	+	
16 Vacant land	+	N	0	N	+	N	0	+	++	+	+	+	N	++	
17 Biodiversity	N	N	N	+	N	N	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	N	
18 Heritage	N	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	++	
19 Design	N	+	++	++	N	N	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	++	
Overall sustainability	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	

Note that Objective 15 is included in the table without scores because there was no objective 15 at the Preferred Option stage.

costs, but this should be balanced against the above benefits of more attractive environment, better adapted to meet the challenges of climate change

Sustainability appraisal evaluation of Local Plan options and reasonable alternatives

3.12 Stage B of the sustainability appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process includes requirements to:

2. *Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives, and*
3. *Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives.*

This chapter considers reasonable alternatives to emerging Local Plan and provides a sustainability appraisal /SEA of these alternatives.

3.13 For the 2017 Sefton Local Plan, there were three clear alternative scenarios at the early stages - Option One: urban containment, Option Two: meeting identified needs, Option Three: optimistic household growth. Due to geographical and other issues there were no equivalent scenarios for Bootle Area Action Plan. Instead, the Bootle AAP Issues & Options Report (Nov 21) identified 26 Issues, with between three and nine Options identified for each issue.

3.14 Broadly, these could be divided into three alternative sets of Options for each Issue:

- An economy-led approach (options which together gave priority to economic growth)
- A social/community-led approach (options which together gave priority to supporting and enhancing social aspects and strengthening the local community)
- An environment-led approach (options which together gave priority to protecting and enhancing the environment).

3.15 While there is a lot of common ground between each alternative approach, taking all of the options in each approach as a whole, there are clear differences between each of the alternative approaches. Therefore, they are considered to be 'reasonable alternatives' for sustainability appraisal and SEA purposes. As part of the evaluation of the likely effects of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives, each of these three approaches has been assessed against Sustainability Appraisal framework.

3.16 A summary of the assessment of all three options can be seen below in figure 3.4. A full assessment can be found in the appendices in the stage B report.

3.17 This assessment has indicated the strengths and weaknesses of each of these three alternatives, and, together with comments received during the consultation on the Issues and Options document and further evidence and consideration, fed into the choice of the Preferred Options Bootle Area Action Plan.

Figure 3.4 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of alternative approaches – overall comment		
Alternative Approach	Sustainability appraisal overall comment for approach	Sustainability Score
Economy-led approach	Intrinsic emphasis on economic growth and development, and priority of securing development on many sites. These benefits should be weighed against a potential relative loss of opportunities for biodiversity, green space, heritage and wider environmental enhancement. The impact of infrastructure and other requirements on development viability is also not clear.	+
Social / community-led approach	Intrinsic emphasis on social, community and health benefits, uses and facilities, although this may impact on the viability of development and the long-term funding implications of this approach are not clear. These benefits should be weighed against the lower scores in economic-based measures, and relatively less emphasis on wider environmental improvements.	+
Environment-led approach	Intrinsic emphasis on environmental gains – ecological, environmental, air quality, energy, physical activity and associated health benefits, although this may impact on the viability of development and the long-term funding implications of this approach are not clear. These benefits should be weighed against the lower scores in economic-based measures, and relatively less emphasis on wider social and other inequalities.	+

3.18 Given the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches, the best and most reasonable ‘alternative’ for the emerging Bootle Area Action Plan was considered to be a mix of options from each of the alternative approaches; and in some cases, revised options. It was therefore recommended that preparation of the Plan moves forward on this basis. This would allow a greater balance of economic, social and environmental gains and a more rounded approach. It is also considered that such a balance would have greater certainty of implementation, and linked viability benefits. Accordingly, the Preferred Options Bootle Area Action Plan carried forward a range of economic, social and environmental priorities also with a regeneration focus.

Sustainability appraisal of the Preferred Option policies (including proposed mitigation measures)

3.19 Stage B of the sustainability appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process includes requirements to:

- *Evaluate the likely effects of the Plan... and*
- *Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects [of the Plan].*

This section summarises the sustainability appraisal of the Bootle Area Action Plan Preferred Options policies. It includes an evaluation of the likely effects of the Plan policies, and suggestions about how adverse or negative impacts can be mitigated and how positive impacts can be increased, if relevant or appropriate.

3.20 The policies are all given a score against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a commentary. The commentary will also, where necessary, include recommendations on making the policy more sustainable where applicable. It should be noted and understood that not every Bootle Area Action Plan policy can or should refer to or achieve every sustainability objective. In some cases it will not be relevant or appropriate to amend the policy. For example, a housing land supply policy will relate directly to only a few of Sefton's sustainability objectives, whereas the design policy could potentially relate to most of them. It is not appropriate for every policy to attempt to respond to all of the sustainability objectives. It must be accepted that, like other development plans, the Bootle Area Action Plan should be read as a whole so that different policies deal with different aspects of sustainable development. Indeed, planning applications for development proposals would be assessed against all relevant development plan policies. This includes policies in the Bootle Area Action Plan, Sefton Local Plan and in some cases, the Joint Waste Plan.

3.21 The Sustainability appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) of the policies in the Preferred Options Bootle Area Action Plan was carried out in autumn 2023 by a group of planning officers. This sustainability appraisal informed the writing of the Publication draft AAP. A summary table of the scoring can be seen below in figure 3.5.

3.22 The table in figure 3.5 indicated that all Preferred Option AAP polices were considered sustainable overall; each scoring either strongly positive or positive overall. This overall positive sustainability score for each policy balances the individual scores for each sustainability objective (that is, based on judgement rather than a mathematical calculation). There are instances where the objectives are not relevant. There are also a few instances where a negative score is given against some sustainability objectives.

3.23 A number of policies were considered to score very highly with a ++ score. These were:

- BAAP2 Best Use of Resources
- BAAP3 Bootle Central Area
- BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre

Sustainability Objectives	Bootle Area Action Plan Preferred Options policies																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1 Economy	+	0	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	-	+	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	+
2 Jobs & skills	N	N	+	+	+	++	N	N	N	+	N	+	+	-	++	N	N	N	N	++	+	N	+	N
3 Infrastructure	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4 Centres	N	0	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	0	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
5 Inequality	+	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+
6 Crime	++	N	N	+	N	+	N	N	N	++	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	+
7 Community	++	+	+	N	N	+	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	+	N	++	++
8 Housing	N	N	N	+	+	+	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	N	++	+
9 Access	+	N	+	0	N	+	+	+	N	++	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	++	++	+	+	+
10 Health	+	+	+	++	0	N	+	+	+	++	++	N	+	+	+	N	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+
11 Climate Ch	-	++	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	++	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	0	+	+	N
12 Flood risk	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	-	N	+
13 Pollution	N	N	0	N	N	N	+	++	N	++	+	N	N	++	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	+
14 Resources	+	++	0	N	+	+	+	+	N	++	N	N	N	0	N	N	N	N	+	0	0	0	+	N
15 Landscape	+	N	N	N	N	N	0	N	+	++	++	++	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	-	++
16 Vacant	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	N	0	N	+	+	+	N	N	++	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+
17 Biodiversity	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	++
18 Heritage	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	N	N	N	+	+	N	0	N	N	N	N	+	++	+	+	+	+
19 Design	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	N	N	++	N	N	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	++
Overall	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	++

Figure 3.5 Overview of sustainability appraisal (including SEA) of Bootle AAP Preferred Options – Scoring

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
BAAP1 Design	The policy sets out a strong framework to achieve good quality design. However, the policy would benefit from a number of additional points or cross-references, notably in relation to accessibility for those with limited mobility, climate change and aspects of green and blue infrastructure, waste and recycling and residential amenity.	+	<p>Consider additional/amended bullet points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In part 3, regarding to the need to be accessible to those with limited mobility • Relating to climate change • Referring to policy BAAP2. • Relating the need to manage, mitigate or reduce flood risk and surface water; and/or cross-refer to Local Plan policy EQ8 • In part 6, referring to the overall aim of waste reduction and increased recycling, and to design of waste storage areas including specifically for conversions as well as food and drink uses. • Referring to the need for enhanced or appropriate green and blue infrastructure including landscaping and nature and appropriate design of external spaces. • Referring to the need to protect residential amenity.
BAAP2 Best use of resources	The policy may have some impact upon investment in the area but overall is considered to have very considerable benefits which may help improve living conditions, especially for less well-off households. In its own terms, the policy is considered to be very positive.	++	None
BAAP3 Bootle Central Area	Overall this overview policy is likely to support considerable improvements to the town centre and sustainable development. However, the policy could	++	Consider amending one bullet point and adding an additional bullet point under 2 to say something along the lines of:

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
	be strengthened by adding in additional bullet points in 2 to refer to better wider connectivity, emphasis on walking, cycling and public transport, and to refer to the need for a quality, well-designed, safe and fit for purpose environment, in the interests of improving the environment, community safety, biodiversity, surface water management and responding to climate change.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “To connect the various areas within Bootle Central Area together, <u>and with wider Bootle</u>, so that they function as a coherent whole that support and complement each other. <u>To create a quality, well-designed, safe and fit for purpose environment which includes appropriate hard and soft landscaping”.</u>
BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre	The policy is designed to support the regeneration of the town centre that is currently in its early stages. The policy will help the planning process deliver a strong, modern Bootle town centre.	++	<p>Consider amendments to the wording of the policy to further emphasise the need for excellent design: In part 5, along the lines of:</p> <p>Amending the last bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Contribute to <u>Provide a quality, well-designed, safe and fit for purpose</u> improved environment through excellent design standards”. <p>A new bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>“Enhanced connectivity and accessibility to and within the centre, with priority for pedestrians, cyclists, those using public transport and access for all”</u> <p>In part 7, an amended bullet point along the lines of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the public highway provides <u>well-connected, convenient</u>, safe and pleasant routes for pedestrians, <u>and cyclists, those using public transport and access for all”</u>
BAAP5 Bootle Office Quarter	It is considered that the policy will help maintain a vibrant office quarter and will help direct future investment into the office quarter.	+	Consider whether it is appropriate to add health and/or social care opportunities to the list of uses in part 5.

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
BAAP6 Civic and Education Quarter	The policy has key strengths in promoting economic growth and investment, education and skills, bringing back into use derelict and underused land and buildings and reducing water and use of resources and protection and enhancing Bootle's culture and heritage, as well as other sustainability benefits.	+	Consider amending the end of part 2, bullet point 5 of the policy to make explicit the need for high design quality and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure, along the lines of: <u>...These routes and spaces should be high-quality, well-designed, landscaped and fit for purpose</u> .
BAAP7 Local Shopping Parades	This is a positive, sustainable policy which aims to set a strategic context for protection and health of key parades and consolidation and redevelopment of other shopping parades or parts of parades, with positive impacts for most sustainability objectives and no negative impacts. Although the policy focusses on the principle of uses, it also requires good design, improvements to the street scene and protection of residential amenity in both re-use and conversions and any new build.	+	Consider amending part 3 of the policy to clarify how this policy relates to design issues and the wider requirements in policy BAAP 19: "Converting the ground floors of units in shopping parades to residential will be unacceptable unless the premises were <u>i)</u> clearly designed originally as residential properties, <u>and</u> <u>ii) the conversion reflects the original detailing and fenestration design, has an appropriate internal arrangement and is compatible with good design and amenity of occupiers, neighbouring and nearby residents.</u> "
BAAP8 Getting Around	Meets the aims of providing more options for getting around including improving walking and cycling links and permeability. However there is no mention of the need to provide for electric or other low emissions vehicles and supporting infrastructure, which would have a number of sustainability benefits as well as improving	+	Consider amending existing or adding new bullet point(s) to parts 1 and 3 to refer to retaining or enhancing access to public transport services or facilities and provision for infrastructure for low emissions vehicles. On the Proposed Priority Routes plan (Figure 14) which accompanies this policy, amend the key to refer to 'Canal and towpath' and 'Pedestrian, cyclist'

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
	accessibility. National policy is for a move to an electric car future in the next decade.		and vehicle routes (road corridors)', to reflect the aims both of this sustainability objective and of the policy wording.
BAAP9 Nature	Parts 1 and 3 of the policy reflect legal requirements. Part 2 seeks to improve nature locally as part of other development proposals. While positive impacts on the quality of the environment, biodiversity, health benefits and the image of the area (helping secure and retain investment) should be balanced against any negative impacts on the overall costs or viability of development, the overall impact of the policy is considered to be positive. There will be a positive impact upon biodiversity in Bootle.	+	None
BAAP10 Healthy Bootle	The policy acts as a bringing together and signposting to, a wide range of different policies that address various and diverse issues that relate to health. The policy also raises the profile of how important improvements to health are to Bootle.	++	Consider amending part 1 viii to refer to the need for affordable warmth and affordable water, not just energy efficiency.
BAAP11 Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields	The emphasis of the policy on improvements to existing parks, public open space and playing fields and their accessibility will have a number of key sustainability benefits. These positive impacts should be balanced against any negative impacts on the overall costs or viability of development.	+	Consider whether part 2 needs to refer specifically to improved access for walkers and cyclists, for example along the lines of: “2. All major proposals should consider how access to nearby parks from the development can be created or improved, <u>notably for walkers, cyclists and those with limited mobility</u> . This could include: ...”

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
			The second and third bullet points in part 2 refers to the priority routes for getting around (policy BAAP8). The Proposed Priority Routes plan (Figure 14) shows only the 'canal' and 'roads'. Amend the key of this plan to refer to 'Canal and towpath' and 'Pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle routes (road corridors)', to reflect the aims both of this sustainability objective and of the wording of policies BAAP8 and BAAP11.
BAAP12 Employment Land Provision	The policy has very strong economic benefits, including opportunities for local jobs, and indirectly is likely to provide some social benefits. The policy focuses on the range of acceptable uses rather than design-led issues, so it is accepted that it has fewer social and environmental benefits.	++	None.
BAAP13 Protection of Employment Land	The policy has some positive economic sustainability benefits and is useful to allow enough land to provide for jobs in the future. It provides limited, direct social and environmental benefits.	+	None.
BAAP14 Limiting the impact of industry on residents	The policy will help create a better environment, with significant social and environment sustainability benefits. There is a risk that it might deter some economic investment in a few instances. While most environmental aspects are included within the policy, consider whether there is a need to refer to impacts of waste or materials for recycling. While most environmental aspects are included within the policy, consider whether there is	+	Consider whether there is a need for a new bullet point to part 1 along the lines of: <u>increased storage of waste or recycling materials outside buildings and additional waste management vehicle movements</u> .

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
	a need to refer to impacts of waste or materials for recycling.		
BAAP15 Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development	The policy is likely to have a mostly positive impact and help achieve many economic and social / community sustainability objectives, for example upon young people looking for work or other people looking to gain new skills. However, it would be helpful to monitor of the number of Employment and Skills Plans entered, and the number required by the policy, but which would make the development unviable, to help assess whether the 'requirement thresholds' are set at the appropriate level.	+	Consider amending the policy to clarify what these 'commercial' uses are; for example Class E offices, shops and financial and professional services.
BAAP16 Housing Land Provision	The policy does not on its own seek to meet housing needs for Bootle but is designed to support Local Plan policy MN2 providing for the right number of homes in the area. It helps to support housing delivery and has a positive impact on some social and economic sustainability objectives.	+	None.
BAAP17 Affordable Housing and Housing Mix	The policy will help get a good mix of homes in Bootle, to meet the specific needs of the community. It helps to support housing delivery and has a positive impact on a number of mainly social but also economic and environmental sustainability objectives, notably reducing inequalities and improving health.	+	None.
BAAP18 Housing for Older People	The policy has a limited sustainability scope. However, it will help to meet specific locals needs	+	None.

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
and Supported Homes	for elderly people with care needs, and will have some positive social sustainability benefits.		
BAAP19 Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple Occupation	The policy supports a good quality of living environment for new flats and HMOs and protecting buildings and neighbours from inappropriate conversions. It may prevent some conversions taking place and some investment in the community but the benefits are considered to outweigh the harm.	+	None.
BAAP20 Hawthorne Road / Canal Corridor	The policy sets a strategic framework for redevelopment, repurposing and improvements to underused and disused land and to provide a focus for community renewal and regeneration going forward.	++	None.
BAAP21 Bootle Village	The policy will have a positive benefit, specifically in terms of heritage-led regeneration.	+	In the interests of residential amenity and mental health, consider amending the reference in part 4 to interface distances, along the lines of "... interface distances, <u>compatible with residential amenity</u> ..."
BAAP22 Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store	This is a broadly positive policy with a range of environmental benefits and some economic and other benefits.	+	None.
BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge	Broadly this is a very positive policy with a range of environmental, social and economic benefits.	++	Add a new principle into part 2 along the lines of: <u>"Ensure that the loss of the former playing pitch(es) is addressed consistent with Local Plan policy NH5. This will be achieved via a commuted sum payment (on a per dwelling basis) towards the provision of a new 3G pitch(es) at Litherland Sports Park".</u>

Figure 3.6 Sustainability appraisal /SEA of Preferred Options – summary /overall comment			
Preferred Options policy	Sustainability overall comment for policy	Sustainability Score	Suggested changes to make policy more sustainable
			An alternative approach would be to set out clearly why this Local Plan requirement is no longer required or relevant.
BAAP24 Environmental Improvements	This is a positive policy which has the potential for significant environmental and social benefits, with spin-off economic benefits. While positive impacts on the quality of the environment, biodiversity, health benefits and the image of the area (helping secure and retain investment) need to be balanced against any negative impacts on the overall costs or viability of development proposals, part 4 of the policy makes clear that environmental improvements are subject to viability.	+	None.

- BAAP10 Healthy Bootle
- BAAP12 Employment Land Provision
- BAAP20 Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge Regeneration Opportunity Area

3.24 Four policies had a negative scoring against one of more sustainability appraisal objectives. However, none of those were considered negative overall because on balance, other factors were more important or outweighed any harm. For example, policy BAAP14 *Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents*, was considered to be very positive ++ on Sustainability Appraisal Objectives 14 *Reduce waste and the use of natural resources* and 19 *Provide good design and a quality living environment*, but scored negatively – against Sustainability Appraisal Objectives 1 *Encourage economic growth and investment* and 2 *Reduce unemployment and improve skills*. This is because the restricting of noise, odour or hours to protect residents may put off investment on some sites for certain types of businesses. It was considered that the need to protect immediate residents outweighed the potential minor economic harm.

3.25 However, the more relevant issue was whether each policy – in its own terms – was as sustainable as it can be, and whether it can be made more sustainable. Figure 3.6 set out for each policy its score and its commentary, and commentary of suggested changes (if any) to both mitigate adverse impacts and maximise beneficial effects of each policy; to make each policy more sustainable. For 14 policies these recommendations were made.

3.26 All of the recommendations are set out in the table above. For more detailed comments on these, please read the stage B report. In many cases the recommendations explicitly mentioning other policy areas. For example the town centre policies BAAP3 – BAAP6 suggest refencing making the central area more accessible to those with limited mobility. Whilst that is covered to some extent in BAAP8 *Getting Around*, the policies may have benefited from referencing this. In other instance, it may be that an entirely new element is needed in the policy. For example, BAAP1 *Design* may benefit from a general point about protecting residential amenity.

Monitoring

3.27 Stage B of the sustainability appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process includes requirements to propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan. This is in order to be able to assess whether the AAP is actually meeting the sustainability objectives set out in the SA/SEA, during the implementation phase of the AAP, post adoption.

3.28 The monitoring framework for sustainability aspects of Bootle Area Action Plan was set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Stage A Report. This incorporates any changes made after statutory consultation on the draft Stage A report with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, and subsequent changes made to make sure that the monitoring information is readily available within existing resources. It was recommended that these changes are taken forward. This is considered further in chapter 9 of this report.

Chapter 4

Assessing the Vision, Objectives and Alternative Strategies in the AAP [Stage C]

4.1 This chapter will test whether the Vision, Objectives and Alternative Strategies were considered sustainable. They have all been tested during the stage B SA/SEA and this section will look to see if there have been any changes to the plan and whether these changes resulted in an alteration to the sustainability of the plan.

4.2 The vision for the Publication draft AAP, taking into account comments from the previous (Preferred Options) draft was as follows: The vision was revised for the Publication draft AAP, taking into account comments from the Preferred Options draft. The vision for Bootle up to 2040 in the Publication draft AAP as follows:

'Our ambition is for Bootle to be one of the best places in which to grow up in the country. By 2040, a regenerated Bootle will be a place that provides a full range of opportunities to all its residents to live secure, fulfilling, healthy and supported lives whilst addressing key environmental challenges, including pollution and climate change. It will be a place that is open to sustainable business and provide skills, expertise, land, facilities and infrastructure that is attractive to a range of high-quality employers particularly those that would benefit from Bootle's superb locational advantages. Key to Bootle's success will be our children and young people who will have the spaces, opportunities, support and a voice to shape their town for the future.'

4.3 The vision differs from the Preferred Options version that read:

'By 2040 Bootle will be a place that provides a full range of opportunities to all its residents to live secure, fulfilling, healthy and supported lives. It will be a place that is open to business and provide land, facilities and infrastructure that is attractive to a range of high-quality employers particularly those that would benefit from Bootle's superb locational advantages.'

4.4 The Vision had been expanded significantly in order to be more aspirational and sustainable. The vision added a section at the beginning about Bootle being “one of the best places to grow up” and at the end “Key to Bootle’s success will be our children and young people who will have the spaces, opportunities, support and a voice to shape their town for the future.” This reflected a Sefton Council corporate priority in recognising the importance of specifically addressing the needs of young people when shaping Council policy. Another important change was the addition of reference to adding that providing opportunities for local people, Bootle will also need to address “key environmental challenges, including pollution and climate change”. This would certainly make the AAP more sustainable as pollution in particular, is an important environment issues in localised parts of the AAP area.

4.5 The following sentence was also changed “It will be a place that is open to sustainable business and provide skills, expertise, land, facilities and infrastructure that is attractive to a range of high-quality employers particularly those that would benefit from Bootle’s superb locational advantages”. The change to “sustainable business” reflected the local need to have businesses that don’t materially add to existing issues, for example, air quality. The insertion of the word,

“expertise” reflected the fact that ensuring that the opportunities for training and education is for local people, is important in Bootle for helping improve prospects for local people and businesses.

4.6 The addition of the term “...regenerated Bootle” reflected the corporate priorities for regeneration and renewal given the way Bootle scores poorly in the Indices and Multiple Deprivation.

4.7 Whilst the Vision was not been scored against the Sustainability Framework because it is a high level vision, it is considered that it does balance the various economic, social and environmental priorities in Bootle.

Objectives of the AAP

4.8 The AAP objectives were drafted to reflect the Vision and after considering the public comments in the early public engagement stage (Issues and Options).

4.9 The objectives were updated from the Preferred Options stage. The Preferred Options Objectives and the new Publication AAP Objectives are set out side by side for comparison in figure 5.1 below:

Objective number	Preferred Option Objectives	Publication draft Objectives
Obj1	To meet the housing needs of Bootle’s residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs	To meet the housing needs of Bootle’s residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs
Obj2	To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures	To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and <u>especially</u> fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures
Obj3	To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community	To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community
Obj4	To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride	To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride
Obj5	To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the	To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the

Objective number	Preferred Option Objectives	Publication draft Objectives
	city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network	city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network
Obj6	To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents	To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents
Obj7	To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life	To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life
Obj8	To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area	To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area
Obj9	To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings	To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings
Obj10	To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature, including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements	To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature <u>as part of a high-quality environment for Bootle</u> , including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements
Obj11	To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle	To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle
Obj12	To set high standards of design for new buildings and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour	To set high standards of design for new buildings, <u>infrastructure</u> and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour
Obj13	To set standards in new development that help the Council meet its climate change responsibilities	To set standards in new development that help the Council <u>respond to the challenge of climate change</u>
Obj14	To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.	To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.
Obj15		<u>To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle</u>

Figure 4.1 Comparison between Preferred Options AAP objectives and Publication draft Objectives (Added text in the Publication draft is underlined. Deleted text from the Preferred Options is ~~crossed out~~).

4.10 The main change from the previous draft AAP was the addition of a new objective. Objective 15 was added to reflect a Council priority to make sure that the needs of young people are given greater importance in place making. Bootle has a higher percentage of young people than the Sefton borough average and so this is especially important. This reflects the changes discussed with the vision (as discussed earlier).

4.11 Other changes to the objectives and the reason why were:

- Objective 2 – The importance of fuel poverty was emphasised by adding the word ‘especially’. This reflects higher than average levels of poverty within the Bootle AAP area.
- Objective 10 – This objective is on improving Green Infrastructure and nature. Text was added saying ‘...as part of a high-quality environment for Bootle’. This was to ensure that it was made clear that part of the objective was the overall improvement to the physical environment in Bootle.
- Objective 12 – This design objective was improved by adding that infrastructure was expected to have a high quality of design as well as buildings.
- Objective 13 – This objective focuses on climate change. The second half of the objective was reworded to be more specific that development needs to meet the challenges raised by climate change rather than simply meeting climate responsibilities. This makes the objective a little bit clearer and more precise.

4.12 The objectives were all assessed against the sustainability framework in stage B of the SA/SEA process as set out in chapter 3. The objectives were looked at again in response to the changes made to them in the Publications draft AAP and the scoring is set out below in figure 5.2 (below). With the relatively small changes to the first 14 objectives, there was only one change to the scoring from the stage B assessment. For objective 12 on design when assessed against Sustainability Appraisal Objective 3 – *Infrastructure*, that having an objective that asks for high qualities of design lifts that score to a double positive ++. It did not alter the overall score for that objective as it was already scoring a double ++.

4.13 The new objective 15 was considered to be positive and scored positively in a number of factors. It scored a double positive against Sustainability Appraisal Objective 2 to reduce unemployment and improve skills, as both objectives focus on young people.

4.14 There were in total 3 objectives that scored an overall double positive ++ for sustainability. These were:

- Objective 4 - *To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride.* This scored well against most sustainability objectives due to improved accessibility having the potential to meet social, economic and environmental goals. Good accessibility will help people from across society be better able to access services, facilities, leisure and jobs. Having a choice of means to get there may reduce some car journeys and positively reducing emissions from vehicles which will help meet public health objectives and address climate change. Being able to better access jobs may help the area economically.

Testing the sustainability appraisal objectives against the Plan objectives															
	Bootle Area Action Plan objectives														
SA Objectives	1 Housing need	2 Energy effic'y	3 Conversions	4 Access	5 Econ Growth	6 Jobs & skills	7 Amenity	8 Retail& Centres	9 Vacant land	10 Green& blue infrastr	11 Health	12 Design	13 Climate Change	14 Heritage	15 Children Young People
1 Econ Growth	+	+	+	++	++	++	0	+	+	+/0	+	+	0	+	+
2 Jobs & skills	N	N	N	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	N	N	+	++
3 Infrastructure	++	+	+	++	++	++	0	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
4 Centres	N	+	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	+
5 Inequality	++	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+
6 Crime	+	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	N	N	+
7 Community	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
8 Housing	++	++	++	++	+	N	++	N	+	+	+	++	++	+	+
9 Access	N	N	N	++	++	+	N	++	+	++	+	++	+	N	+
10 Health	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	N
11 Climate Ch	+	++	+	++	++	N	N	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	N
12 Flood risk	+	+	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	++	+	+	++	N	N
13 Pollution	+	++	+	++	+	N	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	+
14 Resources	+	++	+	++	+	N	N	+	++	+	N	+	+	+	+
15 Landscape	N	+	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
16 Vacant land	+	N	0	N	+	N	0	+	++	+	+	+	N	++	N
17 Biodiversity	N	N	N	+	N	N	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	N	N
18 Heritage	N	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	++	+
19 Design	N	+	++	++	N	N	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	++	++
Overall sustainability	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+	+

Figure 5.2 Assessment of the AAP policies against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives.

- Objective 10 - *To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature as part of a high-quality environment for Bootle, including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements.* This objective scored really strongly against most of the environmental objectives as well as being very positive for Infrastructure, inequalities, health and design. It is recognised that good quality green and blue infrastructure has multiple benefits. In an area with a very densely populated urban grain, (as characterised by much of Bootle), that quality green and blue infrastructure is especially important. Hence this objective scores highly.
- Objective 12 - *To set high standards of design for new buildings, infrastructure and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour.* Like Objective 4, this scored well because good design can be socially, economically and environmentally beneficial and so the objective is by definition sustainable.

4.15 The twelve other objectives all scored a single positive +. These are:

- Objective 1 - *To meet the housing needs of Bootle's residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs.*
- Objective 2 - *To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and especially fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures.*
- Objective 3 - *To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community.*
- Objective 5 - *To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network.*
- Objective 6 - *To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents.*
- Objective 7 - *To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life.*
- Objective 8 - *To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area.*
- Objective 9 - *To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings.*
- Objective 11 - *To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle.*
- Objective 13 - *To set standards in new development that help the Council respond to the challenge of climate change.*
- Objective 14 - *To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.*
- Objective 15 - *To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle.*

4.16 Plan objective 7: '*To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life*' is perhaps the

least sustainable. This Plan objective has the potential to increase restrictions and costs for businesses and have some negative impacts on economic growth, infrastructure provision and bringing back derelict or under-used land into re-use. However, these potentially negative impacts must also be balanced against the impact of an improved environment, especially for local residents, and a more positive image of the area. A more visually attractive environment likely to increase business and investor confidence and draw in more inward investment, with economic benefits.

4.17 A similar balance needed to be made in relation to Plan objectives 10 (green and blue infrastructure) and 13 (climate change), and the economic prosperity sustainability objective. Again, these environment-based initiatives may increase initial restrictions and development costs but this should be balanced against the above benefits of more attractive environment, better adapted to meet the challenges of climate change. As discussed earlier, overall objective 10 scores very strongly overall.

4.18 Plan objective 6 (jobs, training and skills) and 15 (young people), are not directly relevant to a number of the environment-based sustainability objectives, while the biodiversity sustainability objective is not directly relevant to many Plan objectives (notwithstanding mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain for all development, as required by the Environment Act 2021).

4.19 It was considered overall that the plan objectives are sustainable and do not need altering to make them sustainable. There does not appear to be any evidence that there will be significant negative effects arising from those objectives.

Alternative Options

4.20 A very important role of the SA/SEA process is to check whether the strategic approach being taken is the most appropriate one. An assessment was carried at stage B (see chapter 3 above). This was to ensure that the Plan is tested to see whether other reasonable approaches might produce better and more sustainable outcomes.

4.21 As discussed in paras 3.11 and 3.12 (above), any alternatives to be considered need to be reasonable alternatives, i.e. they could realistically be pursued. There was not the same obvious choice in strategic options available as there were for the Sefton Local Plan (2017), where there were three very different growth scenarios that could reasonably be followed. The Bootle Area Action Plan was more focused on uplifting the area in a number of ways and so the options chosen were more a matter of approach.

4.22 Broadly, these could be divided into three alternative sets of Options for each Issue:

- An economy-led approach (options which together gave priority to economic growth)
- A social/community-led approach (options which together gave priority to supporting and enhancing social aspects and strengthening the local community)
- An environment-led approach (options which together gave priority to protecting and enhancing the environment).

4.23 None of these approaches were seen as the most sustainable in themselves and the AAP has effectively taken a combination of these approaches. These approaches are summed up in figure 3.4 in chapter 3 and can be read in full in the stage B report.

4.24 The approach agreed in the stage B report was reviewed during the writing of the Publication draft AAP and it is considered that materially, nothing had changed. Therefore, it was considered that there are no other realistic options available and that taking a combination of parts of all three of the options reviewed, is the most appropriate approach. Therefore, it was still considered a sound basis for the AAP to proceed.

Chapter 5

Assessing the Policies in the Publication Draft AAP [Stage C]

5.1 The SA/SEA process requires that an assessment is made of the likely significant effects of the plan. The main vehicle for creating change in a Development Plan Document are the policies and this is the case for the Bootle AAP. As such, an assessment of the policies in the AAP provides was crucial to any assessment of the sustainability of the plan overall.

5.2 The publication draft AAP includes 24 policies. This is unchanged from the Preferred Options AAP. The policies covered a wide range of topics and are as follows:

- BAAP1 Design
- BAAP2 Best Use of Resources
- BAAP3 Bootle Central Area
- BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre
- BAAP5 Bootle Office Quarter
- BAAP6 Civic and Education Quarter
- BAAP7 Local Shopping Parades
- BAAP8 Getting Around
- BAAP9 Nature
- BAAP10 Healthy Bootle
- BAAP11 Public Greenspace
- BAAP12 Employment Land Provision
- BAAP13 Protection of Employment Land
- BAAP14 Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents
- BAAP15 Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development
- BAAP16 Housing Land Provision
- BAAP17 Affordable Housing and Housing Mix
- BAAP18 Housing for Older People and Supported Homes
- BAAP19 Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple Occupation
- BAAP20 Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP21 Bootle Village Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP22 Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge Regeneration Opportunity Area
- BAAP24 Environmental Improvements

5.3 The draft policies were assessed in stage B of the SA/SEA process against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives using the Sustainability Framework. Each of the policies were scored against each of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and given an overall score. A commentary was included and if, necessary, recommendations suggested for improving the sustainability of the policy. A summary of the scoring against each Sustainability Appraisal Objective can be seen in Chapter 3 in figure 3.5. The overall score and summary for each of the policies is included in figure 3.6. All the policies were considered to be reasonably sustainable with some considered to be very positive (++) . See the Stage B report for a more detailed summary of the assessment.

5.4 The results of stage B were then considered when writing the Publication draft AAP and changes were made, where considered appropriate, as a result of the recommendations. It is

worth noting at this stage that changes were also made for other reasons, including responses made during the Preferred Options consultation, updated evidence, priorities and circumstances and changes to Government policies. The result is that some of the policies have seen some significant changes.

5.5 Whilst an initial sustainability assessment was made of the policies in the Preferred Options draft of the Bootle AAP, it is necessary that these policies, as amended for the Publication draft, were reassessed. This checked to see if the scoring and commentary remained appropriate and whether the policies were still considered sustainable and whether this changes over different time periods. The assessment was carried out in the Spring of 2024. A summary of the policy scores can be seen in figure 5.1 (below).

5.6 Overall the policies are all broadly sustainable and all of the policies are at least positive (+). The changes to the AAP made between the Preferred Options draft and the Publication draft meant that nine of the policies were subsequently overall considered to be strong positive (++) compared to seven in the Preferred Options Plan. The two policies that had become strongly positive are BAAP1 – *Design* and BAAP 8 - *Getting Around*. All the other 15 policies scored an overall of positive (+).

5.7 Whilst the changes to the policies in the Publication draft resulted in a number of small changes to the sustainability scoring in many cases the score remained unchanged as the changes were not considered to be significant enough. Nonetheless, the changes in scoring were considered to improve the overall sustainability of the plan.

5.8 The stage B SA/SEA assessment made recommendations to improve policies. In some cases, these were implemented, in other cases they weren't considered necessary.

Summary of the Sustainability of each policy

5.9 Below is a broad summary of the sustainability of the policies. They have been divided, where relevant, into policy areas. The summary will include where there have been changes to the scoring and where necessary, why changes weren't made. These are as follows:

- Design and Best Use of Resources (policies BAAP1-2)
- Bootle Central Area (policies BAAP3-6)
- Local Shopping Parades (policy BAAP7)
- Getting Around (policy BAAP8)
- Nature (policy BAAP9)
- Healthy Bootle (policy BAAP10)
- Public Greenspace (policy BAAP11)
- Employment, Jobs and Training (policies BAAP12-15)
- Homes & Living (policies BAAP16-19)
- Regeneration Opportunity Areas (policies BAAP20-23)
- Environmental Improvements (policy BAAP24)

Overview of sustainability appraisal (including SEA) of Bootle AAP Preferred Options																									
Bootle Area Action Plan Preferred Options policies – BAAP:																									
Sustainability Objectives	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Social Value	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Design	Resources	Central Area	Town Centre	Office Quarter	Civic & Ed Quarter	Parades	Getting Around	Nature	Healthy Bootle	Parks etc	Employmt Land	Protection Enpland	Ind& Amenity	15	Social Value	Housing Land	Housing Elderly	HMOs Flats	Hawthorn Rd Canal	Bootle Village	Irln Rd Asda	Coffeevmtsse Brdge	Enviro Imprb	
1 Economy	+	0	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	-	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	
2 Jobs & skills	N	N	+	+	+	++	N	N	N	+	N	+	+	-	++	N	N	N	N	++	+	N	+	N	
3 Infrastructure	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
4 Centres	N	0	++	++	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	N	+	+	+	++	+	
5 Inequality	+	+	+	++	N	+	+	+	+	+	N	+	+	+	+	++	N	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	
6 Crime	++	N	N	+	N	+	N	N	N	++	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	
7 Community	++	+	+	N	N	+	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	+	N	+	+	N	++	
8 Housing	N	N	N	+	+	+	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	++	++	++	++	+	N	++	
9 Access	+	N	+	+	N	+	+	++	N	++	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	++	++	+	+	
10 Health	+	+	+	++	0	N	+	+	+	++	++	N	+	+	+	N	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	
11 Climate Ch	+	++	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	+	++	+	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	+	0	+	+	
12 Flood risk	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	-	N	
13 Pollution	N	N	0	N	N	N	+	++	N	++	+	N	N	++	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	
14 Resources	++	++	0	N	+	+	+	+	N	++	N	N	N	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	0	0	N	
15 Landscape	++	N	+	N	N	0	N	+	++	++	++	N	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	+	+	N	
16 Vacant	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	N	0	N	+	+	+	N	N	++	N	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	
17 Biodiversity	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	++	N	+	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	+	N	N	++	
18 Heritage	++	+	++	+	+	++	+	N	N	N	+	+	N	0	N	N	N	N	N	+	++	++	+	+	
19 Design	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	N	N	++	N	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	
Overall sustainability	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	

Figure 5.1 Overview of sustainability appraisal (including SEA) of Bootle AAP Preferred Options

Design and Best Use of Resources (policies BAAP1-2)

5.10 BAAP1 involved more suggestions for change than any other policy as a result of the stage B assessment and many of these changes have been accepted. The result has been that the policy went from a single + to a ++ overall.

BAAP1 Design		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
11 Climate Change	-	+
12 Flood risk	0	+
14 Natural Resources	+	++
15 Landscape	+	++
17 Biodiversity	0	+
Overall	+	++

Figure 5.2 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP1 Design). Note - Only changes where changes have been made are the objective included.

5.11 Policy BAAP1 was amended to say that proposals should comply with BAAP2 “Best use of Resources” as well as Local Plan policy EQ2 “Design”. It also addressed climate change issues, including flooding issues, more directly. This helped address some of the climate change and flood risk issues that were with the preferred options policy.

5.12 The policy had also added text aimed at addressing waste and design issues around waste storage which increased the scoring of objective 14 (see above). The policy also encouraged improved access to the canal and this helped address the concerns expressed in the stage B assessment against objectives 9 and 15.

5.13 A whole raft of amendments to the policy have meant that the policy, including a commitment to protect living conditions of residents, provides a really firm foundation for the plan in encouraging good multi-functional design and helps elevate SA objective 19 to a ++ and the overall score to a ++. The policy was then considered a very sustainable policy that will help support economic development whilst protecting and enhancing a wide range of social, community and environmental considerations.

5.14 BAAP2 – Best Use of Resources was already considered a very sustainable policy during the stage B assessment. Very minor amendments were made to the policy, those amendments did not make a material difference to the sustainability of this policy.

Bootle Central Area (policies BAAP3-6)

5.15 The Central Area Policies provide for a key focus of growth within the AAP and they were designed to support the enhancement and regeneration of Bootle Town Centre which has received extensive funds for central Government to re-purpose the Bootle Strand into a multi-purpose retail, service, leisure, education, community and events space. Beyond the town centre, the office quarter, the town hall quarter and the Education Quarter all present a number of opportunities and challenges going forward.

BAAP3 Bootle Central Area		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
15 Landscape	N	+
Overall	++	++

Figure 5.2 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP2 Bootle Central Area)

5.16 The policy was updated to add references to addressing issues of design around outdoor spaces, including green and blue infrastructure and this helped address issues expressed against SA Objective 15 in the stage B assessment.

5.17 The policy was already considered a very sustainable policy which would provide a solid framework for addressing issues over the whole town centre area, addressing economic, social and environmental issues.

BAAP 4 Bootle Town Centre		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
9 Access	0	+
Overall	++	++

Figure 5.3 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre)

5.18 The policy was improved on by adding text and links to BAAP8 – *Getting Around* that improved the score against the Accessibility SA Objective. This very important policy provides the planning policy framework to allow the Strand to be redeveloped flexibly, and sustainably and is considered to be strong and with positive effects.

5.19 It is arguably the only policy with wider geographical links well beyond the Bootle Area Action Plan Area because the Strand draws visitors in from a wider area than Bootle. The new events space is also attracting people from across the region to concerts. However, the effects of the policy were considered to be strongly positive as they will encourage far greater and more flexible use of the town centre and for more reasons than just retail as has traditionally been the case. This will create greater opportunities for young people locally as well as those on low income or with limited mobility. It is also likely to make Bootle a more attractive place to live and work in. This will have positive economic, social and environmental effects. The policy will also be likely to provide for long-term sustainability benefits for the town centre through its repurposing. The likely benefits will be mostly felt over the medium to long-term as the redevelopment progresses.

5.20 Both AAP Policy BAAP5 Bootle Office Quarter and BAAP6 Civic and Education Quarter have seen some minor changes to the policies. These changes do not alter the essential sustainability of the policies. Both scored a single +.

Local Shopping Parades (policy BAAP7)

5.21 Local Shopping parades in the Bootle area are very important to some local communities, often with lower-than-average car ownership and with a higher than average number of people who have poor health and/or limited mobility. The Bootle area also has some very long parades that have shrunk significantly in footfall and number of occupied commercial units. Consequently,

some parades are characterised by a large number of vacant units. The policy seeks to protect the essential functions of the parades for local communities whilst providing opportunities for repurposing parts of parades that are no longer fit for their original purpose. The policy is intended to protect parades or provide the opportunities for redeveloped and repurposing and it is not expected that the likely effects would be felt until the medium and longer term. This is due to the slow pace of change that normally characterises changes of use on small parades.

5.22 The policy was considered sustainable in the stage B assessment and this is unchanged as few changes have been made to the policy. Most of the advantages of the policy are social and economic. The policy was considered to be positive (+).

Getting Around (policy BAAP8)

5.23 The policy is designed to ensure that development in Bootle is accessible to a wide choice of transport.

BAAP8 Getting Around		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
3 Infrastructure	+	++
9 Access	+	++
11 Climate Change	+	++
Overall	+	++

Figure 5.4 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP8 Getting Around)

5.24 In the stage B assessment the policy scored positively but it was recognised that there were areas the policy could improve upon. The policy has been amended with reference to infrastructure and access to low emission and electric vehicles added. This has resulted in an improvement in scores against the infrastructure, Accessibility and Climate change objectives. This has improved the score for the policy to very positive ++.

Nature (policy BAAP9)

5.25 The policy is aimed at protecting and enhancing Biodiversity and supports the recent introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain. The policy also supports some on-site improvements where BNG isn't formally required. The policy did not fundamentally change and was therefore considered to still be sustainable.

Healthy Bootle (policy BAAP10)

5.26 Public Health is an area of policy that encompasses many issues and factors as many economic, social and environmental factors can impact upon health. This Policy attempts to brings these together. The stage B assessment identified that a potential improvement could be to highlight the need for affordable warmth as this can be an important determinant of good health. Whilst this was accepted, it was seen as beyond the scope of this policy to add it.

5.27 The policy had not changed significantly. The policy acts to bring together and signposting of, a wide range of different policies that address various and diverse issues that relate to health. The policy also raises the profile of how important improvements to health are to Bootle.

Public Greenspace (policy BAAP11)

5.28 The policy focuses on protecting, improving links to, and securing investment into public green spaces. The policy does not seek new greenspaces but looks to improve existing. The main change to the policy was a focus on ensuring children can use green spaces. The policy also cross-references to BAAP8 – *Getting Around* to ensure that accessibility is provided for those with limited mobility. This addressed issues identified in the stage B scoping side against SA objectives 9 Accessibility and 13 Pollution but did not see a change in the scores due to the minor nature of the changes.

5.29 The emphasis of the policy on improvements to existing parks, public open space and playing fields and their accessibility has a number of key sustainability benefits. These positive impacts should be balanced against any negative impacts on the overall costs or viability of development.

Employment, Jobs and Training (policies BAAP12-15)

5.30 Policies BAAP12-15 are important economic policies that look to address the key issues of employment and jobs. It is recognised that there are a higher-than-average number of people on low paid jobs or not in employment in the Bootle area. Provision of sites for businesses to locate is really important and is covered in BAAP12. Likewise protecting existing employment land from change of use to other purposes is important to help keep a choice of sites for proposed businesses. This is covered in BAAP13. Some types of employment activity can have a detrimental impact upon local residents. The balance between allowing businesses to operate but not at the expense of residents is a fine one. Policy BAAP14 addresses this. Finally, one of the issues locally is making sure that the working population and particularly young people, have the opportunities and skills to access available local jobs. BAAP15 *Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development*, seeks to address this.

5.31 The stage B assessment concluded that BAAP12 was strongly positive (++) and the other three policies were positive (+). None of the policies have been significantly amended. BAAP13 had likewise seen a few small changes and was still considered sustainable with no changes in the SA/SEA scoring. BAAP14 had a section added on the NPPF ‘agent for change’ principle. It also references recent changes to ‘permitted development’. Both of these are considered important but they did not alter the SA/SEA scoring from stage B. BAAP14 is the only policy to score a negative – against two SA objectives, 1 and 2 (economy and skills and jobs). This is because it was considered that the policy of protecting residential amenity could potential put off some employers investing in existing or future businesses. Those negative effects are likely to be only short term, whilst the benefits for residents would be longer lasting. This was considered to be outweighed by some of the many social and environmental benefits associated with the policy.

5.32 Policy BAAP15 seeks to set out how local people should be considered in major schemes for jobs and training opportunities. The main change was the addition of a reference for young

people's employment and skills to be specifically identified by developers. This is welcome but did not change the SA/SEA score.

5.33 This section is very important and is mainly focused on economic growth but also includes clear direction on how environmental and social matters interplay with jobs and employment and all four policies were still considered sustainable.

Homes & Living (policies BAAP16-19)

5.34 This section deals with different aspects of housing. BAAP16 allocates sites for housing development, BAAP17 sets out the affordable housing requirements and sets out the mix of housing types that are needed, given that it has been identified that Bootle has a predominance of terraced properties and a shortage of family and other types of housing. BAAP18 addresses the issue of Older Peoples Housing and assisted living, whilst BAAP19 looks at Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Flats, which have been long identified as a particular issue in Bootle.

5.35 All four policies were identified as being positive in the stage B assessment. BAAP16 is not designed to meet large scale addition housing need above what is identified in the Sefton Local Plan policy MN2 and as such is not identifying sites for a large number of new dwellings that are likely to cause significant environmental or infrastructure issues. None of the allocations are on environmentally sensitive sites. The site selected for BAAP16 were chosen using a separate site selection methodology, that focused on various constraints, opportunities and accessibility. This is referred to in a separate site selection document.

5.36 Likewise BAAP17 adds more detail to the Sefton Local Plan policies HC1 *Affordable and Special Needs Housing* and HC2 *Housing Mix, Type and Choice*, and helps to bring together various changes in evidence base and national policy that have taken place since the Sefton Local Plan preparation. However, they do not radically alter those policies. The main addition since the Preferred Options draft was the addition of a section on Self and Custom-build homes.

5.37 The policy on older peoples housing sets out when they will and won't be supported in Bootle. It is recognised that there will be some local need. The main change to the policy was the addition of a whole section on supported living for young people in the care system. This was considered to help reduce inequalities and sees an increase in score against SA objective 5.

BAAP18 Housing for Older People and Supported Homes		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
5 Reduce Inequalities	+	++
Overall	+	+

Figure 5.5 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP18 Housing for Older People and Supported Homes)

5.38 Policy BAAP7 saw limited alteration since the stage B assessment and the scoring remains unchanged. The policy seeks to protect the character of areas and the living conditions of existing and future residents whilst allowing some much-needed conversations and variety of housing.

5.39 It is considered that the housing policies have important social and economic consequences and were overall positive. Changes in the housing market over a plan period are

only ever likely to be limited due to the amount of existing housing stock. Changes to the types of stock available will build up slowly over time and the effects will be long term community benefits. It is considered that the policies seek a pragmatic balance of helping provide a variety of types of housing to meet different types of need, whilst respecting the character of the area. The policies were considered sustainable.

Regeneration Opportunity Areas (policies BAAP20-23)

5.40 The Regeneration Opportunity policies cover four different and varied areas. BAAP20 Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor Regeneration Opportunity Area and BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge Regeneration Opportunity Area are both alongside the Canalside; locations that were once major centres of industry. BAAP21 Bootle Village Regeneration Opportunity Area is an area in the old part of Bootle and BAAP22 Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store Regeneration Opportunity Area is an area just to the west of the town centre in a mostly mixed-use area. In the stage B report BAAP20 and BAAP23 both scored as very positive (++) and BAAP21 and BAAP22 both scored as single positive (+).

5.41 The stage B report recommended a couple of changes. The stage B report recommended looking into whether the playing pitch would require replacement or compensatory provision as required in the Sefton Local Plan. The Publication draft explained that a far more flexible approach will be accepted in relation to Environmental Improvements in BAAP24. In BAAP21, it was recommended that need to protect residential amenity be specifically added to the policy. Instead, it has been added to BAAP1 Design, that would apply to all sites. That did not alter the scoring.

BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge		
SA Objective	Preferred Options Score	Publication Score
15 Landscape	-	N
Overall	+	+

Figure 5.6 Changes to the Sustainability scores between Preferred Option and Publication stage (BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge)

5.42 The BAAP22 is in an area with some high surface water flood risk and this scores a negative (–) for that. This should be able to be addressed through the design of the development and did not make the policy overall negative.

5.43 The four regeneration opportunity site policies are all considered to be policies which allow a strong and flexible approach that encourages economic and social opportunities and the policies are considered sustainable. It was considered that the sustainability benefits will be likely felt over the longer term as development on these sites are likely to take place over a number of years.

Environmental Improvements (policy BAAP24)

5.44 Policy BAAP24 Environmental Improvements seeks to make certain types of development contribute towards environmental improvements in the area. The policy sets out, the types of developments that would need to contribute, how much they would pay, and the types of improvements that the money could be spent on. The policy was proposed because there are a number of issues that impact on Bootle as an attractive place to live and this has been identified in

public consultation. A consistent issue that has been raised time and again in consultation and discussions with residents is the impact of litter and fly-tipping. Whilst not a land-use planning issue, it can undermine the regeneration priorities, dissuade new residents and businesses from locating in the town and impact on the image of the town. The policy attempts to address some of these issues.

5.45 The policy scored as positive (+) in the stage B assessment and the scoring has not changed with the thrust of the policy remaining in the Publication draft. It is considered that the policy remained reasonably positive with it having some significant social and environmental advantages. Disadvantages of the costs of the policy to some types of development although these disadvantages would only be up front and longer term there may be more advantages as the measures create a more attractive environment. These concerns may be outweighed by the area being more attractive for investment because of improvements made.

Alternatives Options for policies

5.46 It was also considered whether there were realistic alternative policy approaches for each of the policies. For those policy options it was considered how they would differ economically, environmentally and socially. These can be seen in figure 5.7 (below).

Summary

5.47 Overall the policies of the Bootle AAP are likely to support and promote sustainable development, and in some cases, will have very positive local effects. There have been no significant negative effects identified. It is not considered that there were any recommendations at this stage to make the AAP more sustainable.

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
BAAP1 Design	The whole policy sets out the principles of good design. It doesn't really set out specific standards or thresholds.	It is not considered that there are any reasonable alternatives other than not to have a policy. Given that Bootle has a very specific setting and design characteristics, it is not really considered that not having a policy would be desirable.	
BAAP2 Best Use of Resources	2. All new build housing developments should aim to be water efficient by seeking to encourage water consumption to fewer than 110 litres per person per day.	Not having this measure, and relying on building regs, is a reasonable alternative. Having a stricter measure of <100 lp/pd	Not having the measure would likely result in a small economic benefit but also a small environmental and social disbenefit due to the environmental cost of high rates of water usage and due to the costs of water bills for long term higher usage for customers. Having as stricter measure of less than 100lp/pd would likely have longer term better environmental impacts as well as some social benefits of cheaper water bills. There may be disbenefits of more expensive upfront costs and it may not be suited to some households.
BAAP3 Bootle Central Area	The policy provides an overview of the Central Bootle priorities.	Not having a policy would be a reasonable alternative. However, it would mean that the area relied on the older Local Plan policy and a lot has changed since 2017 in terms of what is happening and what the priorities are for the Bootle Central area, so having	

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
		no policy would be an opportunity missed.	
BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre	The policy is mostly designed to support the Bootle Town Centre transformation.	<p>The policy is designed to support the regeneration of the town centre where funding has been achieved. The town centre regeneration will go ahead but the policy allows a robust policy framework to support this essential work through the planning system. Therefore there is no realistic alternative.</p> <p>The Town Centre and Primary Shopping Area boundaries have been reduced from Local Plan. Reasonable alternatives could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to retain LP extent • to reduce even further 	<p>Keeping the retail area as per that set out in the Local Plan will not reflect current circumstances of long-term decline and increased vacancies. It is considered that providing for a wider mix of uses and purposes for visiting the town centre will be of long-term benefit.</p> <p>However, it is also considered that Bootle still provides a key retail core for a wider area and as such, the retail area shouldn't be reduced beyond what is proposed.</p> <p>Ultimately it is clear that changes are needed to the town centre and that there may be social, economic and environmental benefits.</p>
BAAP5 Bootle Office Quarter	The policy builds on the Local Plan. The policy looks at which sites may benefit from complete regeneration and which ones, from retention.	The alternatives may have included not having the policy. This may leave the area subject to greater decline in office space. That may be economically disadvantageous and socially disadvantageous through loss of local jobs. It may have some positive economic benefits through allowing	<p>It is considered more positive to highlight and try to protect the buildings that are needed most whilst proactively identifying those that may benefit from regeneration.</p> <p>Allocating some of the office quarter for housing may have some benefits in bringing forward a variety of housing.</p>

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
		<p>other forms of development, although the policy does not exclude this.</p> <p>Another alternative would be to allocate some of the office quarter for housing.</p>	However not losing key employment is economically very important and where sites may be redeveloped is set out in the policy.
BAAP6 Civic and Education Quarter	The policy builds on the Local Plan but adds more up to date and local strategies. The policy is basically to allow Hugh Baird to meet their future needs and to allow the appropriate retention and repurposing of the civic centre.	There are no obvious alternatives to this policy.	
BAAP7 Local Parades	The policy sets out how the most important parts of parades can be protected to keep the parade function for local communities. It also sets out how other parts of parades can be more flexibly redeveloped for other purposes if no longer required for existing uses.	<p>The alternatives to this policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Leave it to the market – an economic approach. This is a reasonable alternative. b) To try and protect the parades in their entirety. This is probably not reasonable given the decline of some of the parades and with how permitted development rights currently are. 	<p>Leaving it to the market may have some benefits. However it will not be good socially or potentially environmentally given that disadvantaged groups may find themselves without shops and services. People may have to travel further for goods and services.</p>
BAAP8 Getting Around	The policies looks to ensure that development sites are accessible internally and externally to a variety of means of transport and that people with different	There are no obvious alternative ways of making sites accessible to different people and to a wide range of modes of transport is established policy.	

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
	accessibility needs are fully considered.		
BAAP9 Nature	The policy reaffirms the commitment to Biodiversity net gain and Recreation mitigation. It also encourages some BNG on sites that are exempt.	The only obvious alternatives are to not have any additional BNG or to have a higher standard for BNG. Given that the BNG for exempt sites is encouraged and mandatory, the former isn't really an alternative. The later would need clear evidence that there was a need for additional BNG. There is no such clear evidence available.	
BAAP10 Healthy Bootle	This policy brings together various ways that the planning system helps encourage Healthy lifestyles.	There are no reasonable alternatives. The planning system has an influence upon public health when linked in with other public policy areas. However, on its own it cannot reasonable set targets for influencing public health.	
BAAP11 Public Green Spaces	The policy protects existing open spaces except under very limited circumstances, set out in the policy. The policy also sets out improving links with greenspaces from development sites and finally sets out how contributions from development can be made to improve quality of greenspace, linked to BAAP24.	<p>The potential alternatives would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No contributions from development to improve existing green spaces. b) Provide new greenspaces within large sites. <p>The first of these is a reasonable alternative.</p> <p>The second is not a reasonable alternative as there are few options to site new greenspaces in Bootle and</p>	The alternative of providing no contributions towards open space improvements would be advantageous for developers as it would marginally make the developments less costly. The disadvantages would be social as there would be fewer improvements to open spaces.

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
	The policy does not set out to create new greenspace but to improve existing.	little available funding to create and maintain them. [see above]	
BAAP12 Employment Land Provision	The policy sets out the sites that are allocated for employment uses and sets out which uses in particular are most appropriate. The approach is a natural progression from the Local Plan policy.	The Local Plan sets out the Employment requirements and so without redefining requirements, it is not seen as necessary to identify significantly more or less employment land. The reasonable alternative would be to allocate for other uses, primarily housing.	Using for housing would have social and economic advantages in providing for the local community housing sites. There would also potentially be social, economic and environmental disadvantages through losing employment sites, reducing sites for potential and existing businesses and potentially putting housing in inappropriate locations.
BAAP13 Protection of Employment land	The policy sets out when the circumstances would be for employment sites to be allowed to be used for alternative uses.	The reasonable alternative would be not to have the two and five-year marketing time periods.	Not having the two and five-year marketing periods for changing use from employment land may increase the chances of changes of use and may be damaging economically by prejudicing future supply of employment land. This may also be socially unacceptable.
BAAP14 Limiting the impact of Industry on Residents	The policy sets out how the planning process will reduce impact upon residents of development for employment land, where they could be anti-social.	The policy as a whole is consistent with various Local Plan and NPPF policies. The one change is that where appropriate financial contributions may be sought for environmental improvements. This is essentially part of BAAP24 and the alternatives will be considered against that policy.	

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
		It is therefore considered that there are no reasonable alternatives.	
BAAP15 Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development	This policy seeks to ensure that development creates learning and job opportunities for local residents.	The alternative is not to have the policy.	Not having the policy would have social consequences of potentially reducing employment and training opportunities for local residents.
BAAP16 Housing Land Provision	The site sets out potential housing allocations in the BAAP area.	<p>A lack of suitable sites means that allocating more sites isn't considered a reasonable alternative. Having fewer sites allocated is possible as there are existing Local Plan allocations covering the area. This is considered a reasonable alternative.</p> <p>Other sites were considered, and these were subject to a rigorous housing site assessment that is set out in a separate document to the SA/SEA that focused on detailed site selection criteria.</p>	<p>Allocating fewer sites would be less economically advantageous by having fewer sites for development. It would also likely be socially disadvantageous because it will result in a smaller choice of housing.</p> <p>The housing site assessment assessed why other sites were not considered.</p>
BAAP17 Affordable Housing and Housing Mix	This policy sets out the affordable housing and housing type policy mix for the BAAP area. The policy updates existing policies from the Local Plan, NPPF and evidence.	<p>The big changes are 100% of housing being M4(2) compliant and 5% M4(3) compliant.</p> <p>Not having these requirements is one reasonable alternative. Having more M4(3) is another reasonable alternative.</p>	Not having the M4(2) and M4(3) requirements would be likely to make building new homes a little cheaper due to lower costs. However it would come at a social cost as Bootle has higher than average amounts of people in poor health and with life-limiting mobility issues than average.

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
		<p>Having a different mix of house sizes is a reasonable alternative.</p> <p>Having different % of affordable homes (or none) are reasonable alternatives.</p>	<p>A different mix of affordable housing</p> <p>Having a greater quantity of homes M4(3) compatible would mean a greater cost to developers.</p> <p>The housing mix could differ but this would have varying effects. Having a wider variety of mix, may not meet economic market needs. It may provide more variety of housing and might have some social advantages.</p> <p>Having a more or less affordable housing would vary economically. Generally, the greater the amount of affordable housing, the more of a burden it is for developers and so economically the advantages fall with a greater percentage of affordable housing. Socially the effect tends to be opposite with more affordable housing creating greater social advantages in meeting affordable housing need.</p> <p>However, the council consider that 100% social or affordable rent schemes are socially disadvantageous because they do not result in mixed and balanced communities.</p>
BAAP18 Housing for Older People	The policy looks to make sure that appropriate amounts of homes are	Reasonable alternatives exist for the approach to children's homes:	The alternative of not having a policy may mean that both there not being enough

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
and Supported Living	provided for older people and people needed supported living, (including younger people in care). It also looks to ensure that too much isn't provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not have policy 400m between homes could be lower (say 200m) 	<p>approved or that lots of people come in to the area either needing supported living or elderly peoples homes, increasing the amount of pressure on local services and local communities.</p> <p>Having a lower distance between homes may have advantages of being less restrictive but may also mean there are over concentrations.</p>
BAAP19 Conversions to Flats and Homes in Multiple Occupation	The approach sets out how the Council will approach addressing HMO and flat conversions. It builds on the Local Plan policy and SPD HMOs and Flats	The reasonable alternative is to have a less restrictive policy and particularly to have no marketing period.	Having a less restrictive policy would allow for easier conversions but would reduce the quality of accommodation for residents and may cause issues in the community with over-concentrations.
BAAP20 Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor	The policy sets out the potential uses for the regeneration area. The policy is reasonably flexible and allows for a wide range of possibilities for bringing the sites forward positively.	<p>Reasonable alternatives could be to specify uses for opportunity areas.</p> <p>The sites were considered as part of the housing site assessment methodology.</p>	If the policy was more specific in uses, it might create more certainty which may have some social and environmental advantages but it would be less flexible which might prove restrictive for bringing the site forward.
BAAP21 Bootle Village	The policy sets out the potential uses for the regeneration area. The policy is reasonably flexible and allows for a wide range of possibilities for bringing the sites forward positively.	<p>Reasonable alternative could be not to take flexible approach to standards.</p> <p>The sites were considered as part of the housing site assessment methodology.</p>	Having inflexible standards may have economic and environmental disadvantages given that the area is a Conservation Area and it may discourage appropriate development.
BAAP22 Open land between Irlam	The policy sets out the potential uses for the regeneration area. The policy is reasonably flexible and	A reasonable alternative could be to use alternative sites.	The sites were considered as part of the site selection methodology.

Figure 5.7 Alternative options for policies			
Policy	Policy Approach	Reasonable Alternatives	Comments
Road and the Asda Store	allows for a wide range of possibilities for bringing the site forward positively.	The sites were considered as part of the housing site assessment methodology.	
BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge	The policy sets out the potential uses for the regeneration area. The policy is reasonably flexible and allows for a wide range of possibilities for bringing the site forward positively.	The site was considered as part of the housing site assessment methodology.	The site is a Local Plan allocation and has not come forward for development yet. Having a policy that sets out expectations and flexibility, is considered the most appropriate way forward.
BAAP24 Environmental Improvements	The policy brings in a requirement for certain types of business and new homes to make a contribution to improving the local environment.	There is an option of not having the policy. There are also options about what use classes to apply the charge to. This links in with policies BAAP11 and BAAP14.	<p>Not having a policy would have an economic advantage in reducing the costs for eligible developments. The counter to this would be that it would be less advantageous socially and environmentally.</p> <p>Changing what land uses the policy may apply to may have some advantages and disadvantages depending on which uses it does apply to. The charges could also vary between use classes. It is considered that the approach proposed provides the best balance.</p>

Chapter 6 Significant effects of the AAP and any mitigation required [Stage C]

6.1 It is a requirement for the SA/SEA process to identify any significant effects of the plan and any mitigation required, (in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC). If any significant effects exist, they should have been identified in Chapters 5 and 6 above.

6.2 The process did not identify any significant negative environmental effects likely to occur due to the Bootle AAP. The scale and quantum of development was not likely to create any significant effects. The AAP is not looking to create significant development beyond what has been promoted or would be possible in the local Plan. The most significant development sites identified within the AAP are:

- the Atlantic Park/Santander employment sites, which were already allocated for employment in the Sefton Local Plan,
- The redevelopment of parts of Bootle town centre. This is an existing town centre and the proposed works are unlikely to cause any significant environmental harm.
- The Hawthorne Road and Canalside regeneration sites covered by BAAP20. These are all previously developed land and could be developed under the current Local Plan designations.

6.3 None of the proposals within the AAP are for development on protected nature sites and there no proposals for significant loss of public open spaces.

6.4 The only policies that are likely to have a material impact outside of the Bootle AAP area are BAAP3 Bootle Central Area and BAAP4 Bootle Town Centre because the centre attracts visitors from outside of the town (much of South Sefton and North Liverpool). Whilst this is likely to continue and potentially increase with the 'Salt and Tar' events space hosting music concerts, none of this is likely to result in any significant environmental effects. There is unlikely to be any material regional, national or international environmental consequences to the plan.

6.5 The housing policies are not proposing any additional housing need above that being planned for in the Local Plan but instead is aimed at supporting housing supply position needed for the Local Plan and helping to deliver the choice of homes needed in the Bootle area. The employment land policies are likewise aimed at bringing a number of large and small employment sites into productive use to support the Local Plan.

6.6 It should be noted that of the effects identified most will be felt over the longer term due to the benefits being felt incrementally over time.

6.7 The SEA screening statement, completed at the start of the SA/SEA process, stated the following:

'The cumulative nature of effects on the environment is likely to be relatively small in scale but will have a number of positive effects. The AAP will seek to address environmental issues (such as remediating contaminated land, provision of green and blue infrastructure) in future development. However, change, that is, new development or re-development, is likely to be concentrated on a relatively small number of sites or route corridors. Much of the AAP area is unlikely to be subject to development over the plan period'.

6.8 It should be noted that concluding that there are no significant effects from the plan is entirely consistent with the screening opinion above. The reason for screening in the AAP for SEA was that as it is a Development Plan Document, and the Regulations indicate that it would be likely to apply. It was also considered to be good practice to take a cautious view and proceed with an SEA as part of the wider SA.

6.9 It is considered that the SA/SEA process has been rigorous at identifying any potential sustainability issues. The approach has been iterative so that the Bootle AAP has been amended over time to improve the policies. Recommendations at stages B and C have resulted in changing the Bootle Area Action Plan to make it more sustainable. No further changes were made in Stage D as no comments were received on the SA/SEA process, the Environmental Report (Stage C) or other SA/SEA documents relating to Stage A or Stage B during the relevant public consultation period. As such, no mitigation is considered necessary going forward, other than the monitoring as set out in Chapter 9.

Chapter 7

Seeking representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public [Stage D]

7.1 On 11th July 2024, Sefton Council approved the Bootle AAP publication version (July 2024) and supporting documents, including the Environmental Report (stage C) and documents from earlier stages of the SA/SEA process⁵. The Environmental Report concluded that overall, the Bootle AAP publication version would be likely to result in positive benefits; its impacts would be likely to be positive or neutral. Most of those positive benefits and impacts would be likely to be felt over the medium to long term. There were a few negative impacts identified, as set out earlier in this report, but none of these were considered likely to be significant and could be outweighed by the positive impacts of the AAP.

7.2 The SA/SEA Report was published online as the Environmental Report, alongside the Publication draft Bootle AAP, for the period of public consultation running from Friday 13th September 2024 until Monday 11th November 2024. During this period a paper copy of the Environmental Report was available for public inspection (during office hours) at the Council's offices at Magdalen House, Trinity Road, Bootle.

7.3 Representations on the Environmental Report were sought from the statutory consultees and the public, alongside representations being sought on the Publication draft Bootle Area Action Plan and other supporting documents. The statutory consultees for SA/SEA are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

7.4 No comments on the Environmental Report or earlier SA/SEA documents were received from any of the three statutory consultees or from the public during this consultation.

8.5 Following this consultation period, the Bootle AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16th December 2024. Submission marked the start of the Examination In Public, which ended when the Report of the independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State was received by the Council on 16th October 2025. Hearings in relation to Bootle AAP were held on 17th June 2025.

7.6 The Council published online Proposed Modifications to the plan prior to the Hearings⁶. These were discussed at the Hearings, considered by the Inspector and subject to formal consultation by the Council from 2nd July to 16th August 2025. These proposed amendments were limited in number, and were generally very minor, largely to clarify specific issues or provide factual updates. Policies affected were already considered sustainable or very sustainable or sustainable and the minor amendments proposed did not make a material difference to their sustainability or the sustainability of Bootle AAP. Therefore, the Proposed Modifications were considered not to have any significant impacts on the sustainability of the Bootle AAP or in terms of the SA/SEA and Environmental Report.

7.7 Overall, the version of the Bootle AAP due to be taken forward for adoption would remain likely to result in positive benefits; its sustainability impacts would be likely to be positive or neutral.

⁵ See <https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=11516&Ver=4>.

⁶ See https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/jaycobir/bootleaap_final_modifications.pdf

Chapter 8

Conclusions

8.1 This section sets out the following:

- A summary of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Bootle Area Action Plan
- Overall conclusions on the Sustainability of the Bootle Area Action Plan

Summary of impacts of the AAP identified in the SA/SEA

8.2 The summary will be broken down into economic, social and environmental issues. It will be summarised using the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives in the Sustainability Framework as the basis. The following figures are a summary of the economic (figure 8.1), social (figure 8.2) and environmental (figure 8.3), impacts of Bootle AAP. This applies to the version of the Bootle Area Action Plan which is being taken forward for adoption⁷.

Figure 8.1 Summary of the economic Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
1. Encourage economic growth and investment	<p>The Central Area policies (BAAP3-6) are seen as very positive as they are designed to support bringing in investment and diversifying central Bootle.</p> <p>These policies will likely have a slightly wider geographical impact because the centre of Bootle serves a reasonably wide catchment area. The events spaces in the revamped town centre will attract people from further afield. However, the impacts outside of Bootle will still be limited.</p> <p>BAAP13 <i>Employment Land provision</i> is seen as positive in provided land for economic growth and investment.</p> <p>The only negative effect identified against this objective was with BAAP14 <i>Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents</i> as it restricts polluting uses next to residents and this may put off a small amount of investment. However, this is likely to be limited in harm.</p>
2. Reduce unemployment and improve skills	<p>The AAP addresses this issue positively. BAAP6 (on the Education and Civic Quarter) promotes positive growth for Hugh Baird college where required.</p> <p>BAAP15 Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development, directly address this issue by looking to ensure that major developments provide opportunities for skills and jobs locally. The employment policies BAAP12-14 are likely to have some positive effects too.</p>

⁷ Publication Draft AAP, amended by the Proposed Modifications

Figure 8.1 Summary of the economic Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
	The only negative policy for this is some potentially minor negative with BAAP14 <i>Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents</i> , as it restricts polluting uses next to residents and this may put off a small amount of investment and therefore jobs.
3. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.	The main positive effect for this objective is with policy BAAP8 Getting Around. This policy supports improving transport infrastructure in the Bootle Area. Many of the policies score well against this objective.
4. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.	Town Centre policies BAAP3 and BAAP4 scored very well against this objective due to the focus on improving the centre of Bootle. Likewise, policy BAAP 7, Shopping parades proved very sustainable against this objective due to the focus on maintaining and appropriately adapting local parades.

Figure 8.2 Summary of the social Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
5. Reduce inequalities, secure social value and reduce social deprivation	<p>BAAP4 Bootle Town centre scored well against this objective due to the likely improvement in prospects for local people and particularly those of limited mobility and finance to be able to access varying services.</p> <p>The objective is also well supported by policy BAAP15 bringing jobs and skills to local people through development as well as BAAP18 Homes for elderly people and those in the care system due to providing for people who are struggling or disadvantaged.</p> <p>The regeneration policy BAAP22 Irlam Road scores well due to the flexibility of the variety of uses supported by the policy and due to the proposed environmental improvements.</p> <p>Many of the policies in the AAP support this objective indirectly.</p>
6. Reduce crime and improve community safety	This objective was not directly addressed in many policies but is very well supported by and scored highly on BAAP1 Design, which directly addresses the issue of crime and safety and BAAP10 Healthy Bootle which looks at issues of improving health and community safety.
7. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision making	BAAP1 Design supported this SA Objective through promoting good design and the emphasis on showcasing existing heritage assets and improving design quality throughout the area should bring greater civic pride. The policy encourages community participation in producing local design codes.

Figure 8.2 Summary of the social Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
	BAAP23 Coffee House Bridge includes the options for on-site community uses and BAAP24 Environmental Improvements is designed to make local environmental improvements that local people have asked for.
8. Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs	The housing policies BAAP16-19 most directly support this objective due to looking to provide and protect a wide range of sites and meet different housing needs. Regeneration policies BAAP20 and 23 also score highly due to encouraging a large number of homes on those sites.
9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport.	This objective has four policies that scored well against it. BAAP8 <i>Getting Around</i> , BAAP10 <i>Healthy Bootle</i> both explicitly support improving access. The regeneration opportunity site policies BAAP21 and BAAP22 both score highly, due to improving access to a variety of facilities in those sites. A number of the town centre policies also score positively.
10. Provide environments that improve health and social care	Unsurprisingly, BAAP10 <i>Healthy Bootle</i> , scores highly due to directly addressing this SA Objective. Other policies around the town centre BAAP4, better access to green space, (BAAP11) and some of the housing policies BAAP16-18 also score well against this as good quality housing is an important determinant in good health.

Figure 8.3 Summary of the environmental Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
11. Mitigate and adapt to climate change	A number of policies directly and indirectly address this SA Objective. BAAP2 <i>Best Use of Resources</i> directly addresses some of this objective and score positively. BAAP8 <i>Getting Around</i> and BAAP10 both also score well due to encouraging a wide mode of transport choices and encouraging walking and cycling.
12. Reduce the risk from flooding	The main flood risk in Bootle is surface water flooding rather than river flooding and it is not directly addressed through the AAP policies as the Local Plan policies are considered sufficient. BAAP1 <i>Design</i> and BAAP11 <i>Green spaces</i> and BAAP24 Environmental Improvements all score positively. None of the policies score negatively. BAAP22 Irlam Road is partly on an area classified as being at higher surface water flood risk and so this scores negatively. However, the policies in the NPPF, Local Plan and AAP provide a requirement for these issues to be addressed before a development could be approved.
13. Reduce pollution	Bootle has a strong industrial legacy and issues from existing and previous industry exist. BAAP8 and BAAP10 both score

Figure 8.3 Summary of the environmental Impacts of Bootle AAP	
SA Objective	Impacts
	well in encouraging alternatives to cars. BAAP14 <i>Limiting the Impact of Industry on Residents</i> , scores well because it tries to directly reduce the impact of all types of pollution on local residents.
14. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources	BAAP1 <i>Design</i> , and BAAP2 <i>Best Use of Resources</i> directly address the issue by encouraging sustainable building. BAAP10 also encourages alternatives to fossil fuels where possible in transport.
15. Protect and enhance Bootle's landscape and green and blue infrastructure	Bootle is in parts densely populated and built up. Therefore, looking after the existing open spaces and green and blue infrastructure is very important. BAAP1 <i>Design</i> , BAAP9 <i>Nature</i> , BAAP10 <i>Healthy Bootle</i> , BAAP11 <i>Green Spaces</i> and BAAP24 <i>Environmental Improvements</i> all positively address this SA objective.
16. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings.	Making best use of vacant land and buildings is important for economic development and uplifting the area. It is also environmentally desirable. BAAP2 <i>Best Use of resources</i> support this objective, as do all of the town centre policies BAAP3-6 as does BAAP16 <i>Housing Land supply</i> .
17. Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle	BAAP9 <i>Nature</i> , positively addresses this SA Objective as does BAAP24 <i>Environmental Improvements</i> .
18. Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage	Bootle has some significant built and cultural heritage. BAAP1 <i>Design</i> supports this objective by setting out the heritage principles. The town centre policies BAAP3-6 support both cultural and built heritage with BAAP6 in particular supports the historic town hall area. The Regeneration policies BAAP20-23 all to some degree support some built and/or cultural heritage.
19. Provide good design and a quality living environment	All of the policies in the AAP positively support this objective and it is a theme that runs throughout the AAP.

Overall conclusions on the Sustainability of the Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP)

8.4 The Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) (SA/SEA) has identified that overall, the Bootle Area Action Plan which is being taken forward for adoption is likely to result in positive benefits; its impacts are likely to be positive or neutral. Most of those positive benefits and impacts are likely to be felt over the medium to long term. There have been a few negative impacts identified above, but none of these are likely to be significant and may be outweighed by the positive impacts.

8.5 The SA/SEA process set out in this Environmental Report and the documents from earlier stages of SA/SEA supports the conclusion that the Bootle AAP has a good mix of sustainable objectives and policies, balancing the different strands that comprise sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) paragraphs 7 and 8. The strategic direction that has been taken amongst the list of alternatives is a reasonable and there is not a more obvious more suitable alternative.

8.6 Many of the recommendations from stage B of the SA/SEA process were incorporated into the Stage C SA/SEA Environmental Report. No further changes were made in Stage D as no comments were received on the SA/SEA process, the Environmental Report (Stage C) or other SA/SEA documents relating to Stage A or Stage B. Moving forward into Stage E (post-adoption reporting and monitoring), the SA/SEA objectives and monitoring indicators set out in Figure 9.1 above should form part of the Sustainability Framework.

Chapter 9

Next steps – Monitoring and Post-adoption Statement [Stage E]

9.1 The next steps for the Bootle Area Action Plan will be in line with Stage E of the SA/SEA process (post-adoption reporting and monitoring).

Monitoring

9.2 Stage B of the SA/SEA process set out draft measures for monitoring the SA/SEA outcomes and came up with a series of recommended monitoring indicators. These are set out in figure 10.1 (below). These monitoring indicators are considered to be still appropriate at stages C, D and E. They should form the monitoring indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan.

9.3 It is important that the indicators are monitored annually following the adoption of the Bootle AAP. This is to ensure that the outcomes desired are being delivered. This should also help to identify whether there are any unintended consequences of the plan, and, particularly, any negative consequences that may need to be addressed in a future Area Action Plan or Local Plan review.

Next Steps

9.4 The Bootle Area Action Plan is due to be adopted by Sefton Council in January 2026.

9.5 Subsequently, a joint post-adoption statement for the Bootle Area Action Plan and this Environmental Report will be published⁸.

9.6. The significant effects of implementing Bootle Area Action Plan will be monitored using the Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan set out in Figure 10.1 of this Environmental Report (below). This will be complemented by direct monitoring of the implementation of the Bootle Area Action Plan using the monitoring indicators set out in the Bootle Area Action Plan itself. Any adverse SA/SEA effects, or more general effects, will be responded to, for example through changes to the way policies are implemented or how the ‘planning balance’ is weighed, if relevant.

9.7 The overall aim is to make sure that positive impacts and benefits of the Bootle Area Action Plan are as positive as possible, and continue to outweigh any potential negative impacts identified in this Report. That is, the overall aim is to make sure that in its implementation phase, Bootle Area Action Plan continues to be as sustainable as possible.

⁸ See Draft Post-Adoption Statement affixed to the intended Report on the adoption of Bootle Area Action Plan <https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=11869>

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
Economic			
1. Encourage economic growth and investment	<p>Provide sufficient and suitable land for business/commercial development and encourage investment within Bootle?</p> <p>Encourage economic growth and investment in a range of sectors, including green energy and green jobs?</p> <p>Help increase occupancy rates in Bootle's office quarter?</p>	<p>Floorspace (m²) of employment development completed by employment type</p> <p>Amount of employment land (ha)/floorspace (m²) lost to non-employment uses</p> <p>Floorspace completed by development type (office, residential, education) in office quarter.</p> <p>Vacant office space (m²) in office quarter</p>	<p>Land available for employment [ha]</p>
2. Reduce unemployment and improve skills	<p>Reduce levels of unemployment in Bootle, including amongst younger people?</p> <p>Increase skills & match these to local jobs, including green energy. The environment sector and green jobs?</p> <p>Improve access to employment, education and training for Bootle residents?</p>	<p>Number of approved Employment and Skills Plans secured</p> <p>Number of jobs/training places to be provided in secured Employment and Skills Plans</p>	

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
3. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.	<p>Help secure the necessary infrastructure (including public services, physical infrastructure and green infrastructure) to support new development?</p> <p>Help secure infrastructure improvements despite the constraints of the existing urban area?</p>	<p>Area of land (ha) developed by type (housing, employment, open space etc)</p> <p>New education floorspace completed in civic and education quarter</p>	<p>Net change in the amount of public open space</p> <p>Number of public EVC charging points or stations in Council car parks</p>
4. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.	<p>Help Bootle town centre to diversify so that it provides an attractive focus for retail, leisure, business, culture, community and other uses that support the community of Bootle?</p> <p>Help achieve vibrant local shopping parades to provide the necessary range of local services?</p>	<p>Floorspace completed by development type (retail, leisure, commercial, cultural, community, health, education) in town centre.</p> <p>Number and % of vacant ground floor units in shopping parades</p>	<p>Number of residential conversions on local shopping parades</p>
Social			
5. Reduce inequalities, secure social value and reduce social deprivation	<p>Help to support the regeneration priorities of the Council and its' partners?</p> <p>Help to reduce health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities</p>	<p>No. of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area</p>	<p>Reduction in inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)</p>

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
	<p>according to ethnicity, gender, age and other groups?</p> <p>Help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable?</p>		
6. Reduce crime and improve community safety	<p>Help to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime?</p> <p>Help to improve natural surveillance?</p>		<p>Number of reported fly-tipping incidents on Council land in the plan area</p> <p>Crime inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)</p>
7. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision making	Encourage people to get involved in local decisions and become more active in their communities?	<p>Number of major development proposals approved, and implemented in the Bootle AAP area</p> <p>Number of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area where the applicant carried out community consultation</p>	

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
8. Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs	<p>Provide a diverse choice of housing?</p> <p>Help to meet Bootle's housing needs, including for a range of market housing and affordable and specialist housing?</p> <p>Help to manage the number and distribution of Houses in Multiple Occupation within the area?</p>	<p>Number of new homes approved and completed</p> <p>Number and tenure of affordable homes approved and completed</p> <p>Housing Mix of homes approved and completed (market and affordable)</p> <p>Number of homes approved and completed that are M4(2) standard, and M4(3) standard, respectively</p> <p>Number and type of housing for older people approved and completed</p> <p>Applications for conversions to flats and HMOs and proportions refused / approved</p>	Vacant Home rate
9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport.	<p>Promote a wider range of local services and facilities?</p> <p>Increase accessibility to existing services and facilities?</p>	<p>Length of Priority Routes improved</p> <p>Development contributions to accessibility infrastructure improvement schemes</p>	Number of electric vehicle charging points in Council car parks

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
	<p>Encourage use of sustainable travel means including electric vehicles?</p> <p>Help to reduce car use?</p> <p>Improve links between different areas of Bootle, and to key employment areas, public services and facilities?</p>		
10. Provide environments that improve health and social care	<p>Help make Bootle a healthier place to live?</p> <p>Provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle?</p>	<p>Number of Health Impact Assessments submitted and agreed</p> <p>Development contributions to green and blue infrastructure schemes</p>	Reductions in health inequalities (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
Environment			
11. Mitigate and adapt to climate change	<p>Help to reduce carbon emissions?</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency?</p> <p>Promote renewable energy production?</p> <p>Promote an increase in trees, open space, biodiversity and other green and blue infrastructure?</p> <p>Promote enhanced management and maintenance of trees, open space and other</p>	<p>Floorspace (m²) brought back into use through development</p>	% Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
	green infrastructure, and enhanced public access?		
12. Reduce the risk from flooding	Reduce the risk from surface water flooding to existing homes and businesses, for example by providing infiltration areas, soft-surfaced surface water storage areas (including rain gardens), new planting or green roofs?	Number and proportion of major applications approved with conditions and/or legal agreements related to SuDS	Total of homes and businesses classed at risk from flooding
13. Reduce pollution	Help reduce air, water, soil and noise pollution, for example through type, location, design and layout of development, planted/naturalistic or engineered buffers and specific mitigation measures? Encourage the remediation of contaminated land?	Number of proposals with noise assessments and air quality assessments respectively	Number and type of proposals refused due to significant impact on residential amenity Air quality at monitoring stations
14. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources	Reduce the amount of natural resources used (energy, water, minerals)? Help reduce waste and promote recycling?	Number of homes built with measures to enable water consumption to less than 110 litres per person per day Floorspace (m ²) brought back into use through development	% Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
15. Protect and enhance Bootle's landscape and green and blue infrastructure	<p>Help to protect, enhance or create green and blue infrastructure, including open space, nature, trees, the canal, soft-surfaced sustainable drainage systems, green roofs and green walls?</p> <p>Protect and provide areas than can be used for formal and informal recreation?</p>	Financial contributions secured for and expended on local parks and other areas of open space	<p>Number of new/improved access points to the canal towpath</p> <p>Length of canal towpath improved</p>
16. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings.	<p>Help bring back into use previously developed land?</p> <p>Help bring back into use vacant buildings?</p>	Floorspace (m ²) brought back into use through development	Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied
17. Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle	<p>Help protect and enhance, restore and connect new and existing areas of biodiversity value, as set out in the LCR Ecological Framework, any LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy or Network or through other corporate biodiversity priorities?</p> <p>Create new areas of biodiversity value?</p>	Area (ha) within the plan area improved through biodiversity net gain	The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements

Figure 9.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
18. Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage	<p>Preserve or enhance Bootle's cultural and heritage assets, including non-designated assets?</p> <p>Provide sufficient opportunity and encouragement for regeneration activity and improvements to cultural heritage?</p>	<p>Development proposals that bring back into use a heritage asset</p> <p>Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal</p>	Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied
19. Provide good design and a quality living environment	<p>Provide environments that would help the mental health and wellbeing of residents, including outlook, no hidden spaces and integral green and blue infrastructure?</p> <p>Achieve high design quality, use of quality materials and green and blue infrastructure?</p> <p>Help to create places where people choose to live, work and do business?</p> <p>Help to create attractive local neighbourhoods?</p> <p>Help to foster a sense of civic pride and identity?</p>	<p>Number and location of Design Codes submitted and approved by the Council in the AAP area</p> <p>Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal</p>	<p>The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements</p> <p>Approval of a LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>

Appendix 1

Response to Stage A Scoping and SEA Screening from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination	
Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
Environment Agency	
<i>[No response received]</i>	-
Historic England	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The overall content of a scoping report, to include consideration of how alternatives are assessed• Context• Relevant plans, programmes and policies• Baseline Information, to include landscape and townscape which are important aspects of local character and identity, and refer to undesignated assets and archaeology• SEA Themes and Objectives, notably the role of the historic environment and its social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits to sustainable development in various objectives. There may be a need to refer specifically to landscape character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Content</u>: Paragraph 1.23 amended to make clear that alternatives will be considered in a separate report, in line with the Stages set out in Figure 1.2 above.• <u>Baseline information</u>: A new plan (Figure 3.3) added to show designated heritage assets in the plan area. Subsequent figures have been renumbered. In section 3 under 'Well-designed, beautiful and safe places - built and historic environment, paragraph 3.23 has been amended to refer to townscape, and paragraph 3.25 to refer to archaeological assets. There is already a discussion of Bootle's key undesignated assets. Under 'Natural environment and biodiversity, paragraph 3.38 has been amended to refer to landscape and landscaping.

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination

Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking advice from local conservation, archaeology or urban design experts and in relation to the Historic Environment Records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>SEA Themes and Objectives:</u> Figure 4.1 amended to refer the social, cultural economic and environmental benefits of the historic environment. Also amended to state that green and blue infrastructure provides a local landscape context. Sustainability appraisal 15 is to “Protect Bootle’s landscapes and green and blue infrastructure” (see Figure 5.1). <u>Expert advice:</u> The SA/SEA process has taken account of documents prepared by Sefton’s conservation officers and is considered to reflects the local importance of non-designated assets and the Historic Environment Record. In Figure 5.2 the ‘Supporting question’ for Sustainability Appraisal Objective 18 ‘Protect and enhance Bootle’s culture and heritage’ has been amended to refer specifically to non-designated assets.
Natural England	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Vision:</u> Draft Vision (section 1.15) contains no mention of protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity. A point should be added addressing this issue and objective. <u>Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives:</u> suggests generic list of documents. Suggests that innovative sources of funding such as Green Social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Vision:</u> The Vision for the Preferred Options draft Bootle Action Area Plan has been approved by members and so cannot be amended at this stage of the SA/SEA process. <u>Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives:</u> The text regarding Issue 23 in Figure 2.1 has been amended. Otherwise, it is considered that all key relevant generic and other documents have been included.

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination

Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
<p>Prescribing and biodiversity net gain be referred to in relation to Issue 23 in Figure 2.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Baseline Information</u>: refers to generic Appendix A for sources of development plan evidence on the natural environment. • <u>Figure 4.1 - Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</u>: • Welcome fact that biodiversity is a key sustainability issue. However, advise referring to biodiversity net gain. Also advise referring to inequalities in access to nature and improving people's access to nature as a key issue. Opportunities to protect existing biodiversity and enhance and extend sites and networks should refer to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and network. • <u>Figure 5.2 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework</u>: • <u>SA Objectives 1 & 2</u>: Demand for green jobs is increasing, and investment in green skills and jobs will help to future-proof employment for a changing world. Refer to encouraging investment in green jobs/skills as a means of reducing unemployment and encouraging economic growth and investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Baseline Information</u>: Figure 2.1 (notably, regarding Issue 15) has been amended to refer to the MAGIC website, CPRE light pollution mapping maps and National Character Area (NCA) 58: the Merseyside Conurbation. Paragraph 3.38 has been amended to refer to the fact that all of the plan area lies within NCA 58. • <u>Figure 4.1 - Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems</u>: New text has been added to relevant sections to address these concerns. • <u>Figure 5.2 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework</u>: • <u>SA Objectives 1 & 2</u>: Text regarding green energy and green jobs /environmental sector jobs added to supporting questions. • <u>SA Objective 5</u>: Supporting question now refers to reducing 'health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities', rather than just to 'reduce inequalities'. • <u>SA Objective 10</u>: Provision of an access to green and blue infrastructure is only one aspect of a healthier lifestyle, so the supporting question has been extended to include a much wider range of issues contributing to healthy lifestyles. It is

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination

Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 5:</u> Consider adding 'reducing access to nature inequalities and improving the plan area population's access to nature' within this objective. • <u>SA Objective 10:</u> SA Objective welcomed, but could be strengthened by including high quality Green Infrastructure within the criteria to acknowledge the role of GI in health and social care. Green social prescribing should also be included in a new supporting question. • <u>SA Objective 11:</u> A new supporting question on considering nature from the earliest stage of site design in development should be included, as the crises of biodiversity loss and climate change share many of the same causes and solutions. The supporting question "Promote enhanced management and maintenance of trees, open space, ..." is welcomed and should have the detailed indicator specified. • <u>SA Objective 12:</u> Nature-based solutions such as tree-planting, can help communities become more resilient to flooding, whilst enhancing nature and biodiversity. We recommend a new supporting question on the value of nature-based solutions in reducing flooding and that a new indicator as specified. 	<p>considered that the new emphasis on 'improving access to and provision of safe, high quality open space, walking and cycling networks and other green and blue infrastructure ...' would include Green Social Prescribing. It is not considered appropriate to include a specific detailed question at the current time, as it is not clear why this should have precedence over other health or similar initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 11:</u> 'increasing biodiversity' has been added in to the supporting question regarding portion of "an increase in trees, open space[, biodiversity] and other green and blue infrastructure". The proposed new indicator would be extremely challenging and resource intensive to monitor. It is considered that existing indicators for SA Objectives 15 and, especially, 17 are reasonable alternatives. • <u>SA Objective 12:</u> The plan area's key characteristics of no rivers or surface watercourses (other than the canal), reliance on combined sewers, legacy of contaminated land and preponderance of hard surfacing in housing, retail and employment areas means that such nature-based solutions would, at best, have only a very localised role in Bootle. The proposed new indicator would be very challenging and resource intensive to monitor. However, the existing supporting question has been amended to give examples of

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination

Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 13:</u> Tree planting can play an important role in removing pollutants within a local area. We advise an indicator is added to support this objective, such as: "Number of trees planted". • <u>SA Objective 15:</u> Objective should be amended to state: "Protect and enhance ..." not just 'protect'. Urban interventions in green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain such as living roofs, living walls, and planters, can provide a variety of ecosystem service. Further consideration of this is required, accompanied by a suitable, specified direct indicator. • Consider indicators relating to access to natural greenspace (distance, hectares per thousand population) and length of greenways constructed. • <u>SA Objective 17:</u> the Objective should have ambitions to support the development of the LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Nature Recovery network, and create wildlife corridors linking new and existing areas of biodiversity wherever possible. • Suggests specific indicators for adverse biodiversity impacts and biodiversity net gain. 	<p>how surface water flood risk might be reduced, for example through new planting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 13:</u> The proposed new indicator would be very challenging and resource intensive to monitor; also it is understood that individual trees have only a very localised role in reducing air pollution for example. However, the existing supporting question has been amended to give examples of how pollution might be reduced, for example through planted/naturalistic buffers. • <u>SA Objective 15:</u> Objective's wording has been amended. An existing supporting question has been amended to give examples of how or what types of green and blue infrastructure might be protected, enhanced or created. A new indicator has been added regarding the number of development schemes including living roofs or living walls. As set out in Sefton's 2015 Recreation and Open Space Study, all public open space and Countryside Recreation Areas is defined as accessible nature space ('everyday nature'), and Sefton's target is that everyone should live within 2 km (20-30 minutes' walk) of an accessible nature space. For the plan area 100% of residents meet the target.

Figure 6.1 Comments of the statutory environmental bodies on the draft Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) Scoping Report & draft SEA Assessment Screening Determination

Summary of Comments received	Council response including overview of changes to the text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 19:</u> Add a supporting question recognising the value of Green Infrastructure interventions in providing quality living environments and an associated suitable direct indicator, such as: "Number of new and retrofitted urban green infrastructure, such as living roofs. living walls, planters." • <u>Figure 5.4 - Testing the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives against each other:</u> Amend to reflect relationship between objective 2 (reduce unemployment and improve skills) and objective 17 (Protect and enhance biodiversity) through investment in green jobs and skills, and in wildlife surveying and monitoring. • Amend to reflect relationship between objective 9 (Access to services and facilities; walking, cycling & public transport) and objective 17 [biodiversity]. Investment in high-quality green infrastructure can provide access to, and encourage use of, walking and cycling routes, whilst providing ecosystem services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SA Objective 17:</u> The first supporting question has been amended to refer to restoration, connectivity, the Ecological Framework and LNRS. Second supporting question amended to refer specifically to habitats, hedgerows and watercourses (to reflect the Defra Metric) and to enhancement as well as new creation. It is considered that this revised wording also covers wildlife corridors. It is also considered that there is no need for additional biodiversity indicators here, given existing local and national biodiversity net gain monitoring measures. • <u>SA Objective 19:</u> Existing supporting questions have been amended to refer to green and blue infrastructure. The proposed indicator (with amended wording) has been added to SA Objective 15. • <u>Figure 5.4:</u> Figure amended to show that SA Objectives 2 & 17 and 9 & 17 are compatible.

