

# **Sustainability Appraisal for the Bootle Area Action Plan Adoption Statement**

**(incorporating Strategic Environmental  
Assessment (SEA) Adoption Statement)**

**November 2025**



# 1. Introduction

1.1 This document is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Post-Adoption Statement for the Bootle Area Action Plan (the Bootle AAP) which is due to be adopted by Sefton Council on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The AAP forms part of the Development Plan for Sefton.

1.2 Sustainability appraisal (SA) of the Bootle AAP has been carried out alongside the preparation process for the AAP, also incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with legal requirements<sup>1</sup> and national Planning Practice Guidance<sup>2</sup>. This SA Post Adoption Statement document relates to the final stage (Stage E) of the SA/SEA process.

1.3 In line with Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations, this SA Post Adoption Statement (SEA Adoption Statement) document sets out how sustainability / environmental considerations and the findings of the SA were taken into account and informed the development of the Bootle Area Action Plan. This includes the reasons for choosing the Bootle AAP as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives. The document also sets out monitoring indicators that will be applied to check the accuracy of predicted environmental effects of the Bootle AAP and to monitor progress against sustainability objectives.

1.4 Regulation 16 also requires that as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA / SEA has been carried out, the local planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Environmental Report and the SA Post-adoption Statement/SEA Adoption Statement and inform the public and SA/SEA consultation bodies of the availability of these documents. The SA/SEA consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England.

## Background to the preparation of the Bootle Area Action Plan

1.5 Sefton 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.

1.6 Consultation on Issues and Options took place from November 2021 to January 2022. A Preferred Options Draft AAP was prepared in 2023, with public consultation taking place from August to November 2023. A revised, Publication Draft Bootle AAP was approved by Sefton Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Public consultation took place from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. After this consultation period, the Bootle AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, along with public representations made during the Publication Draft consultation stage.

1.7 Submission was the start of the Examination by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Hearings were held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The Council published Proposed

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<sup>1</sup> Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - see <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>), and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) – see <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

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 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025. These proposed amendments were limited in number, and were generally very minor, largely to clarify specific issues or provide factual updates.

1.8 The Inspector's Report was received by Sefton Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This found the Bootle AAP legally compliant and 'sound' and therefore the Council is proceeding towards adoption of the Bootle AAP on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

1.9 As a Development Plan Document, the Bootle AAP will form part of the Development Plan for Sefton along with the Sefton Local Plan (2017) and the Joint Waste Plan (2013). The AAP will be used for decision making on planning applications as well as helping encourage sustainable growth in the Bootle Area.

### **Overview of the sustainability appraisal process (including SEA) for Bootle AAP**

1.10 The SA process (including SEA) is a mechanism for assessing and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan and its implementation, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan-making process, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA has sought to maximise the contribution of Bootle Area Action Plan to sustainable development.

1.11 The Government provides guidelines for the five stages of the SA/SEA process<sup>3</sup>:

- Stage A covers setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. (Sefton Council carried out Stage A up to July 2023).
- Stage B Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects (December 2023)
- Stage C Prepare the SA Environmental Report (July 2024)
- Stage D Seek representations on the Sustainability report from consultation bodies and the public (September to November 2024)
- Stage E Post adoption reporting and monitoring (from January 2026).

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<sup>3</sup> See appendix 2 / [sea1\\_013.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

## 2. How has the SA process influenced decision making and the preparation of Bootle AAP?

### Stage A Context and objectives, baseline and the scope

2.1 Stage A of the SA/SEA process was the scoping phase (up to July 2023). This involved the following tasks:

- a. Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- b. Identifying the baseline information for the Bootle AAP
- c. Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems in the Bootle area
- d. Developing a Sustainability framework for the Bootle AAP
- e. Consulting the statutory consultation bodies on the Bootle AAP.

2.2 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<sup>4</sup>.

### Stage B Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects (December 2023)

2.3 Stage B involved developing & refining alternatives and assessing effects (July to December 2023)<sup>5</sup>. This involved the following tasks:

- a. Testing of the draft Bootle AAP objectives against the sustainability framework
- b. Developing Bootle AAP options including reasonable alternatives
- c. Evaluating the likely effects of the draft Bootle AAP 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 AAP.

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

2.5 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 relevant for comparison. These were:

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

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

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<sup>4</sup> SD5 SA Scoping Report for Bootle AAP (July 2023) – see [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/eykherns/05-baap\\_sustainabilityappraisal\\_scopingrpt\\_july2023.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/eykherns/05-baap_sustainabilityappraisal_scopingrpt_july2023.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> SD6 SA Stage B Report (December 2023) – see [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/fv5ehzim/06-baap\\_sustainabilityappraisal\\_stage-b\\_december2023.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/fv5ehzim/06-baap_sustainabilityappraisal_stage-b_december2023.pdf)

2.7 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 negative 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.

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

### Stage C Prepare the SA Environmental Report (July 2024)

2.9 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. The Stage C Environmental Report was published in July 2024<sup>6</sup>.

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

2.12 Within some policies there were some minor negatives, overall, the policies were considered positive. 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.

2.13 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.

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<sup>6</sup> SD4 Environmental Report of the SA for Bootle AAP (July 2024) – see [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/gbqd4lgo/04-bootleap\\_environmentalreport\\_july2024.pdf](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/gbqd4lgo/04-bootleap_environmentalreport_july2024.pdf)

## **Stage D Seek representations on the Sustainability report from consultation bodies and the public (September to November 2024)**

2.14 Sefton Council approved the Publication Draft Bootle AAP 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

2.15 Following this consultation period, the Bootle AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Hearings in relation to Bootle AAP were held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

2.16 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 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

2.17 The Inspector's Report was received by Sefton Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This found the Bootle AAP legally compliant and 'sound' and therefore the Council is proceeding towards adoption of the Bootle AAP on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## **Stage E Post adoption reporting and monitoring (from January 2026).**

2.18 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. They are set out in section 3 of this document.

2.19 After adoption of the Bootle AAP 27, annual monitoring will take place. The significant effects of implementing Bootle AAP will be monitored using the agreed Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework.

### 3. Monitoring

3.1 The SEA Regulations require that: *“The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action”*.

3.2 The purpose of monitoring is to measure the significant sustainability effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan’s objectives. 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 AAP are as positive as possible and continue to outweigh any potential negative impacts through the SA process. 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.

3.3 Figure 3.1 overleaf sets out monitoring indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan. These have been developed and tested through the SA process.

Figure 3.1 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
<i>Economic</i>			
<b>1. Encourage economic growth and investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide sufficient and suitable land for business/commercial development and encourage investment within Bootle?</li> <li>• Encourage economic growth and investment in a range of sectors, including green energy and green jobs?</li> <li>• Help increase occupancy rates in Bootle's office quarter?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floorspace (m2) of employment development completed by employment type</li> <li>• Amount of employment land (ha)/floorspace (m2) lost to non-employment uses</li> <li>• Floorspace completed by development type (office, residential, education) in office quarter.</li> <li>• Vacant office space (m2) in office quarter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land available for employment [ha]</li> </ul>
<b>2. Reduce unemployment and improve skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce levels of unemployment in Bootle, including amongst younger people?</li> <li>• Increase skills &amp; match these to local jobs, including green energy. The environment sector and green jobs?</li> <li>• Improve access to employment, education and training for Bootle residents?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of approved Employment and Skills Plans secured</li> <li>• Number of jobs/training places to be provided in secured Employment and Skills Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>3. Provide the required infrastructure to support growth.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help secure the necessary infrastructure (including public services, physical infrastructure and green infrastructure) to support new development?</li> <li>• Help secure infrastructure improvements despite the constraints of the existing urban area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of land (ha) developed by type (housing, employment, open space etc)</li> <li>• New education floorspace completed in civic and education quarter</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net change in the amount of public open space</li> <li>• Number of public EVC charging points or stations in Council car parks</li> </ul>

Figure 3.1 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
<b>4. Maintain a vibrant Bootle Centre and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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?</li> <li>•Help achieve vibrant local shopping parades to provide the necessary range of local services?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Floorspace completed by development type (retail, leisure, commercial, cultural, community, health, education) in town centre.</li> <li>•Number and % of vacant ground floor units in shopping parades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of residential conversions on local shopping parades</li> </ul>
<i>Social</i>			
<b>5. Reduce inequalities, secure social value and reduce social deprivation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help to support the regeneration priorities of the Council and its' partners?</li> <li>•Help to reduce health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities according to ethnicity, gender, age and other groups?</li> <li>•Help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No. of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reduction in inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)</li> </ul>
<b>6. Reduce crime and improve community safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime?</li> <li>•Help to improve natural surveillance?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of reported fly-tipping incidents on Council land in the plan area</li> <li>•Crime inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Figure 3.1 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
<b>7. Strengthen communities and help people to be involved in local decision making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Encourage people to get involved in local decisions and become more active in their communities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of major development proposals approved, and implemented in the Bootle AAP area</li> <li>•Number of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area where the applicant carried out community consultation</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Meet Bootle's diverse housing needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide a diverse choice of housing?</li> <li>•Help to meet Bootle's housing needs, including for a range of market housing and affordable and specialist housing?</li> <li>•Help to manage the number and distribution of Houses in Multiple Occupation within the area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of new homes approved and completed</li> <li>•Number and tenure of affordable homes approved and completed</li> <li>•Housing Mix of homes approved and completed (market and affordable)</li> <li>•Number of homes approved and completed that are M4(2) standard, and M4(3) standard, respectively</li> <li>•Number and type of housing for older people approved and completed</li> <li>•Applications for conversions to flats and HMOs and proportions refused / approved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Vacant Home rate</li> </ul>
<b>9. Provide better access to services and facilities, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Promote a wider range of local services and facilities?</li> <li>•Increase accessibility to existing services and facilities?</li> <li>•Encourage use of sustainable travel means including electric vehicles?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Length of Priority Routes improved</li> <li>•Development contributions to accessibility infrastructure improvement schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of electric vehicle charging points in Council car parks</li> </ul>

Figure 3.1 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help to reduce car use?</li> <li>•Improve links between different areas of Bootle, and to key employment areas, public services and facilities?</li> </ul>		
<b>10. Provide environments that improve health and social care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help make Bootle a healthier place to live?</li> <li>•Provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of Health Impact Assessments submitted and agreed</li> <li>•Development contributions to green and blue infrastructure schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reductions in health inequalities (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)</li> </ul>
<i>Environmental</i>			
<b>11. Mitigate and adapt to climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help to reduce carbon emissions?</li> <li>•Promote energy efficiency?</li> <li>•Promote renewable energy production?</li> <li>•Promote an increase in trees, open space, biodiversity and other green and blue infrastructure?</li> <li>•Promote enhanced management and maintenance of trees, open space and other green infrastructure, and enhanced public access?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Floorspace (m2) brought back into use through development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•% Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites</li> </ul>
<b>12. Reduce the risk from flooding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number and proportion of major applications approved with conditions and/or legal agreements related to SuDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Total of homes and businesses classed at risk from flooding</li> </ul>

<b>Figure 3.1 Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan</b>			
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)</b>	<b>Supporting questions - will the Plan:</b>	<b>Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)</b>	<b>Contextual Indicators</b>
<b>13. Reduce pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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?</li> <li>•Encourage the remediation of contaminated land?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of proposals with noise assessments and air quality assessments respectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number and type of proposals refused due to significant impact on residential amenity</li> <li>•Air quality at monitoring stations</li> </ul>
<b>14. Reduce waste and the use of natural resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reduce the amount of natural resources used (energy, water, minerals)?</li> <li>•Help reduce waste and promote recycling?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of homes built with measures to enable water consumption to less than 110 litres per person per day</li> <li>•Floorspace (m2) brought back into use through development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•% Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites</li> </ul>
<b>15. Protect and enhance Bootle's landscape and green and blue infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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?</li> <li>•Protect and provide areas that can be used for formal and informal recreation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Financial contributions secured for and expended on local parks and other areas of open space</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of new/improved access points to the canal towpath</li> <li>•Length of canal towpath improved</li> </ul>
<b>16. Bring back into use derelict and underused land and buildings.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Help bring back into use previously developed land?</li> <li>•Help bring back into use vacant buildings?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Floorspace (m2) brought back into use through development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>17. Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Area (ha) within the plan area improved through biodiversity net gain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding</li> </ul>

Figure 3.1 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
	Nature Recovery Strategy or Network or through other corporate biodiversity priorities? •Create new areas of biodiversity value?		Environmental Improvements
<b>18. Protect and enhance Bootle's culture and heritage</b>	•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?	•Development proposals that bring back into use a heritage asset •Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal	•Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied •
<b>19. Provide good design and a quality living environment</b>	•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?	•Number and location of Design Codes submitted and approved by the Council in the AAP area •Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal	•The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements •Approval of a LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

## 4. Conclusions

4.1 This SA Adoption Statement demonstrates that a robust and iterative SA process (including SEA) has been progressed alongside plan-making for Bootle Area Action Plan. SA findings have fed in to decision-making at each stage. Any representations received were taken into account and informed subsequent stages of the SA process. The SA Environmental Report complies with the SEA Regulations and was found to be acceptable by the Inspector examining Bootle Area Action Plan.

4.2 Most importantly, in terms of compliance with both the SEA and Local Planning Regulations, the SA Environmental Report was published alongside the Submission Draft Bootle Area Action Plan (Regulation 19 version), presenting the required information. The report served to inform representations on the Plan and then served to inform plan finalisation. The Inspector's Report received by Sefton Council on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 found the Bootle AAP legally compliant and 'sound'.

4.3 This SA Adoption Statement is part of the last stage (Stage E) of in the SA process. After adoption of the Bootle Area Action Plan, annual monitoring will take place, using the agreed Monitoring Indicators for the Sustainability Framework set out in section 3.