

Bootle Area Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report (Final)

July 2023



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1. Introduction

This document is the draft Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report for the Bootle Area Action Plan.

That is, it is both the sustainability appraisal draft Scoping report required under section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹ and associated guidance, and the draft environmental Scoping report required under Regulation 12(2) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004².

This Scoping Report will set the framework for carrying out the sustainability appraisal of the Bootle Area Action Plan.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination is set out in Appendix 1.

Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council is developing a Bootle Action Area Plan (AAP) Development Plan Document to guide the development and investment strategy for the wider Bootle area (see plan of Bootle AAP area at Appendix 2 – note, this area may be amended slightly following consultation). Once adopted it will form part of the Development Plan for Sefton alongside the Local Plan.
- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework 2021³ is clear that *“The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”* (paragraph 7). This includes the preparation of development plans, including the Bootle Area Action Plan, and the development management process.
- 1.3 The UN’s 1987 Brundtland Report ‘Our Common Future’⁴ established a commonly used definition of sustainable development as:
“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.
At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations, including the United Kingdom, have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection⁵.
- 1.4 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

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

² See [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

³ See [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)

⁴ See [1987: Brundtland Report \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch)

⁵ See [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org)

a plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a plan must do so “with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.

- 1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 says that sustainable development can be secured by achieving three overarching and interdependent objectives: an economic, a social and an environmental objective. These are (NPPF, paragraph 8):
- a) ***“an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;***
 - b) ***a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being;***
 - c) ***an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”.***
- 1.6 A system of assessment known as sustainability appraisal is the way that local authorities show that their development plans achieve sustainable development. National Planning Practice Guidance⁶ sets out more information about how sustainability appraisals must be carried out.
- 1.7 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. This sets a requirement to assess the environmental implications of certain types of plans and programmes and to determine whether an SEA is required. We have made a determination that SEA is required for the Bootle Area Action Plan. This ‘Screening Determination’ is set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.8 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.

⁶ See [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal)

- 1.9 Therefore this Sustainability Appraisal report is also a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report. To make it clear how we are meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive we will put ‘signposts’ at the beginning of each chapter or other relevant part of the Sustainability Appraisal process to show what section of the SEA directive is being met.

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment:

- Example of a ‘signpost’ at the beginning of each part of the Sustainability Appraisal process, to show what section of the SEA directive is being met.

- 1.10 In addition to the legal requirements of Sustainability Appraisal and SEA there are a number of other assessments which are either legally required or seen as good practice. It is considered best practice, where possible, for these to be carried out separately and then linked to the sustainability appraisal process. This reduces resources, allows the public to comment on a number of assessments in a single document and makes use of common appraisal resources and a similar evidence base. These other assessments are:

- **Equalities Impact Assessment:** To meet the requirement of the Equalities Act [2010], to assess the impact of any decision of a strategic nature on a range of ‘protected’ groups who may be otherwise be discriminated against by the outcomes of Bootle Area Action Plan.
- **Health Impact Assessment:** This is not a statutory requirement but is considered good practice given the clear links between spatial planning and health. This will be completed within the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- **Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)):** It is a legal requirement of the EU Habitats Directive and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)⁷ (commonly known as the Habitats Regulations) that several distinct stages of Assessment must be undertaken to determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a European habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, amend, permit or authorise it.

European habitats sites are often referred to as internationally important/ designated nature sites. In Sefton such sites include the Sefton Coast Special Area of Conservation [SAC], Alt and Ribble Estuaries Special Protection Area [SPA] and Ramsar site and the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA and Ramsar site. The Habitats Regulations Assessment process for the Bootle AAP will be carried out separately from the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA process.

Bootle Action Area Plan - an overview

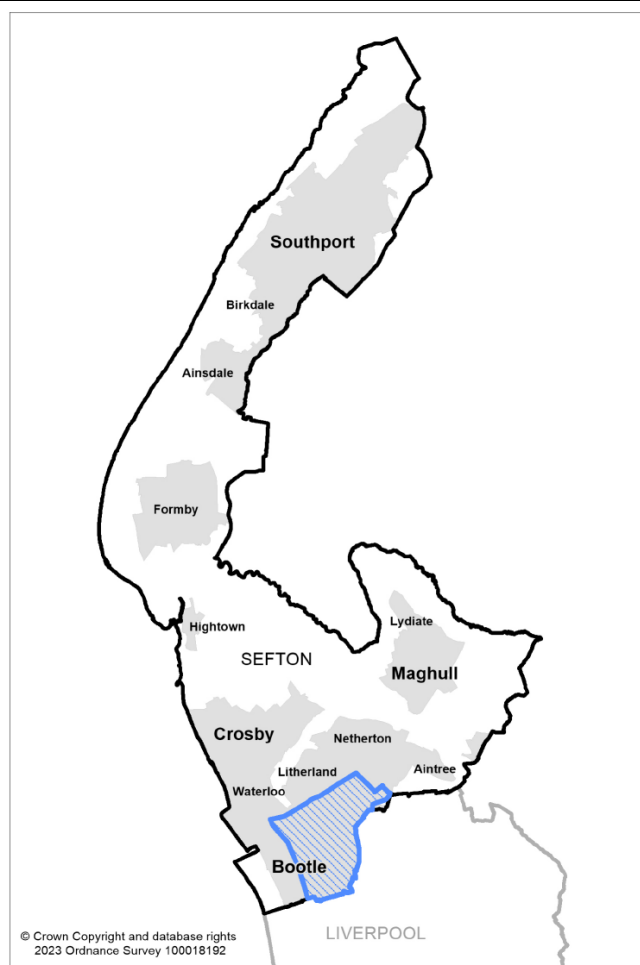
- 1.11 The Bootle Area Action Plan is currently at the Preferred Option preparation stage. Consultation on the Issues and Options stage took place from November 2021 to January 2022. The Preferred Option is currently being prepared, and consultation is due to take place in summer 2023. It is intended that the consultation on the Publication

⁷ See [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Draft Bootle Area Action Plan will take place from the end of 2023⁸, although this may slip to 2024.

1.12 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 (the historic area of Bootle-cum-Linacre) which is subject of this Action Area Plan; and also Litherland, Netherton and Seaforth. Figure 1.1 shows the plan area within the Sefton context.

Figure 1.1 Bootle Action Area Plan within the Sefton context



1.13 The Bootle Area Action Plan area (833.5 ha) covers 5.38% of the Borough of Sefton (15,480 ha to mean high water). The area covers about 15.9% of Sefton's population. There are 44,000 people in Bootle Area Action Plan area compared to 275,899 for Sefton as a whole⁹.

⁸ See [local-development-scheme2022_25-october-2022-update.pdf \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/local-development-scheme2022_25-october-2022-update.pdf)

⁹ (based on mid 2020 Population estimates, area selected as a best match of 2011 Census Output Areas to the Bootle AAP area).

Issues, Vision and Objectives:

- 1.14 The Issues and Options Consultation document¹⁰ stated that the vision and objectives would be set out at the Preferred Options stage, taking account of representations made.
- 1.15 The Issues and Options consultation document set out forward various topics for inclusion in the vision and objectives. The emerging [as yet unpublished] draft Vision is:
- *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.*
 - *There will be a wide range of high quality, aspirational, affordable, energy efficient and secure homes for people to live;*
 - *A choice of local facilities, services and jobs easily accessible to all that enable people to feel supported, engaged and able to reach their full potential;*
 - *Bootle 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;*
 - *Environmental improvements will have been implemented to make Bootle a healthier place to live and work and that contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change;*
 - *The town centre and Strand Shopping centre will be transformed to provide a focus for shopping, leisure, community and cultural activity for Bootle and the surrounding areas;*
 - *Bootle's parks, open spaces and recreation grounds will be protected and improved and will become the focus of strong community activity;*
 - *The canal and other green routes will provide safe and attractive walking and cycling connections between neighbourhoods;*
 - *Bootle will be a place people will be proud to live, work in and visit and a place that is attractive to invest in.*

Spatial Strategy for the emerging Plan

- 1.16 The Bootle AAP will set out a spatial strategy for Bootle (see below). For much of the area it is likely that the focus will be on retention and enhancement of existing residential, retail, office, employment, green and blue infrastructure and other existing uses. Emerging spatial priorities and area-specific policies are likely to be for the following Opportunity Areas:

- Bootle Town Centre/Central Area
- Bootle Office Quarter
- Local Shopping Parades
- Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor
- Bootle Village
- Local Shopping Parades.

Area-wide policies / policy themes for the emerging Plan

- 1.17 The Bootle AAP will set out area-wide policies. Emerging policy themes are for:
- Design and Best Use of Resources
 - Getting Around
 - Nature

¹⁰ See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4863/bootle-aap-issues-and-options-main-document.pdf>

- Healthy Bootle
- Parks, Public Open Space and Playing Fields
- Employment, Jobs and Training
- Homes & Living
- Regeneration Opportunity Areas
- Environmental Improvements

1.19 However, many of the policies in the 2017 Sefton Local Plan will continue to apply to the Bootle Area Action Plan area, for example those relating to flood risk and mitigation, environmental protection and heritage. Without exception, all of the potential Opportunity Areas and employment and housing sites are specifically included as development sites in the Sefton Local Plan or within the capacity of the urban area to provide development (policy MN1), i.e. each site could already be developed within the context of the Sefton Local Plan.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process (including SEA)

1.20 An overview of the sustainability appraisal process is set out in [Figure 1.2](#) below.

1.21 Chapters 2 to 5 of this Scoping Report covers Stage A in [Figure 1.2](#) below: **to set the context and objectives, establish the baseline and decide on the scope; and, notably, to:**

- Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
- Collect baseline information (ch3)
- Identify sustainability issues and problems (ch4)
- Develop the sustainability appraisal framework (ch 5)
- Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report.

1.22 All of the steps in Stage A are informed significantly by the sustainability appraisal of the Sefton Local Plan which was adopted in 2017. The sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan was a rigorous and in-depth process. Bootle Area Action Plan is within the Local Plan area. As set out in paragraph 1.19 above, many Local Plan policies will continue to apply in the Area Action Plan even after the Area Action Plan is adopted. Therefore, it is important to achieve as much consistency as practicable between the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan and of the Bootle Area Action Plan.

The sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan is the starting point for the sustainability appraisal of the Bootle Area Action Plan.

1.23 The following chapters of this Scoping Report relate to the Steps in Stage A of the sustainability appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment process. Stage B will be the subject of a separate report. Currently, it is considered that alternative approaches for Bootle Action Area Plan are based on three broad categories into which the 26 issues and associated Options¹¹ fall into:

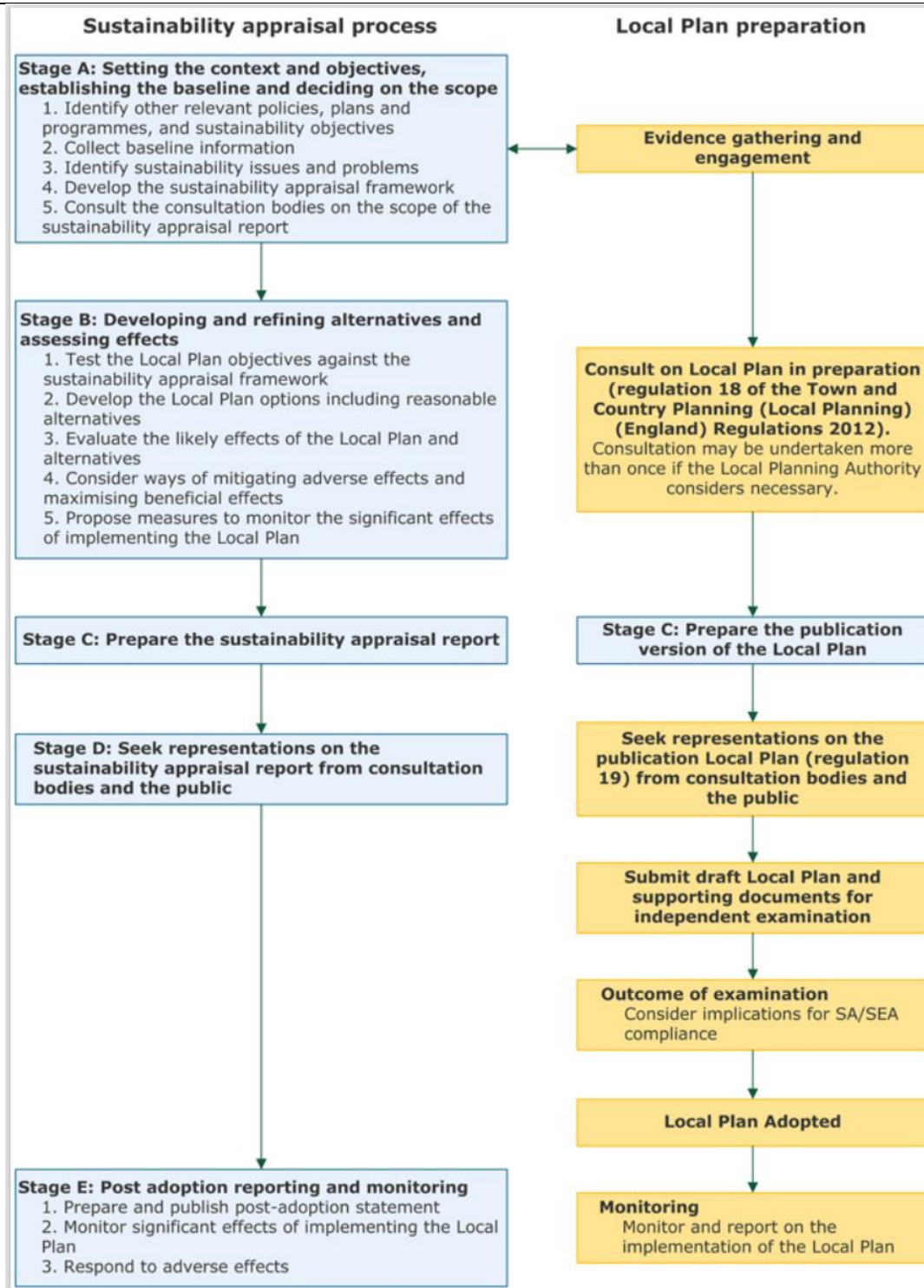
- An economy-led approach
- A social value and community-led approach

¹¹ See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4863/bootle-aap-issues-and-options-main-document.pdf>

- An environment-led approach.

While there is a lot of common ground between each approach, taking all of the options in each approach as a whole, then differences emerge between the approaches. These reflect the priorities inherent in each approach.

Figure 1.2 Stages in sustainability appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment¹²



¹² See [sea1_013.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

2. Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment:

- The 'relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes'.
- 'The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation

- 2.1 This chapter aims to establish the policy and sustainability context in which the Bootle Action Area Plan is being prepared, through a review of all relevant plans, policies, programmes, strategies, initiatives and sustainability objectives. This forms Stage A, step 1 in [Figure 1.2](#) above. Each relevant document has been assessed and key information extracted with regard to sustainability and the Bootle Action Area Plan, including the Issues identified in the Bootle Action Area Plan - Issues and Options for consultation (November 2021)¹³.
- 2.2 This will help 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 shown in [Figure 1.2](#), and inform the identification of key sustainability issues set out in chapter 4.
- 2.3 The list of documents reviewed has purposely been kept to a manageable level. It draws on the Sefton Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report¹⁴. However, it has been updated given the passage of time and also the UK's exit from the EU. Relatively less emphasis has been placed on international and European Community outputs and relatively more emphasis on recent national, Liverpool City Region and local documents.
- 2.4 Also, plans, policies, programmes, strategies, initiatives and sustainability objectives often exist in a hierarchy with international, national, regional and local guidance often informing each other. The normal rule, followed here, is that the more local level policies provide the greater level of policy detail and therefore the review should concentrate on the lower level documents. Where possible repetition has been avoided by restricting reviews of similar documents with similar messages
- 2.5 The Bootle Action Area Plan covers an urban area and does not include any coast, countryside or Green Belt. It does not include the Port of Liverpool, nor any nationally or internationally designated nature sites. Therefore plans, policies, programmes, strategies, initiatives and sustainability objectives relating to the Port, Coast, countryside or Green Belt have not generally been reviewed.

¹³ See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4863/bootle-aap-issues-and-options-main-document.pdf>

¹⁴ See <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/2324/lp4-sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report-smbc-december-2012.pdf>.

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
General/overarching			
General/overarching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26. In order to ensure the future success of Bootle and change perceptions of the town, a more comprehensive and rounded approach to the issues facing the town is necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability as an underlying principle of the planning system: development plans must promote sustainable development – each of economic, social and environmental aspects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Brundtland Report ‘Our Common Future (1987) UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) National Planning Policy Framework (2021) Emerging Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports
Economy: a strong, responsive and competitive economy			
Land of the right type, in the right places and at the right time,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bootle needs to have a sufficient supply of good quality and well-located employment sites to provide opportunities for investment and jobs for local people. 2. The high level of empty office space in Bootle’s Office Quarter, if left will make it more difficult to improve the centre. 3. Changes to the amount of occupied office accommodation in Bootle or change of use of any of these buildings may result in a change in parking requirements and demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping jobs and money local Sustainable employment opportunities, economic prosperity and growth, benefitting the national and local economy and local people Access to key growth sites, places of learning and cultural venues Pioneers of the Green Industrial Revolution Provide opportunities for businesses to start up and grow Restrict inappropriate uses [such as heavy industry] next to residential areas Promote re-use of previously developed land Retain and enhance high quality offices and office employment in Bootle Secure accessible, efficient and competitive retail provision. Maintain a vibrant Bootle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) Build Back Better: [UK] plan for Growth (2021) National Planning Policy Framework (2021) LCR Plan for Prosperity (2022) LCR Combined Authority Transport Plan (2019) Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) Sefton Economic Strategy (2022) Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)

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Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17. Bootle Town Centre is suffering from high vacancy levels as the way we shop and use services changes. • 18. Bootle has many shopping parades, some of which contain too many poor quality and outdated units unsuitable to meet modern convenience shopping and service needs. 	<p>Centre, local centres and a sustainable future for local shopping parades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the role of tourism in the Bootle economy. 	
Supporting growth, innovation and improved productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Bootle needs to have a sufficient supply of good quality and well-located employment sites to provide opportunities for investment and jobs for local people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Generate income for social reinvestment • End poverty in all its forms everywhere • Turn people’s potential into prosperity • Employment opportunities for all • Access to work • Education opportunities (reduce education inequalities) so that young people have the knowledge, skills and qualifications they need • Workforce training, skills and opportunities for all through work • Strengthen digital education • Support people into work, including groups currently under-represented in the workforce • Provide secure digital infrastructure, support businesses through digital adoption • Make the most of the impacts of digital connectivity and technology and data - innovation for people, places and business • Grow current net zero industries and encourage new ones to emerge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • Build Back Better: [UK] plan for Growth (2021) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • UK Digital Strategy 2022 • LCR Plan for Prosperity (2022) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027 • Sefton Economic Strategy (2022) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021) •

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the most of Bootle’s economic assets, including its location at the core of the Liverpool City Region • Increased sustainability, productivity and resilience of food and drink sectors and biosecurity 	
Identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19. Existing and future communities must be supported by necessary and appropriate infrastructure and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity • Generate income for social reinvestment • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Business support and skills development • Integrated infrastructure for a connected city region • Digital connectivity and technology and use of data to increase innovation • Sustainable management and availability of water and sanitation for all • Make sure the electricity system can accommodate increased electricity demand • Make sure heat pumps can be quickly and affordably connected to the network • Improve healthcare outcomes by providing infrastructure, care at the right time in the right place and achieving a healthy workforce • Access to high quality early education and childcare to raise standards and help parents into work • Schools at the heart of communities • Community health and wellbeing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • Build Back Better: [UK] plan for Growth (2021) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • UK Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) • 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (TCPA, 2021) • LCR Plan for Prosperity (2022) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Infrastructure Plan (2014) • Contributions towards Education Provision Information Note (2017) and emerging update • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021) •
Social: strong vibrant and healthy communities			
Number and range of homes to meet the needs of present and future generations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6. The number of vacant homes in the Bootle area is too high and can cause issues with anti-social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Driving housing quality in communities and neighbourhoods - housing quality and design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (TCPA, 2021) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<p>behaviour which can have a negative impact on a local area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7. There is a need to provide a greater choice in house types in Bootle, including homes with rear gardens and off-street parking spaces. This applies to homes for sale and rented properties. • 8. There has 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More, better quality, safer, greener, diverse and affordable homes - meeting people’s housing needs • Enabling people to live independently • Housing services commissioned or provided in the most appropriate way • Tackling barriers to obtaining suitable housing for the most vulnerable, ensuring equal access to housing services • Effectively use Council assets to support housing delivery • An adequate, available and on-going supply of development land to meet the accommodation needs of current and future residents including Gypsy and Travellers • Reduce homelessness • The right mix of housing - high-quality affordable and market homes • Assess the environmental implications of demographic change • Meet the needs of people as they get older • Improve the existing housing stock by making it more energy efficient • Use a range of public and private housing investment funding streams to secure high quality homes in the most appropriate locations. • Improvement initiatives across all types and tenures of homes to raise housing standards, address energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and decrease the number of poor-quality houses • Wider economic benefits from new homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027 • Sefton Homeless Strategy (2018) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which support the Local Plan, notably the Affordable and Special Needs Housing and Housing Mix SPD (2018) & emerging update, Flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) SPD (2018) & emerging update, New Housing SPD (2018) & emerging update. • Sefton Recreation Management Strategy Interim Approach Information Note (2021, emerging 2023) and emerging LCR strategy • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
Well-designed, beautiful and safe places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20. The regeneration of Bootle should have good design at its 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-leadership and influencer • Cleaner and Greener 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021)

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Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<p>heart and should reflect the aspirations of its communities and respect the historic and cultural context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thriving, sustainable and resilient places • A place for all ages • Improve quality of life for residents • Ensuring homes and neighbourhoods are developed in a way that people enjoy being part of, and take pride living in • Planning policies to help realise wider regeneration proposals - an improved environment to live, work and attract visitors and investment is a healthy economy. • Maintain and enhance townscape character • Protect and enhance green infrastructure • More, better quality, safer, greener and more affordable homes • Well located development designed to be safe by reducing the potential for traffic and other accidents • Reduce and prevent crime, the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and reoffending, deliver swift access to justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • Living with Beauty (2020) • 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (TCPA, 2021) • LCR Plan for Prosperity (2022) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027 • Safer Sefton Together Strategy 2023-2026 (2023) • https://crimerate.co.uk/merseyside/bootle • Sefton Economic Strategy (2022) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Open Space and Recreation Study (2015) • Sefton Playing Pitch Strategy (2016) • Sefton existing and emerging Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which support the Local Plan, notably the Affordable and special Needs Housing and Housing Mix SPD, Flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) SPD, New Housing SPD, Open Space SPD (2018), Sustainable Travel and Development SPD (2018) • Sefton Design Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes (2003 and 2004) • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
<p>Accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12. Bootle has a good network of public transport links and benefits from easy access by car to the wider area. However, walking and cycling links could be expanded to allow safe and pleasant routes between key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Protect the most vulnerable • Place-leadership and influencer • Cleaner and Greener • Access to key growth sites, places of learning and cultural venues from homes and transport hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) • Environment Act 2021 • Green Social Prescribing (Natural England, 2022)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<p>services and facilities in and around Bootle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23. Bootle has a good network of parks and open spaces, however more investment would be welcomed to help maintain them. A wider range of facilities and activities in Bootle’s parks would make them more attractive to a wider range of residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle climate change and improve air quality by decarbonising transport • Reduce emissions from new and existing vehicles • Deliver an electric vehicle infrastructure network • Well connected paths, streets and spaces • Reduce the need to travel • Achieve a switch to more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling, in preference to the car, especially for short trips • A new mobility culture, where transport services are modern, safe, clean, healthy and inclusive. • Improve Bootle’s transport infrastructure -create a transport system that is integrated, reliable, accessible and safe for all • Develop a sustainable freight future • Development in accessible locations to reduce reliance on cars • Improve access for all to shopping, health, community, leisure and sports facilities and other services • Well-connected, accessible and inclusive spaces to support social cohesion, diversity and participation • Local greenspace and path networks for better health and wellbeing, so it is easy to be healthy and happy • Good green spaces in the right place • Local food production • New funding sources such as Biodiversity net gain and Green social prescribing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Road to Zero (2018) • 20 Minute Neighbourhoods (TCPA, 2021) • Merseyside Local Transport Plan 3 (2011) • LCR Combined Authority Transport Plan (2019) • LCR interim approach to biodiversity net gain Information Note (2022) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Child Poverty Strategy (2022) • Sefton Health and Well-being Strategy 2020-2025 (2019) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Sustainable Travel and Development Supplementary Planning Document (2018) • Sefton Street Design Guide Highways Developers’ Pack (2020) • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
Health, social and cultural well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5. How can social value benefits be secured and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Protect the most vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<p>maximised for Bootle residents from new development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9. Bootle, like many other areas, has an ageing population and there are a higher proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness. This has implications for the type and standards of future housing that is required. • 10. Bootle has a strong sense of community and pride, with a good network of resident and voluntary groups. This is essential for the future success of the area. These networks should be an integral part of future plans for Bootle. • 16. Bootle residents suffer from a higher health inequality than other parts of the borough, including higher rates of obesity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-leadership and influencer • Generate income for social reinvestment • Drivers of change and reform • Cleaner and Greener • A sustainable and resilient local government sector that delivers priority services, empowers communities and reflects their aspirations • Community engagement • Promote social inclusion, empowerment and equality of opportunity (reduce inequalities) of participation in society, particularly among young people, women and girls, older people and other disadvantaged groups • Improve health and well-being: tackle health inequalities and poverty • Local greenspace and path networks for better health and wellbeing, so it is easy to be healthy and happy • Support for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people through high quality local services so no one is left behind • Enhance community cohesiveness including through events and ceremonials • Assess the environmental implications of demographic change • Meet the needs of people as they get older • Increase participation in sport and physical activity -access for all to health, community facilities, open space and sports & other facilities • Improvement initiatives across all types and tenures of homes to raise housing standards, address energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and decrease the number of poor-quality houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • UK Equalities Act 2010 • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027 • Sefton Child Poverty Strategy (2022) • Safer Sefton Together Strategy 2023-2026 (2023) • Sefton Health and Well-being Strategy 2020-2025 (2019) • Sefton Open Space and Recreation Study (2015) • Sefton Playing Pitch Strategy (2016) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which support the Local Plan, notably the Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Betting Shops PSD (2017), Open Space SPD (2018) and Sustainable Travel and Development SPD (2018) • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
Environmental: to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment			
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. As a built-up area Bootle has fewer nature and ecological areas than those in or near the countryside. Nonetheless, there are opportunities to improve ecological networks in the town and for its residents benefit from doing so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate confident and resilient communities Place-leadership and influencer Cleaner and Greener Biodiversity net gain (minimum 10%) in development, Local Nature Recovery networks and Strategies Greater protection of existing, and planting of new, street trees Improve the environment through thriving plants and wildlife Protect, recover and enhance nature: biodiversity, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, including international, national and local designated sites and protected species and species Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school Support habitat types identified as priorities for biological conservation Protect and enhance landscape and green and blue infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) National Planning Policy Framework (2021) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) Environment Act 2021 MAGIC website with a range of government information including national and international designations, habitats and species, soils. CPRE interactive (web) maps re light pollution National Character Area 58: Merseyside Conurbation LCR interim approach to biodiversity net gain Information Note (2022) North West River Basin Management Plan (2023) Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports Sefton Open Space and Recreation Study (2015) Sefton Playing Pitch Strategy (2016) and emerging Playing Pitch and Open Space Strategy update Sefton Nature Conservation Supplementary Planning Document (2017)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton Recreation Management Strategy Interim Approach Information Note (2021) and emerging LCR strategy • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
Built and historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22. The Leeds and Liverpool canal is a major asset in Bootle and has the potential to help regenerate the town. • 24. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate confident and resilient communities • Place-leadership and influencer • Cleaner and Greener • Protect the historic environment, cultural heritage and archaeological heritage and recognise their contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of neighbourhoods • Involve local people and groups in protecting the heritage in their local areas • Explore the ways heritage can be used as part of regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 • Historic England Places Strategy (2018) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports • Sefton Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Advisory Leaflets • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
Effective use of land, prudent use of natural resources, minimise waste and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4. How can the Bootle area be protected from the significant environment impacts of the port and its associated activities? • 11. Many of the potential development sites in the Bootle area have high levels of contamination and this could affect the viability of new development and the wider benefits that would be delivered. • 13. Poor air quality affects some areas of Bootle and leads to poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-leadership and influencer • Cleaner and Greener • Reduce pollution • More, better quality, safer, greener and more affordable homes • Hosing improvement initiatives to raise housing standards, address energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and decrease the number of poor-quality houses • Improve the environment and people's health through cleaner air, water and soil • Greater resource efficiency, reduce waste and reduce the environmental impacts at end of product life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017) • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) • Environment Act 2021 • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • UK Clean Growth Strategy (2017) • UK Clean Air Strategy (2019) • National Design Guide (2019) • CPRE interactive (web) maps re light pollution • United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan (2019)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
	<p>health and a poor living environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21. The patchwork of industrial areas that are integrated within the residential areas of Bootle can often cause problems with noise, dust, traffic and odour. They can detract from the local environment, result in poor living conditions, deter investment and depress the value of homes. • 25. Fly-tipping and litter issues are a concern for many residents and is having a detrimental impact on the attractiveness and perception of Bootle to those who live in and visit town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable waste management -Increase recycling, reduce landfill and its environmental effects, reduce waste • Electronic waste tracking to monitor waste movements and tackle fly-tipping & waste crime • Water management plans and efficient use of water resources, better drainage and sewerage management • Safeguard mineral resources from sterilisation and encourage their efficient and appropriate use 	<p>United Utilities Emerging Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Plan (2013) • LCR Combined Authority Transport Plan (2019) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports Development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas Guidance Note (2017) • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)
Mitigate and adapt to climate change; move to a low carbon economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14. Bootle has to adapt to the challenges of climate change and opportunities to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change should be addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience • Reduce [UK] greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050: net zero carbon Sefton by 2030 • Pioneers of the Green Industrial Revolution (transition to zero carbon) • Invest in renewable and low carbon technologies • Increased energy productivity (efficiency, use, decarbonisation) • Decarbonise heat in buildings • No gas boilers after 2035 (or in new homes after 2025) • Fairness and affordability - lower costs for energy efficient low-carbon heat • Reduce installation and running costs for heat pumps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2007), on-going COP and other initiatives • UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report: Climate Change (2023) • UK Updating Sustainable Development Goals (2021) • Build Back Better: [UK] plan for Growth (2021) • 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) • Environment Act 2021 • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • UK Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) • UK Clean Growth Strategy (2017) • UK Climate Change Act 2008 • UK Future Homes initiatives (2019 and on-going)

Figure 2.1 Summary of Document Review			
Topic (NPPF paragraph 8)	Issue (Bootle AAP Issues & Options stage)	Key Sustainability Aims	Key documents
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better energy performance / sustainable energy efficiency ('fabric first') in new development and existing buildings • New technologies and materials to build better homes or retrofit existing homes improve energy efficiency utilising the most sustainable methods. • Housing improvement initiatives to raise housing standards, address energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and decrease the number of poor-quality houses • Decarbonise transport to help tackle climate change and improve air quality - reduce emissions from new and existing vehicles • Development in accessible locations to reduce reliance on cars • Deliver an electric vehicle infrastructure network • Well-connected paths, streets and spaces • Design and layout of development to reduce the impact of extreme weather events on the environment, people and the economy • Reduce the likelihood, impact and risk of flooding from all sources and coastal erosion on people, businesses, communities and the environment • Flood resilience in properties at risk of flooding • Provide green infrastructure and trees • Address the implications of scarce water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Act (2008) • National Planning Policy Framework (2021) • National Design Guide (2019) • RTPi & TCPA The climate crisis: a guide for local authorities on planning for climate change (2021) • Mersey Estuary Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) • Alt Crossens Catchment Flood Management Plan (2008) • NW England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan (2011) • Sefton Council Vision and Core Purpose (2016) • Sefton Climate Emergency Declaration (2019) and Climate Action Plan • Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027 • Sefton Local Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2022-2030 (2022) • Sefton Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2013) • Sefton [Flood Risk] Sites Screening Assessment (2015) • Sefton Local Plan (2017) & Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal reports and Habitats Regulations Assessment reports • Sefton Supplementary Planning Guidance Note Design Part 4 Sustainability and Eco-Homes • Sefton Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Flood Risk Information Note (2017) and Drainage Pro Formas • Bootle Action Area Plan: Issues and Options (2021)

3. Baseline Information – an information portrait of Bootle

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

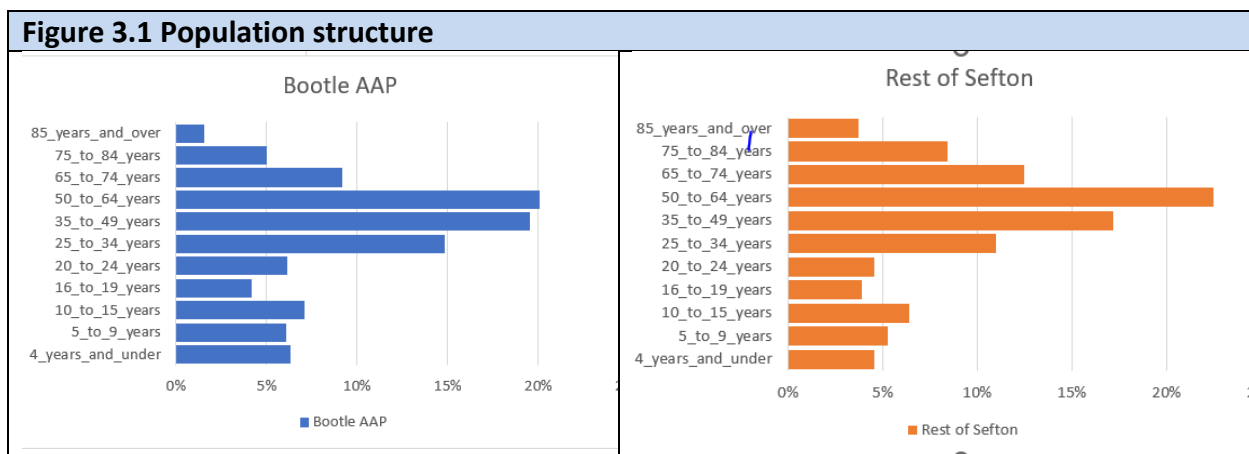
'Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan of programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'.

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.

- 3.1 The collection of baseline data is required under Stage 1, Step 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal process shown in [Figure 1.2](#) above. The Strategic Environmental Assessment process also requires specific topics to be assessed (see box above). This chapter will be organised largely on the basis of these topics.
- 3.2 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). This step of Stage 1 builds on the previous step (set out in chapter 2 above).
- 3.3 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 chapter 2, as well as other sustainability problems and 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 Area Action Plan to address.
- 3.4 The data is mainly presented visually in a series of plans and tables for the most part. Short explanations are also provided drawing out key points.
- 3.5 The baseline data has been collected from a number of sources and organisations. The collection of data is intended to be an ongoing process and it likely that the data in this document will be supplemented and updated during the sustainability appraisal process. Any additional information will be published as an addendum to this document or summarised in the sustainability report. The data will also be used to suggest suitable indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the Bootle Area Action Plan in addressing the identified problems.
- 3.6 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires the identification of any difficulties. There were no significant technical difficulties encountered during the sustainability appraisal Scoping Report. However, there were some limitations /difficulties in collecting the data, including the fact that data has emerged at different times so it has been difficult to provide a 'snapshot' of Bootle at a given time. Also, data is often difficult to find at the local level appropriate for Bootle Action Area Plan.

Population
(SEA Topic - Population)

3.7 Bootle is one of the five main settlement areas in the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, (see figure 1.1). The wider Bootle settlement area includes Bootle which is subject of this Action Area Plan (focused on the historic area of Bootle-cum-Linacre); and also Litherland, Netherton and Seaforth. The population of the Bootle Area Action Plan area - is around 44,000 (ONS 2020 mid-year estimates), just under 16% of the population of Sefton as a whole, living in 5.4% of the area of Sefton as a whole¹⁵. The age structure of this population is broadly similar to that of North West England, but is a younger population than the rest of Sefton (see Figure 3.1). There is a higher proportion of children under 16, and a lower proportion of over 50s (and notably over 75s) than in the rest of Sefton (2021 census).



3.8 The population of Sefton as a whole has been declining for decades (8.8% between 1981 and 2011), with the decline tailing off in recent years. For Bootle as a whole (not the same as the population within the AAP area), the rate of decline has not just tailed off, but has begun to reverse. The population of Bootle was over 80,000 in 1961. By 2001 the population was around 50,500, by 2011 it was around 48,500 but 2021 had increased to around 50,500 again¹⁶. Bootle has a fairly small number of people from a black or ethnic minority groups (about 5.7% of the population in 2021), compared to 2.4% in 2011.

3.9 Despite the trend of population loss, the number of households in Bootle has increased by 8.8% since 1991 [to 2021]. This is a result of a reduction in average household sizes. This downward trend reflects the drive seen nationally towards smaller household sizes and is primarily driven by the increased number of single person households and smaller family units.

Economy; growth, innovation and improved productivity
(SEA topic - material assets, population.)

3.10 Bootle is in south Sefton, bordering part of Liverpool with which it shares close economic, social, cultural and transport links and a largely maritime heritage. Most of the Port of

¹⁵ Area to mean high water

¹⁶ Census data for Derby, Linacre, Litherland Netherton & Orrell wards

Liverpool freight docks are within Bootle, though outside the plan area, and the main land-based routes to and from the Port are in South Sefton. Bootle has the potential to harvest its share of the benefits from Port growth given its proximity to both Superport (including the Freeport proposals) and the maritime corridor. However, as well as the economic benefits and opportunities provided by the Port, there are potential negative environmental impacts resulting from its operation, including noise, dust and odour, on local communities.

- 3.11 There are a number of employment areas in the plan area with various degrees of quality, businesses and accommodation type/size. These include long-established employment areas in the heart of the community, close to the Port and on Hawthorne Road, and the post-war industrial estate around Bridle Road (see figure 3.2).
- 3.12 Bootle Office Quarter is located to the south of Bootle Town Centre which includes late 20th century and 21st century purpose-built office blocks, civic buildings and Hugh Baird Further Education College. While the Office Quarter and its mainly public sector occupancy in large office buildings was a major regeneration success for Bootle in the second half of the 20th century, more recent trends (exacerbated by the Covid epidemic) have led to occupancy rates of below 50% (April 2021). More recently in Bootle vacant offices have come forward for conversion to residential accommodation, often employing their permitted development rights (i.e. without the need for planning permission).
- 3.13 Nonetheless, Bootle has continued to perform as a strong public sector location, with over 6,000 employees. It is the administrative hub of Sefton Council, the national Health & Safety Executive and Office for Nuclear Responsibility and other government organisations and is reasonably well let. However, this is likely to change in coming years as the HMRC is completing its move from Bootle to Liverpool in early 2024. This has led to Bootle's reliance mainly on the service sector (60% public sector employment in Derby ward, compared to Sefton and England averages of 24.6% and 16.8% respectively), particularly public administration, education and health.
- 3.14 Bootle needs to provide and retain a sufficient supply of good quality and well-located employment sites and office to provide opportunities for investment and jobs for local people and to help regenerate the area.
- 3.15 North of the Office Quarter, Bootle Town centre is focussed around Bootle Strand, a shopping centre built at the end of the 1960s, and three peripheral supermarkets. There are smaller shopping parades throughout the plan area meeting more local needs, and other supermarkets. Bootle Town Centre, including Bootle Strand and the local shopping parades have high vacancy rates, reflecting national trends. Recently, Bootle Strand was purchased by Sefton Council who have plans to regenerate the shopping centre to make it the catalyst for the wider regeneration of the town.
- 3.16 In terms of national Indices of Deprivation (2019), most of the plan area is in the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of employment and income, and a substantive part is in the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of education, skills and training (see Appendix 3). The wards that are within (or partly within) the Bootle Area have a higher proportion of the working age population (ages 16-64) who claim Universal Credit (14%, 10.6%, 8.7% and

6.7% respectively) than many other parts of Sefton. These wards rank 1st, 2nd, 5th and 9th of the 22 wards in Sefton for the highest % of Universal Credit claimants.

- 3.17 The Plan will seek to reduce these inequalities and secure opportunities for social value from new development for Bootle residents.
- 3.18 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 norms 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.

Figure 3.2 Land use character areas in Bootle



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Homes for present and future generations (SEA topics - population, material assets)

- 3.19 Much of Bootle’s homes are terraced housing dating from before the First World War, mostly smaller terraces opening directly onto the pavement but with the largest terraces being in and around Derby Park Conservation Area and the Bedford Road area. Many of these homes have limited outdoor space including limited access and space for a range of refuse and recycling bins, and no off-street parking. However, there are substantial areas of interwar housing (mostly semi-detached houses or short terraces) built by Bootle Corporation, including around Marsh Lane, east of Southport Road and Netherton. 21st

century housing is focussed in the Housing Market Renewal Areas around Hawthorne Road and Queens Road. The main residential areas are shown in Figure 3.2.

- 3.20 There is less housing choice in Bootle compared to the rest of Sefton, in terms of mix of house types and tenures. Bootle has higher proportions of terraced houses and homes owned by housing associations or private landlords. The plan area has a considerably lower percentage of owner-occupation (around 55-60%) than Sefton as a whole or the national average. In Linacre ward just over a third of homes are owner-occupied.
- 3.21 Short-term and long-term vacancy rates are also higher than the Sefton average. Unplanned empty homes can lead to the deterioration of properties (e.g. damp and pests) and attract anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, arson or squatting. This can reduce the value of neighbouring homes and harm the local environment. It can also result in a greater proportion of homes being sub-divided into poor quality flats or homes in multiple occupation as owners look for alternative ways to secure an income from their asset. In past years 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.
- 3.22 There is a need to provide a greater choice in house types in Bootle, including homes with rear gardens and off-street parking spaces.

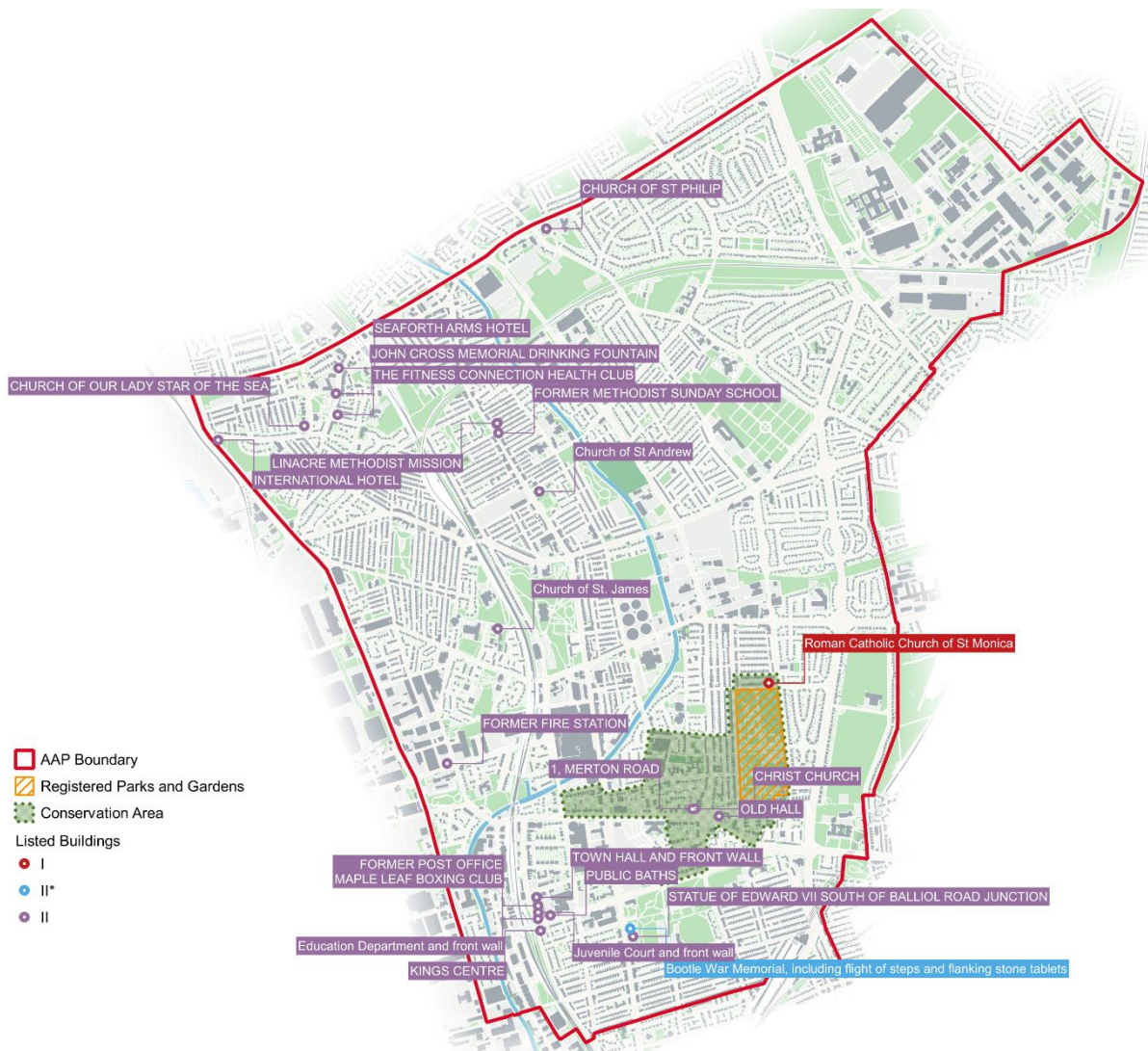
Well-designed, beautiful and safe places - built and historic environment –
(SEA topics – population, human health, material assets, cultural heritage, air)

- 3.23 The mix, relative age and distinctiveness of Bootle's town centre, office, employment and individual housing areas make for a varied and interesting townscape and urban environment (see Figure 3.2). Bootle is one of the most densely built-up parts of Sefton, but nevertheless has relatively high rates of provision of public parks: 1.18 hectares per thousand population, compared to 1.24 for Sefton as a whole (source: 2015 Recreation and Open Space Study). Derby Park is on the national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. While its built form means that Bootle has lower tree cover rates than the rest of Sefton, recent initiatives have seen street tree planting in the Office Quarter and town centre and selected residential streets, to complement well-landscaped parks.
- 3.24 Most of Bootle is well-designed in terms of the prevailing norms of the different phases of its development. There are coherent and broadly uniform design/materials principles for each phase. However, some areas are now somewhat dated, for example in terms of public and private amenity space and landscaping, space for safe, segregated walking and cycle routes, servicing, car parking areas and bin stores. Some designs or materials have not stood the test of time, or, after well over a century of occupation may be in need of repair or refurbishment to meet modern design or energy performance norms.
- 3.25 Thus, while Bootle has a wealth of cultural and heritage assets befitting its maritime and industrial heritage and major period of growth (such as the historic dock system outside the plan area, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Victorian/Edwardian civic buildings and parks and even the 1960s office quarter), many of these are not formally protected, or listed as

non-designated heritage assets. There are no designated Assets of Community Value, and no known archaeology assets.

3.26 However, the Bootle Village Conservation Area covers the areas which illustrate the growth and evolution of Bootle. This includes Christ Church, the whole of Derby Park and the surrounding Victorian terraces and villas, the site of the earliest industrial development of Bootle. There are four Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area. Other Listed Buildings in Bootle are mostly civic buildings (or former civic buildings such as the old 'Bootle Fire Station' on Strand Road), places of worship such as Linacre Methodist Mission on Linacre Road and the Church of Our Lady Star of The Sea, Seaforth, and public houses such as the Seaforth Arms Hotel. Figure 3.3 below shows the designated heritage assets in the plan area.

Figure 3.3 Designated heritage assets inn Bootle Action Area Plan area



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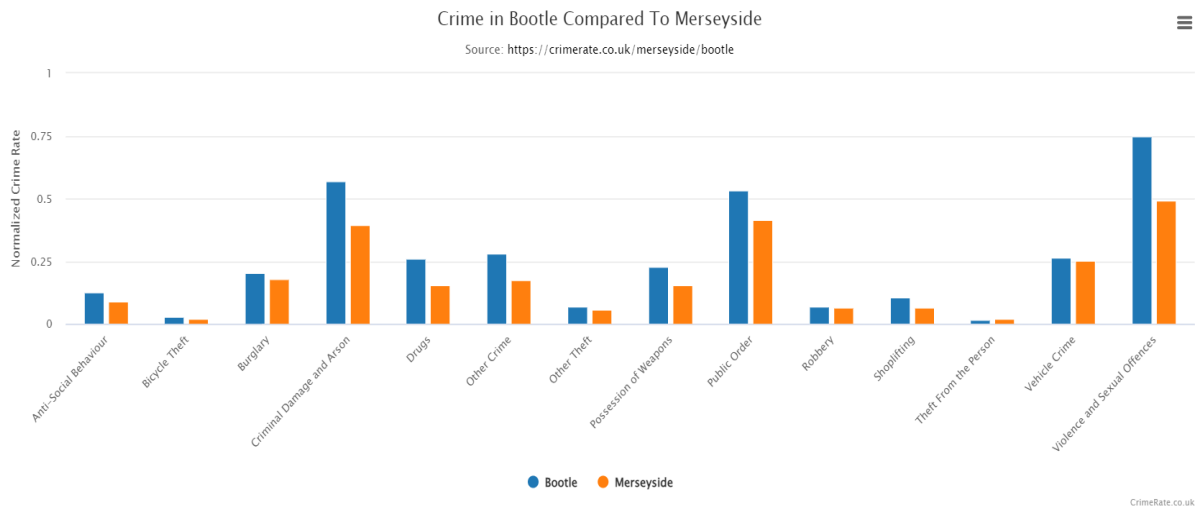
3.27 The Leeds and Liverpool canal is a major asset in Bootle and has the potential to help regenerate the town. The canal and towpath run through plan area, linking the town centre, Office Quarter, employment and residential areas, schools and open spaces. There

may be leisure and tourism opportunities linked to the increasing regional role of the canal and recent canal extension to Liverpool’s waterfront by the Liver Building, close to the new Everton Stadium. In Bootle, the canal and towpath also provides an important area for nature and a key link for residents to access other areas of open space and nature, notably the Rimrose Valley Country Park.

3.28 However, there are a number of issues that impact on Bootle as an attractive place to live. A consistent issue raised by the community 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. Similar issues can also be caused by anti-social behaviour.

Figure 3.4 Crime rates in Bootle compared to Merseyside as a whole
 (source: <https://crimrate.co.uk/merseyside/bootle>).

Crime in Bootle Compared To Merseyside



3.29 The overall crime rate in the wider Bootle area in 2022 was 162 crimes per 1,000 people, higher than the Merseyside rate of 115 and England rate of 83.8 crimes per 1,000 people. As shown in Figure 3.4, levels of violent and sexual crime, criminal damage and public order are noticeably higher than levels for Merseyside as a whole.

Accessible services

(SEA topics - human health, material assets, air, climatic factors)

3.31 In Sefton almost a third of households (31.1%) have no car, Bootle is no exception. However, much of Sefton, including Bootle, has excellent public transport links (see Figure 3.5). Much of the plan area has good coverage by frequent bus services. Merseyrail’s frequent service between Liverpool and Southport includes 3 stations within the plan area. Kirkdale station just outside the plan area is on the Liverpool-Ormskirk line.

Figure 3.5 Public transport and cycle routes in the plan area



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3.32 The densely-developed area and the high proportion of smaller terraced homes or homes on main roads makes it more difficult to find space for sustainable travel such as cycling or electric vehicle charging infrastructure, or servicing. Despite good public transport links, many people still choose to travel to or through Bootle by car for commuting, adding to local congestion and affecting air quality. Major roads are also heavily used for freight, including to the Port of Liverpool. Some areas, communities and groups of people that have restricted access to services and facilities. Access to health facilities is poor by public transport, an issue for many people in Sefton, especially at night or weekends.

Community; health, social and cultural well-being

(SEA topics - population, human health, material assets, cultural heritage)

3.33 Bootle has a strong sense of community and pride, with a good network of resident and voluntary groups. This is essential for the future success of the area. These networks should be an integral part of future plans for Bootle. Whilst many successful regeneration schemes have taken place in Bootle over the past few decades, there is a perception in the local community that many improvements have been promised yet not realised. There are numerous and complex reasons for this, often outside the control of the Council or local organisations. Furthermore, despite the successes that have occurred, Bootle still suffers somewhat from a poor reputation of a place of deprivation, poor local environment and low development value.

3.34 In terms of national Indices of Deprivation (2019), most of the plan area is in the 10% most deprived nationally in terms of health and disability deprivation, as shown in Appendix 3. Figure 3.6 shows the location of GP (doctors) surgeries as well as other services and facilities. Thus, the health of the population of Bootle is generally poorer than that in

Sefton as a whole, for example, heart disease, obesity, morbidity and mental health. There are also health inequalities within the plan area.

- 3.35 Factors affecting health include levels of multiple deprivation, environmental factors such as affordable warmth and access to open space, relatively inactive lifestyles and access to fresh produce and less healthy food (the Council seeks to limit the location of hot-food takeaways close to secondary schools and the number of hot-food takeaways and betting shops in centers and local shopping parades).
- 3.36 There is no hospital within the plan area, with the 'Accident and Emergency' and many services being provided at Aintree (Fazakerley) Hospital and the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Figure 3.6 Health, education, open space and other services and facilities



- 3.37 In terms of national Indices of Deprivation (2019), around a third of the plan area is in the 10% most deprived areas nationally in terms of education, skills and training, as shown in Appendix 3. Over 31% of residents in Linacre ward have no formal qualifications, compared to 21.8% in Netherton & Orrell ward (part of which is within the plan area), higher rates than other Sefton wards. There are 12 primary schools and 3 secondary schools in the plan area, although others outside the area will be used by Bootle residents. Hugh Baird College provides further education including vocational and academic courses, including degrees. In recent years Sefton Council has led the way in providing a number of apprenticeships in a range of service areas.

Natural environment and biodiversity

(SEA topics - fauna, flora soil, water, air, landscape)

- 3.38 The Bootle Area Action Plan area is entirely urban, comprising currently occupied or previously developed land interspersed with green and blue infrastructure as indicated in Figure 3.5. It is within National Character Area 58: Merseyside Conurbation. There are no rural or largescale landscapes or seascapes. There are no landscape-scale natural assets, although at the site or smaller area scale, landscaping may be important (for example within Bootle Conservation Area). The plan area is one of the most densely built-up and least ecologically diverse parts of Sefton. This makes it more important to retain and enhance Bootle's natural assets and green and blue infrastructure and to secure opportunities to make space for nature.
- 3.39 There are no internationally, nationally or locally designated nature sites in the plan area, although parts of the Sefton Coast SAC, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site and Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA/Ramsar site at Seaforth Nature Reserve and Crosby Coastal Park at Waterloo are relatively close. There is one Local Geological Site within the plan area, at Harris Drive. There are relatively few Priority Habitats or Tree Preservation Orders within the plan area compared to the rest of Sefton. The area has some of the lowest tree cover in Sefton, mostly less than 2.5% tree cover.
- 3.40 It is considered more appropriate for a sustainability indicator to focus on green and blue infrastructure rather than on landscape.

Land, natural resources, waste and pollution

(SEA topics - soil, water, air, climatic factors)

- 3.41 Bootle has seen significant development and redevelopment for 150 years. Its industrial past has left large tracts of contaminated and derelict land in areas that have low land values. This legacy requires investment to remediate vacant sites, overcome constraints and make them suitable for new development. Significant investment and redevelopment has already taken place, particularly associated with the former Housing Market Renewal initiative and former industrial sites, but elsewhere is still required.
- 3.42 Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority runs a public Household Waste Recycling Centre on Irlam Road, and there are a number of privately-operated waste transfer, primary treatment, and re-processing sites including at Acorn Way and north of Farriers Way. Some sites have been subject to historic infilling or landfill, for example the former railway cutting running east-west from Southport Road to Strand Road. The densely-developed area and the high proportion of smaller terraced homes and relatively narrow streets makes it more difficult to find space for waste separation and storage.
- 3.43 Poor air quality can contribute to respiratory and other health problems for residents, especially the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. In Sefton, including Bootle, the main concern is nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate emissions (PM10s) from road traffic, including from freight vehicles. The Council carries out extensive, detailed air quality monitoring across the plan area and beyond. It has identified four areas, all in south Sefton, where air quality has or is currently

exceeding national standards and has declared air quality management areas (AQMA) in each of these areas, in which air quality action plans are required. The Millers Bridge AQMA is entirely within the plan area. The Princess Way AQMA is partly within it.

Climate Change

(SEA topic - climatic factors)

- 3.44 One of the most noticeable consequences of climate change nationally is the increased instances and threat of flooding. All of the Bootle Action Area Plan area is within Flood Zone 1, that is, the area at lowest risk of tidal and river flooding. About half of the area falls within the Lower Mersey Catchment, the rest within the Alt catchment. Surface water, sewers, the canal and groundwater are other sources of flood risk.
- 3.45 There are areas of high, medium and low risks of surface water flooding, across the plan area. Some of these areas are very localized, others are larger. However, the depth of any flooding is likely to be low, with likely depths below 300 mm even in a high risk scenario. There are no surface watercourses or surface water bodies other than the canal, and opportunities for surface water to infiltrate into the ground are relatively limited. Almost all surface water in the plan areas discharges to combined sewers (rather than separate foul and surface water sewerage systems). The combined sewers mostly discharge to the MEPAS main sewer which links to the Sandon Dock Wastewater Treatment Work, or flow in Combined Sewer Overflows during times of flooding. The MEPAS main sewer is a 1990s enhancement to Bootle's sewerage network which was largely constructed around a century earlier.
- 3.46 Sefton Council has declared a climate emergency and is working towards a net zero carbon operations for the Council by 2030. However, most emissions come from existing homes and buildings. The majority of Bootle's buildings are older, meaning they are less energy efficient and may be challenging to insulate. Affordable warmth is considered to be an issue locally. While carbon dioxide emissions have been decreasing nationally, there is still work needed to meet local and national commitments.
- 3.47 Spatial planning, accessibility, location, design and layout of development together with carbon and energy performance and use of low carbon and decentralised energy can make important contributions to meeting the challenge of climate change. Even though it covers a small geographic area, the Bootle Area Action Plan will have a role to play in efforts to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Interrelationships between these factors

(SEA topic - Interrelationships between these factors)

- 3.48 The cumulative nature of effects on the environment is likely to be relatively small in scale and 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. Despite the Plan's Vision and regeneration aims, development or re-development in the plan area is likely to be concentrated on a relatively small number of sites or route corridors. Much of the plan area is unlikely to be subject to development over the plan period.

4. Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment:

'Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental performance.'

- 4.1 This chapter deals with Stage 1, Step 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal process shown in [Figure 1.2](#). This is the identification of sustainability issues and problems that will need to be addressed in the sustainability objectives used to appraise the Bootle Area Action Plan. This chapter draws on the conclusions from the previous two steps (policy review and baseline data, chapters 2 and 3), the Issues and Options document and comments made during the Options consultation for the Bootle Area Action Plan. It also draws on key issues emerging from other recent studies carried out by the Planning Service such as the 'health' of shopping areas. Figure 4.1 below brings together this information in a summary of the sustainability issues and problems faced in Bootle. In each case a proposed implication for the sustainability framework is given, which are explored in the next chapter.

Figure 4.1 Identification of Sustainability Issues	
Sustainability Issue	Addressed in the Sustainability Framework by including 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 regen 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 norms 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 supports 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.

Figure 4.1 Identification of Sustainability Issues	
Sustainability Issue	Addressed in the Sustainability Framework by including Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
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.
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.
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's residential areas	Reduce pollution, Reflect the need for good design and a quality living environment.

Figure 4.1 Identification of Sustainability Issues	
Sustainability Issue	Addressed in the Sustainability Framework by including Sustainability Objectives that will consider impact of the Plan to:
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 also be taken to improve access to nature sites and networks.	Protect and enhance biodiversity in Bootle.
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.

5. Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 5.1 This chapter deals with Stage 1, Step 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal process shown in [Figure 1.2](#) above; developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to 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 Appraisal Framework will be used to appraise the objectives, spatial strategy and detailed site specific and development management policies in Bootle Area Action Plan.
- 5.2 So the Sustainability Appraisal 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 set out in previous chapters. The focus is on the key issues in the Bootle Area Action Plan area. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework has 19 sustainability objectives. These have been grouped into three broad (and overlapping) groups. They are shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1 Bootle Action Area Plan Sustainability Appraisal objectives

<p><i>Economic (4)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p><i>Social (6)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p><i>Environment (9)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

- 5.3 All sustainability appraisals (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) for Bootle Area Action Plan will use the Sustainability Objectives set out in Figure 5.1. Figure 5.2 shows the full Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Bootle Area Action Plan.

Figure 5.2 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>			
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floorspace (m2) of employment development completed by employment type • Amount of employment land (ha)/floorspace (m2) lost to non-employment uses • Floorspace completed by development type (office, residential, education) in office quarter. • Vacant office space (m2) in office quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land available for employment [ha]
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of approved Employment and Skills Plans secured • Number of jobs/training places to be provided in secured Employment and Skills Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New education floorspace completed in civic and education quarter
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of public EVC charging points or stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net change in the amount of public open space • Area of land (ha) developed by type (housing, employment, open space etc) • New education floorspace completed in civic and education quarter

Figure 5.2 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floorspace completed by development type (retail, leisure, commercial, cultural, community, health, education) in town centre. • Number and % of vacant ground floor units in shopping parades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of residential conversions on local shopping parades
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 health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities according to ethnicity, gender, age and other groups? • Help create and strengthen local communities that are diverse and stable? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reported fly-tipping incidents in the plan area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime inequalities compared to the rest of Sefton (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of major development proposals approved, and implemented in the Bootle AAP area • Number of major development proposals in the Bootle AAP area where the applicant carried out community consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnout in local elections

Figure 5.2 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	<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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new homes approved and completed • Number and tenure of affordable homes approved and completed • Housing Mix of homes approved and completed (market and affordable) • Number of homes approved and completed that are M4(2) standard, and M4(3) standard, respectively • Number and type of housing for older people approved and completed • Applications for conversions to flats and HMOs and proportions refused / approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant Home rate
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of Priority Routes improved • Development contributions to accessibility infrastructure improvement schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of public electric vehicle charging points
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Health Impact Assessments submitted and agreed • Development contributions to green and blue infrastructure schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in health inequalities (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)

Figure 5.2 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
	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.		
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed capacity of renewable and low carbon energy schemes (MW). • % of approved housing developments exceeding national standards for energy efficiency • Number of long term (10+ years) vacant buildings brought back into use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of approvals on larger development sites with details of SuDS proposed and type • % of brownfield development (by area) achieving a 20% reduction in run-off rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of homes and businesses classed at risk from flooding
13. Reduce pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help reduce air, water, soil and noise pollution, for example through type, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality at monitoring stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of proposals refused due to

Figure 5.2 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
	<p>location, design and layout of development, planted/naturalistic or engineered buffers and specific mitigation measures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the remediation of contaminated land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of proposals with noise assessments and air quality assessments respectively 	<p>significant impact on residential amenity</p>
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed capacity of renewable and low carbon energy schemes (MW). • % of approved housing developments exceeding national standards for energy efficiency • Number of homes built with measures to enable water consumption to less than 110 litres per person per day • Floorspace (m2) brought back into use through development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Development on greenfield compared to brownfield sites
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 that can be used for formal and informal recreation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial contributions secured for and expended on local parks and other areas of open space • The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements • Number of development schemes including green roofs (living roofs) or green walls (living walls) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new/improved access points to the canal towpath • Length of canal towpath improved
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floorspace (m2) brought back into use through development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied

Figure 5.2 Sustainability Framework for Bootle Action Area Plan			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (including SEA)	Supporting questions - will the Plan:	Direct indicators (Monitoring measures)	Contextual Indicators
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area (ha) within the plan area improved through biodiversity net gain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage indicators tbc • Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floorspace in town hall complex reoccupied
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? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and location of Design Codes submitted and approved by the Council in the AAP area • Number of housing schemes that back onto roads/ pavements • Number and proportion of canalside housing schemes that front onto the canal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of money secured from development and spent regarding Environmental Improvements • Approval of a LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

5.4 For each sustainability objective set out in figures 5.1 and Figure 5.2 the scoring system set out in Figure 5.3 will be used to identify and assess what effects the option or policy being appraised will have. The ‘supporting questions’ in Figure 5.2 will be used to help assess the impacts. These should be used as a guide but are not intended to be exhaustive or rigid.

Figure 5.3 Sustainability appraisal scoring system for Bootle Area Action Plan

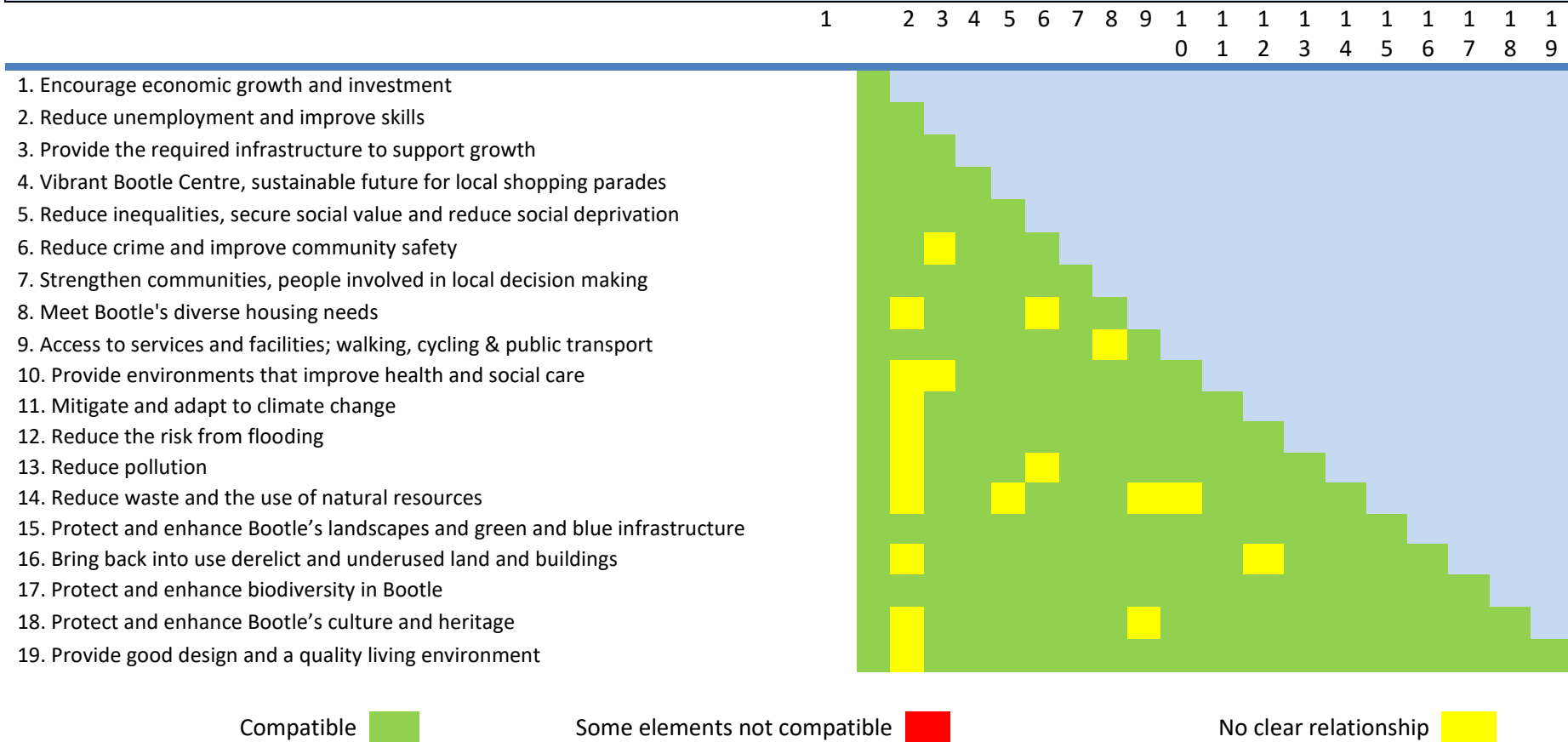
Impact	Strong positive impact	Weak positive impact	No impact / not applicable	Positive and negative impacts broadly balanced	Weak negative impact	Strong negative impact
Record of score	😊😊	😊	0	😐	😞	😞😞

Positive ←————→ Negative

5.5 The assessment and scoring system will take into account secondary, cumulative, synergistic [i.e. acting together], short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative, geographic scale and likelihood of effects. In terms of timescale and permanence , short term or temporary means less than 5 years, medium term 5 to 15 years and long term beyond 15 years. Likelihood will be assessed in terms of high, medium and low likelihood. The geographic scale will focus on the locality (small area), local (Bootle AAP area), borough or sub-regional.

5.6 Figure 5.4 below tests the sustainability objectives for compatibility against each other. This indicates a high degree of compatibility, and no incompatibility. Some objectives have no clear relationship or overlap.

Figure 5.4 Testing the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives against each other



6. Consulting on the Scoping Report

Information required for the Strategic Environmental Assessment:

'The authorities...which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report'.

- 6.1 This chapter deals with Stage 1, Step 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal process shown in Figure 1.2 above; consulting the three statutory environmental bodies. Consultation is required on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report, and on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination. The three statutory environmental bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
- 6.2 Sefton Council consulted these Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England on the draft Scoping Report and draft Screening Determination set out in its Appendix 1 in May 2023. The full responses are set out in Appendix 4, and summarized in Figure 6.1 below. Figure 6.1 will also indicate where the text of this final Scoping Report and SEA Screening Determination has been revised to incorporate any changes resulting from the comments.

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	
[No response received]	-
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. Seeking advice from local conservation, archaeology or urban design experts and in relation to the Historic Environment Records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content: 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. Baseline information: 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. SEA Themes and Objectives: 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). Expert advice: The SA/SEA process has taken account of documents prepared by Sefton's conservation officers and is considered to reflect 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"> Vision: Draft Vision (section 1.15) contains no mention of protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity. A point should be added addressing this issue and objective. Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives: suggests generic list of documents. Suggests that innovative sources of funding such as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision: 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. Review of relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives: 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>Green Social Prescribing and biodiversity net gain be referred to in relation to Issue 23 in Figure 2.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Information: refers to generic Appendix A for sources of development plan evidence on the natural environment. • Figure 4.1 - Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems: • 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. • Figure 5.2 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework: • SA Objectives 1 & 2: 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. • SA Objective 5: Consider adding ‘reducing access to nature inequalities and improving the plan area population’s access to nature’ within this objective. • SA Objective 10: 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. • SA Objective 11: 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. • SA Objective 12: 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline Information: 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. • Figure 4.1 - Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems: New text has been added to relevant sections to address these concerns. • Figure 5.2 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework: • SA Objectives 1 & 2: Text regarding green energy and green jobs /environmental sector jobs added to supporting questions. • SA Objective 5: Supporting question now refers to reducing ‘health, income, access to economic, social and environmental opportunities, and other inequalities’, rather than just to ‘reduce inequalities’. • SA Objective 10: 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 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 includes 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. • SA Objective 11: ‘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. • SA Objective 12: 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

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. • <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. 	<p>question has been amended to give examples of 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. • <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.

7. Key references

UN 1987 Brundtland Report 'Our Common Future' – see [1987: Brundtland Report \(admin.ch\)](#)

UN 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development – see [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)

EU Habitats Directive and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) – see [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - see [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 – see [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

National Planning Policy Framework (2021) – see [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

National Planning Practice Guidance - see [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- For figure 1.2 see [sea1_013.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Sefton Local Development Scheme – see [local-development-scheme2022_25-october-2022-update.pdf \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

Sefton Local Plan (2017) – see [Planning Policy including Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (2012) – see <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/2324/lp4-sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report-smbc-december-2012.pdf>
- Sustainability Appraisal Report Non-Technical Summary (2015) – see <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/3706/lp3b-sa-non-technical-summary-aecom-july15.pdf>
- Sustainability appraisal Report (2015) – see part 1 [lp3a-part1-sa-local-plan-sefton-final-report-aecom-july15.pdf](#) and part 2 [lp3a-part2-sa-local-plan-sefton-final-report-aecom-july15.pdf](#)

Emerging Bootle Action Area Plan (AAP) – see [Bootle Area Action Plan \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

- Bootle AAP Issues and Options Report (Nov 2021) -see <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4863/bootle-aap-issues-and-options-main-document.pdf>

Other references are set out in Figure 2.1 in chapter 2.

[Appendix 1 SEA screening statement](#)

[see attached document]

[Appendix 2 Map of Bootle Action Area Plan area](#)

[see attached document]

[Appendix 3: Indices of Multiple Deprivation mapping for Sefton and Bootle Action Area Plan area](#)

[see attached document]

[Appendix 4: Responses to Draft Sustainability Appraisal \(including SESA\) Scoping Report and Screening Determination from Statutory Consultees](#)

[see attached document]