

# **Affordable and Supported Housing**

**Supplementary Planning Document  
(update)**

## **Scoping Report**

**January 2025**

## **Affordable and Supported Housing SPD (January 2025)**

Sefton Council is preparing an update to its Affordable and Supported Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Once adopted this will replace the current Affordable and Supported Housing SPD. This SPD will provide guidance on the definitions of affordable housing, the need for affordable housing and developer contributions towards off-site affordable housing within Sefton. It will also address the Council's approach to supported housing. This will be consistent with the planning policies in the Sefton Local Plan ([www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan)).

We are inviting you to comment at this early stage to help us decide what level of guidance and background information should be contained within the affordable housing SPD.

**Comments should be made by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

We are seeking views from developers, organisations, individuals and others who are involved in housing developments in Sefton. This scoping report identifies some key issues. Please let us know if you agree with these and whether there are additional issues you would wish the SPD to cover.

### **What is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?**

SPDs give more detailed guidance to policies in the Adopted Local Plan and 'made' (i.e. adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in Sefton. They are subject to public consultation under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted SPDs are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

### **Planning policies on affordable housing**

Government planning policy and how it is to be applied is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2)). The NPPF requires each council to have robust and comprehensive policies that support the delivery of high-quality sustainable and inclusive development.

Sefton Local Plan was adopted in April 2017. The Local Plan includes a range of policies, which conform to national planning policy, to shape the future of Sefton. It sets out how new development will be managed in the period from 2015 to 2030, encouraging sustainable development and economic growth and giving current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton's outstanding environment.

The SPD will provide updated guidance on how the Local Plan Affordable Housing Policy is applied.

The proposed affordable housing SPD will support the following Local Plan policy:

- HC1 Affordable and Special Needs Housing

This policy is applicable across the whole borough.

The SPD also supplements Formby and Little Altcar neighbourhood plan policy H3 'Affordable Housing'. Further to this objective 3 of the Lydiate neighbourhood plan outlines the aim to ensure the availability of affordable housing within Lydiate, whilst the Maghull neighbourhood plan identifies the need for affordable housing in the town to prevent young families being priced out of the area. Other neighbourhood plans may come forward in the future ([www.sefton.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning)).

Once adopted the SPD will replace the existing [Affordable and Supported Homes](#) SPD which was adopted in May 2023.

## **Role of the Affordable and Special Needs Housing SPD**

The SPD will provide additional guidance on how Local Plan policy HC1 should be interpreted and applied in proposals for housing developments. It is particularly aimed at professionals, such as consultants and developers as well as anyone interested in the delivery of affordable housing within Sefton.

## **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

National planning policy indicates that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are not required for an SPD unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects or exceptional circumstances.

This SPD builds on policies in the adopted Local Plan, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination. Furthermore, the criteria in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been taken into consideration and it is the view of Sefton Council that these have not been triggered to the extent that it is necessary to subject this SPD to SEA.

If you believe SEA is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

## **Key issues for consideration in the SPD:**

- Definitions of affordable housing
- Need for affordable housing in Sefton
- Contributions towards off-site affordable housing
- Vacant building credit

- Tenure split of affordable homes, particularly in light of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework
- Eligibility criteria for different types of affordable housing
- Economic viability
- Special Needs Housing and Homes for Older Persons

## How to comment

Comments on whether you agree with the scope of this SPD and/or whether there are other things that should be included should be sent to:

[local.plan@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@sefton.gov.uk)

Planning Department  
Magdalen House  
Trinity Road  
Bootle L20 3NJ

## What happens next?

An indicative SPD timetable is provided below:

Prepare Draft SPD, taking into account comments made to the scope	To June 2025
Approval from Cabinet Member to publish draft SPD for eight weeks public consultation.	July 2025
Publish draft SPD for eight weeks consultation.	September 2025
Prepare draft SPD for adoption, taking into account comments made	October 2025
Approval from Cabinet to adopt the SPD	November 2025

## Data Protection

- All comments, including personal details, received will be logged securely.
- Comments from private individuals will be published online. Names will be published online unless a specific request to remain anonymous is made. However, we may not be able to give the same weight to anonymised comments.

- Comments from groups, organisations and companies will be published online giving name of group, organisation and company only.
- No contact details will be published online, including home address, email or telephone number
- The Council may need to contact you to request further information or clarification in relation to the comment(s) made.
- Personal details will be used for the purposes of SPD production only.

For full data protection rights in planning please see: [www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR)