

## 2026 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation

### Consultation statement – Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Fast Food Outlets SPD

The Council consulted statutory and other consultees on the draft Control of Hot Food Takeaways and Fast Food Outlets SPD in line with the approved 2018 Statement of Community Involvement (<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/sci>). The consultation period ran from 4 March 2026 to 19 April 2026.

Six responses were received, from:

- Historic England
- Homes England
- National Highways
- Natural England
- NHS Property Services
- Sefton Resident B

The table below summaries the main issues raised by consultees ('summary of comment'), and how these issues have been addressed in the SPD ('Council response').

Who made the comment?	Summary of Comment	Council Response
Historic England	No comment	N/A
Homes England	No representations	N/A
National Highways	No comment	N/A
Natural England	No comment	N/A
NHS Property Services	The Council has provided its own definition and interpretation of fast-food outlets and rightly recognised there is currently no planning use class definition. It is a useful definition that specify how the use of the premise can help determine the nature of its business. It would supplement its definition for the Council to highlight existing statistical and public health definitions of fast-food outlets	Noted. The definition in the SPD already is already considered robust enough to address planning issues that have arisen, in addition to covering the content of the proposed OHID definition of fast-food.

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	<p>because if the Council wishes to use and base decision-making on OHID's official statistics on density of fast-food outlets. OHID's definition of fast-food is set out in its 2025 statistical commentary "as food that is energy dense and available quickly, usually via a counter service, and for consumption on or off the premises".</p>	
NHS Property Services	<p>The Council has identified existing permitted development rights for changes within Class E including where the proposed change of use may be considered a fast-food outlet according to the proposed definition.</p> <p>The Council could explore alternative options including bringing forward Article 4 Directions where there are change of use to a food-related business. The Council could also engage with its Environmental Health team to identify where new food businesses have opened from a non-food business to better understand the scale of the change, as justification as to whether stronger regulatory measures such as an Article 4 Direction or strengthened policy in the new local plan may be necessary.</p>	This comment is beyond the scope of the SPD. It is unlikely that an Article 4 direction would be considered for this change of use.
NHS Property Services	The National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) data was updated for 2024/25 childhood obesity rates while the draft SPD uses 2023/24 data.	Noted. The figures included in Section 4 have been amended to reflect the 2024/25 data.
NHS Property Services	We recommend that the Council continues to monitor against Local Plan Policy EQ10 for hot-food takeaway applications, and take appropriate action based on the NPPF to manage applications around schools. In addition, the Council can better understand any Class E changes of use to food businesses as fast food outlets to determine whether further strengthening of the policy may be required as part of the new Local Plan.	Agreed. The Council will continue to monitor against Local Plan Policy EQ10, publishing annual data in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) each year.

Who made the comment?	Summary of Comment	Council Response
NHS Property Services	We suggest the Council considers submitting an expression of interest to the next round of free PHIRST evaluations so that any findings can provide a stronger evidential basis for taking stronger action in the new Local Plan, where required, such as in town centre locations or addressing Class E changes of use.	Noted.
Sefton resident B	Must utilise authentic traditional Design Code style to blend in well with the local community, ideally sited few and far between so no en masse concentrations in any one area.	<p>The comment about design codes is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.</p> <p>The Draft SPD includes detailed guidance on choosing suitable locations for hot-food takeaways and fast-food outlets, including avoiding clustering.</p>
Sefton resident B	Variety of different food choices to provide greater selection and reminder for people to stay healthy with active exercise, such as local areas to visit to keep fit, such as Parks and Greenspaces for all ages.	This comment is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.
Sefton resident B	Wider, more general representation from this respondent also covered a range of issues well beyond the scope of this SPD, for example the need for training in heritage crafts, the role of existing buildings in storing carbon and the need for heritage skills training and other investment projects.	This comment is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.