



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	
	Scope of Authority Monitoring Report	3
	Indicators and targets	3
2	THE ‘DEVELOPMENT PLAN’ IN ST HELENS	
	The Development Plan	4
	St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (2022)	5
	Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (2017)	6
	The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (2013)	6
3	PROGRESS IN PREPARING NEW LOCAL PLAN DOCUMENTS	
	Local Plan	7
	Spatial Development Strategy	7
	Local Development Scheme timetable (2025-2028)	7
4	ST HELENS BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN UP TO 2037: POLICY MONITORING	9
5	BOLD FOREST PARK AREA ACTION PLAN 2017: POLICY MONITORING	45
6	MERSEYSIDE AND HALTON JOINT WASTE LOCAL PLAN: POLICY MONITORING	
	Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan	52
	Monitoring of the Waste Local Plan	52
7	DUTY TO COOPERATE	
	Introduction	53
	The sub-regional context	53
	Key activities under the ‘Duty to Cooperate’ in 2025/2026	53
8	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AND ORDERS	
	Neighbourhood Plans	56
	Neighbourhood Development Orders	56
	Current Neighbourhood Plans and Orders in St Helens Council	56
	APPENDIX A: DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMETABLE IN ST HELENS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, 2025-2028	57

1. INTRODUCTION

Scope of Authority Monitoring Report

- 1.1 The requirement to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is contained in Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by paragraph 113 of the Localism Act 2011). The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) outlines what should be included within an AMR (part 8).
- 1.2 AMRs monitor the effectiveness of plan policies and, therefore, provide data in response to the monitoring frameworks set out within the relevant plans. In doing so, they help inform whether there is a need for policies to be updated.
- 1.3 Local Planning Authorities can also use the AMR to provide up-to-date information on any neighbourhood plans that have been brought into force.
- 1.4 Additionally, AMRs must also contain information pursuant to Regulation 62(4) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations. As St Helens Borough Council is not a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) charging authority, this AMR makes no further reference to this. Developer contributions are collected through Section 106 contributions and can be found within St Helens Borough Council's published Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- 1.5 In summary, this AMR:
 - Describes the role of existing Development Plan documents in St Helens (Chapter 2);
 - Appraises the progress in preparing new Local Plan documents (Chapter 3);
 - Assesses the effectiveness of policies in the adopted St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (2022) and the Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (2017), and any recommended steps to help achieve the aims of these policies (Chapters 4 and 5);
 - Identifies the relationship of this AMR with the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (Chapter 6);
 - Identifies actions taken relating to the 'Duty to Cooperate' with neighbouring local authorities and other public bodies (Chapter 7); and
 - Reports on the progress of neighbourhood planning (Chapter 8).
- 1.6 This AMR covers the period **1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026**.

Indicators and targets

- 1.7 The adopted St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (Local Plan) contains a monitoring framework to review effectiveness of the policies within the plan as set out in Appendix 4 of the Local Plan; therefore, future AMRs will continue to focus on the delivery of those policies. St Helens Borough Council will also continue to monitor the implementation of the Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (2017).



2. THE 'DEVELOPMENT PLAN' IN ST HELENS

The Development Plan

- 2.1 The Development Plan for St Helens Borough Council comprises of the following documents:
- St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (adopted July 2022);
 - The Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (adopted July 2017); and
 - The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2013).
- 2.2 In addition, St Helens Borough Council adopted a series of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Development Briefs, which give additional guidance on policies contained in the adopted Plans. These comprise:
- Affordable Housing SPD (adopted January 2026);
 - Biodiversity SPD (adopted June 2011);
 - Design (April 2024);
 - Design and Crime SPD (adopted October 2009);
 - Developer Contributions (April 2024);
 - Householder Development SPD (adopted June 2011);
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD (adopted January 2026)
 - Hot Food Takeaway SPD (adopted June 2011);
 - King Street Design Brief (adopted June 2011);
 - Locally Listed Heritage Assets SPD (adopted January 2026)
 - Local Economy and Social Value SPD (adopted January 2026);
 - Open Space Provision and Enhancement (April 2024);
 - Residential Character Areas SPD (adopted June 2011);
 - Shopfronts SPD (adopted June 2011);
 - Telecommunications SPD (adopted June 2008);
 - Transport and Travel SPD (January 2025);
 - Trees and Development SPD (adopted June 2008); and
 - Land adjacent Laffak Road and Carr Mill Road Development Brief (adopted October 2009).
- 2.3 None of these documents, or the policies and guidance within them, should be read in isolation. They should be read as a whole and in conjunction with the other documents and national policy where relevant.
- 2.4 Following the adoption of the Local Plan, the Council has prepared new SPDs and updated SPDs to ensure they fully reflect Local Plan policies and are better aligned with current national planning policies. Within this context, there are a significant

number of SPDs which have recently been prepared. The second tranche of SPDs that went out to consultation in 2025 and then were adopted in early 2026 were:

- Affordable Housing SPD
- Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD
- Local Economy and Social Value SPD
- Locally Listed Heritage Assets SPD

2.5 The 'Affordable Housing' SPD (2026) replaced the 'Affordable Housing' SPD (2010), the 'Local Economy and Social Value' SPD (2026) replaced the 'Local Economy' SPD (2013) and 'Locally Listed Heritage Assets' SPD (2026) replaced the 'List of Locally Important Buildings' SPD (2011). As the Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD is a new document, it has not replaced an existing SPD.

St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (2022)

2.6 The St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 is the principal document that guides how decisions are made on planning applications within the Borough.

2.7 The Local Plan covers the whole of St Helens Borough and sets out:

- The vision and objectives for development in the Borough up to 2037;
- The overall spatial strategy and strategic policies guiding the amount, form, and distribution of development;
- Site allocations and preferred locations for new development including housing, employment, retail, leisure, and gypsy and traveller accommodation;
- Areas designated for protection (for example of the built or natural environment) as well as changes to the Green Belt and designated areas where certain policies apply; and
- More detailed development management policies to be applied when considering planning applications for development.

2.8 The Local Plan is built upon the key principles of sustainable development, which require the planning system to perform several objectives (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 8):

- **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;
- **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; and
- **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.

Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (2017)

2.9 The Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (AAP) is a statutory planning policy document that sets out the detailed policies and actions required to develop Bold Forest Park. It covers a series of inter-linked greenspaces, countryside, and communities on the south side of St Helens and provides a planning framework for this specific area of opportunity, change and conservation.

2.10 The Bold Forest Park AAP has the following objectives:

1. Create new economic opportunities through sustainable development within Bold Forest Park;
2. Create opportunities for tourism and leisure related business, supported by the natural economy;
3. Create an easily understood and accessible network of linked open spaces within Bold Forest Park and with surrounding areas;
4. Promote the provision and positive use of green space for the benefit of the local community and visitors; and
5. Enhance the natural environment through targeted delivery of green infrastructure programs that improve and expand the biodiversity and landscape quality of the Bold Forest Park area.

These can be supplemented by the additional aim of:

6. Create quality outdoor space with opportunities for physical activities and positive use of green space to improve mental health and wellbeing of the local community and visitors.

The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (2013)

2.11 The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (WLP) sets out the planning policy for waste management development in St Helens, which was adopted by the local authorities of Merseyside and Halton in July 2013. Upon adoption, the WLP's policies and allocations became part of each authority's Local Plan and must be considered when relevant planning applications are being determined.

2.12 Prepared by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), the document covers the period from 2013 to 2027 and must be regularly reviewed under relevant legislation. It contains 16 Policies and 18 Site Allocations dealing with all aspects of waste management from waste prevention to energy from waste facilities. Further information regarding the WLP is set out in chapter 6.



3. PROGRESS IN PREPARING NEW LOCAL PLAN DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the Council must publish and keep under review a timetable to produce new Development Plan documents. This timetable is within a document known as the Local Development Scheme (LDS).

Local Plan timetable (2026-2029)

- 3.2 This document is the [Local Development Scheme \(LDS\) 2025](#) for St Helens and sets out the documents that St Helens Borough Council will produce, along with a timetable for the preparation and review of these documents. It provides the starting point for local communities, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested stakeholders to find out what local planning policy documents relate to their area and the timetable for their preparation.
- 3.3 Section 15 of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare, maintain and publish an LDS.
- 3.4 The LDS must identify which existing and proposed documents (referred to as Development Plan documents) are intended to comprise the statutory 'Development Plan' for the Borough. It must also identify:
- the subject matter, geographical coverage, and timetable for the preparation of each Development Plan document; and
 - any Development Plan documents that are to be prepared jointly with one or more other planning authorities.
- 3.5 The legislation requires all Local Authorities to make their LDS available to the public and to be kept up to date. The previous LDS for St Helens was prepared in September 2020.

Local Plan

- 3.6 The NPPF states policies in local plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary (paragraph 34). Therefore, as the Local Plan was adopted July 2022, the Council are reviewing the Local Plan under the new system to ensure that the development plan is kept up to date.

Spatial Development Strategy

- 3.7 The Combined Authority of the Liverpool City Region is working on producing a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) in partnership with each the constituent Local Authorities. These are Knowsley, Halton, Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton and St Helens.
- 3.8 Early engagement has already been undertaken in terms of the SDS, with public engagement taking place from November 2023 to February 2024. A call for strategic sites has been undertaken more recently, with the focus being on sites for large-scale housing, employment and green infrastructure opportunities. It is anticipated that the

next draft version of the SDS will be published for consultation in late 2026 (Stage 4 'Public Participation').

- 3.9 Once adopted, the SDS will form part of the Development Plan for each of the constituent authorities, including St Helens. Further information can be found at <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/sds/>.

4. ST HELENS BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN UP TO 2037: POLICY MONITORING

- 4.1 Continual monitoring is a key aspect of the plan making system. The Localism Act of 2011 requires Local Planning Authorities to monitor the extent to which policies contained in their plans are being achieved and to publish this information each year in an AMR.
- 4.2 The effectiveness of the policies in the Local Plan will be monitored to ensure that they are:
- achieving the Local Plan objectives and delivering sustainable development;
 - delivering new homes and jobs; and
 - not having any unintended consequences.
- 4.3 To enable this to happen, the Local Plan contains suitable targets and indicators (set out in Appendix 4: Monitoring Framework of the Local Plan) that relate to the delivery of policies and sets out clearly how these are to be measured. This will help to determine if any action is necessary to ensure that the policies can be implemented, if any amendments are needed to any of the policies to ensure the desired objective is being achieved.
- 4.4 This chapter monitors the target and indicator performance for the period **1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026**.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
LPA01 - Spatial Strategy	Analysis of progress with strategic sites	Most new housing to be delivered on strategic and/or brownfield sites. Significant new employment development at existing and strategic locations.	Target Met. The re-use of suitable brownfield land is a key priority of the Council, which is now reflected in the Local Plan. A total of 12 sites previously listed on the 2025 Brownfield Land Register have now been removed from the register. Included within these figures was the provision of a development of 23 dwellings and a retirement apartment scheme comprising of 54 independent living flats. In terms of new housing, the Local Plan contains allocated strategic housing sites, of which: - Three are currently under construction (sites 8HA, 9HA and 10HA) - One now has remediation works taking place on site (2HA) - One has had planning permission granted (5HA) - One has had outline planning permission granted with reserved matters applications submitted (6HA) 580 homes built out of the total 723 homes completed this year have been built on previously developed land, which equates to 78%. In terms of employment development, the Local Plan contains allocated strategic employment sites, of which: - Three have had planning permission granted and work has been commenced or completed on site.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26										
LPA02 - Development Principles	All Local Plan indicators	Delivery of sustainable development.	Target Met. Within this monitoring period there have been no planning applications approved on designated Green Belt land contrary to policy.										
LPA03 - A Strong & Sustainable Economy	Employment land take-up per annum by type	Take-up of new employment land by type on a yearly basis as anticipated in the Plan.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. New employment land built out this year: <table><tr><th>Employment Type</th><th>m²</th></tr><tr><td>E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial</td><td>1,180</td></tr><tr><td>B2 General industrial</td><td>536</td></tr><tr><td>B8 Storage and Distribution</td><td>127,664</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>129,380 m²</td></tr></table> This is 7.47% of the 173.24ha total residual requirement for 2021-2037 stated in the Local Plan and is encouraging so early in the Local Plan period.	Employment Type	m²	E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial	1,180	B2 General industrial	536	B8 Storage and Distribution	127,664	Total	129,380 m²
Employment Type	m²												
E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial	1,180												
B2 General industrial	536												
B8 Storage and Distribution	127,664												
Total	129,380 m²												
	Total number of active businesses	Increase on previous years	Target Met. The latest ONS data shows that there are currently 5,110 active VAT businesses within the Borough as of the last update in										

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			November 2025; this is an increase on the previous year when compared to a figure of 4,795 back in March 2024.
LPA03.1 - Strategic Employment Sites	Number of masterplans submitted	Every planning application for an allocated Strategic Employment Site should be accompanied by a masterplan.	Target Met. All planning applications received on strategic employment sites to date have been accompanied by a masterplan for the site. It is anticipated that during the Local Plan period these sites will deliver most of the new employment land required to meet the Borough's need. Therefore, to ensure that the sites are developed to their full potential it is essential that development proposals within them are informed by a comprehensive and suitable masterplan for the site as a whole. The masterplan must identify any new, expanded, or enhanced infrastructure that is needed to serve the development as a whole. A comprehensive approach will also be followed to securing any necessary developer contributions required to deliver such infrastructure.
LPA04 - Meeting St Helens' Housing Needs	Distribution of new housing development across the Borough	Percentage of new homes built on allocated sites.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. 31% (221 units) of the 723 new build homes completed this year were built on allocated sites; this was slightly lower than anticipated in the housing trajectory, as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan. Many of the housing sites allocated within the Local Plan have either recently gained consent and now under construction or currently in the early stages of gaining consent for development. Sites 8HA (Land South of Higher Lane and East of Rookery Lane, Rainford) 9HA (Former Linkway Distribution Park) and 10HA (Moss Nook Urban Village) have had homes completed within

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			them - further details are set out in Indicator for LPA04.1 - Strategic Housing Sites below. This number will significantly rise as planning applications for development on Local Plan allocations are submitted, approved and implemented.
	Net completions of new homes by house type and number of bedrooms, against annual and Plan period targets	Annual net homes completions to be at least the residual number required for 2020-2037 of 486 homes per annum within the Plan period.	Target Met. There were 745 gross dwelling completions and 723 net dwelling completions for this monitoring period, whereas the Housing Trajectory as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan forecast the completion of 560 dwellings for this period (2025/26); therefore, the number of annual net homes completions has been met for this monitoring period. These figures will need to continue to be monitored to ensure the target will be met within the Plan period. The housing mix of net completions has been difficult to monitor due to current resources, along with the number of amendments submitted to approved schemes. However, developers are encouraged to suitably apply the housing mix as set out in Table 6.1 of Local Plan Policy LPC01, with the recognition that this housing mix applies to the Plan holistically (not individual sites). Nevertheless, the house type and number of bedrooms of allocated sites and developments of 100 or more dwellings approved within this monitoring period are set out in the table below.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26				
				1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4-bed
			Market	0	27	195	174
			Low-cost home ownership	0	0	18	1
			Affordable housing (rented)	18	90	44	0
	Density numbers of approved housing developments	Minimum 30dph on all sites 30-40dph in and adjacent to district and local centres 40-50dph+ at sites within St Helens Town centre, Earlestown Town centre and on the edge of these centres.	Target not met. 63% of the dwellings approved within this monitoring year meet the required density. Of the remaining, 36% are comprised of 1 to 2 dwelling replacements and new build properties on existing plots, where other factors such as the existing building line, plot shape, planning constraints and Green Belt restrictions applied. The remaining 1% are large developments for which there were legitimate planning reasons for reduced density, such as open space provision, scale of surrounding area and planning constraints.				
	5 Year housing land supply	To have a 5 year + housing supply.	Target Met. As of 31 March 2026, St Helens Borough Council has a housing supply of 6.07 years.				
LPA04.1 - Strategic Housing Sites	Number of dwellings granted planning consent and delivered on strategic housing sites	Delivery of strategic sites in accordance with the housing trajectory.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. The Housing Trajectory as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan forecasts the completion of 305 new dwellings on allocated sites for this monitoring period. A combined total of 221 new dwellings were completed on Local Plan allocations 8HA (Land South of				

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			Higher Lane and East of Rookery Lane, Rainford), 9HA (Former Linkway Distribution Park) and 10HA (Moss Nook Urban Village) this monitoring period; however, Phase 3 of Moss Nook Urban Village has now gained consent and is under construction so completions will be taking place on site imminently, and Local Plan allocations 4HA has now also gained consent.
LPA05 - Safeguarded Land	Number and extent of planning applications approved on land safeguarded for post-2037	Zero.	Target Met. No planning applications have been approved on safeguarded land for post-2037. This helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Local Plan. The sites safeguarded within the Local Plan were removed from the Green Belt to ensure that the new Green Belt boundaries could endure well beyond 2037. The sites are not allocated for development before 2037 but will potentially meet the long-term development needs well beyond the current Local Plan period i.e., beyond 2037. The development of the safeguarded sites will only be acceptable if a future Local Plan update, either full or partial, confirms that such development is both acceptable and required, and proceeds to allocate such sites for development in that update. The Council may undertake and bring into effect such a Local Plan update within the current Plan period of 2020-2037, should this be required and justified by the latest evidence.
LPA06 - Transport and Travel	Number of developments approved resulting in significant	Transport assessments/Transport Statement and Travel	Target Met. Of the 33 developments approved within this monitoring period that could potentially result in significant transport impacts, a

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
	transport impacts producing a transport assessment and travel plan agreed by the Council	Plans submitted in all cases where these are required.	Transport Assessment was either submitted prior to approval or stipulated in a condition. This shows positive progress in ensuring that new developments are sustainable and are better integrated within the existing transport network.
	Cycle and footpaths created (detailing how they have improved accessibility and reduced reliance on private transport)	Implement schemes and projects that will help to deliver sustainable economic growth (by reducing congestion and delays for businesses).	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Several new cycle tracks and footpaths were delivered during the monitoring period, reflecting the Council's continued commitment to providing infrastructure to enable walking, wheeling and cycling. Significant progress was made in delivering schemes already in development, while further strengthening the pipeline of future projects. This ongoing investment is helping to create a well-connected, accessible, and high-quality network for walking, cycling, and wheeling across the borough. The following Active Travel Routes were completed during the monitoring period: • A new shared used pathway was delivered between Lea Green Railway Station along Elton Head Road to the junction of Jame Roby Way (formerly St Helens Linkway) in March 2025, as part of the wider Southern Gateway scheme. The upgraded Lea Green Railway Station officially opened on 18 August 2025, providing a new station building, improved passenger facilities and expanded park-and-ride capacity, with improved walking, cycling and wheeling links, supporting sustainable travel and improved connectivity across the borough.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			- The Phase 1 of the Elton Head Road Active Travel Route was completed in March 2026. Delivered in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and funded through the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund (Tranche 4), the scheme supports the Council's adopted Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The works between James Roby Way and Swan Gardens have improved active travel connections to Lea Green Station, St John Vianney Primary School and local amenities through the provision of a protected cycle track, new crossing facilities, upgraded traffic signals, footway and drainage improvements, and additional cycle parking and seating. The scheme also forms part of the wider proposed Lea Green to Whiston Hospital Active Travel Route. - Sherdley Road Phase 1 has delivered a new shared-use path linking The Score to Elton Head Road, making use of the Section 278 funded shared-use facility provided as part of the adjacent housing development. The scheme improves connectivity between local communities and St Helens town centre, providing a safer and more attractive route for walking, cycling and wheeling. Phase 2, extending the route from Scores Cross to the Linkway junction, is currently in development and progressing through the consultation stage. Funding has been secured through the Consolidated Active Travel Fund, with construction programmed to commence in late 2026. - Pathway improvements within Sherdley Park and Sutton Park have enhanced walking and cycling connectivity as part of the St Helens Southern Gateway project. Existing paths were

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			widened and resurfaced to provide safer, more accessible routes for pedestrians and cyclists, supporting sustainable access to Lea Green Station and the wider active travel network. - The By Ours Cowley Hill Liveable Neighbourhood project has been delivered in phases since September 2024. Phase 1 included a new shared-use footway and cycleway across Bishop Road Playing Fields, a signalised crossing on Duke Street, footway accessibility improvements, traffic-calming measures, and a new pocket park at Cooper Street, improving connectivity to local schools, open spaces and neighbourhood amenities - Phase 2 commenced in February 2026, with junction improvements at Bishop Road, Gamble Avenue and Cowley Hill Lane completed in March 2026. The works included a raised junction table, upgraded pedestrian crossing facilities and a reduction in junction width, enhancing road safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. Further improvements on North Road are programmed for completion by December 2026. The “<i>St Helens Borough Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan</i>” (adopted April 2023) sets out an ambitious 10-year plan for investment, prioritising a strategic network of improvements for both cyclists and pedestrians, to encourage and enable residents to use active modes of transport and allow active travel to be the best option for local journeys. Such schemes being developed include:

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			- Improvements to the greenway network transforming often-impassable muddy tracks into quality public open spaces providing strategic connectivity across the borough and beyond. - Segregated cycle lanes, improved footways, and new signalised and formalised crossings on Chester Lane/Jubits Lane and Clock Face Road are currently in development to support sustainable access to existing and future growth sites. - The St Helens Southern Gateway project delivered the Liverpool City Region's first Cycle Optimised Protected Signals (CYCLOPS) junction, alongside a network of active travel routes serving the upgraded Lea Green Railway Station, with further connections either completed or currently in development. - Design concepts for further schemes along the wider Elton Head Road were consulted on during Summer 2022, that would link the route to the border with Knowsley Council. - Design concepts for proposed active travel upgrades along the A580 East Lancashire Road were consulted on during Summer 2023, with further design development throughout 2025/26, with phased delivery anticipated from 2027 onwards. - Following public consultation in 2023, the Peasley Cross/Parr Street Roundabout Improvement Scheme secured £3.434 million of funding to improve walking, wheeling and cycling connections at one of the borough's

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			busiest junctions. Detailed design was completed in March 2026, with construction scheduled to commence in August 2026. The scheme includes new toucan crossings, upgraded footways and cycle facilities, carriageway resurfacing, drainage improvements, and traffic signal upgrades. ▪ The Council is working in partnership with BXB and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to deliver the Cowley Hill Link Road Active Travel Scheme. Site enabling works were completed during 2025, with main construction scheduled for 2026 subject to discharge of planning conditions. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is contributing £10m towards the scheme, which will provide improved walking and cycling infrastructure, support sustainable travel, and help unlock the delivery of a mixed-use development comprising approximately 1,100 homes, employment space, and associated community amenities. ▪ The Sutton Oak Link (disused railway) project will explore the reuse of the former railway corridor to improve walking, wheeling and cycling connections across St Helens. Early feasibility work was completed in 2024, and a Strategic Outline Business Case is currently being developed alongside high-level concept designs to inform the next stage of the project, to be funded by the Transport for the City Regions. ▪ St Helens Town Centre Phase 2 has secured pre-development funding through Transport for the City

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			Regions to develop proposals that improve walking, wheeling and cycling access to and through the town centre. The scheme will focus on addressing key barriers at gateway junctions and routes, enhancing connectivity to public transport interchanges, and supporting access to employment, retail and leisure destinations as part of the wider town centre regeneration programme. At the time of writing, a range of further missing links are under development across the borough.
	Improvements to public transport infrastructure and services	All new sites allocated for development should have easy access to public transport.	Target Met. One of the main objectives for site allocation was their suitable access to public transport. 100% of the new dwellings built within this monitoring period were within 400m (as the crow flies) of a bus stop. Thus, providing sustainable housing that integrates well into the existing urban settlements. Equally, improvements are requested through the planning process for improvements to public transport infrastructure and services to ensure the satisfactory provision on proposed housing schemes.
	Number of electric vehicle charging points provided	Increase in Plan period.	Target Met. This target is difficult to monitor and provide a precise figure for, primarily due to electric vehicle charging (EVC) points falling under permitted development rights, which enables individuals to have EVC points installed at their private properties, and as such many residents have taken advantage of this across the Borough.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26				
			Most major planning applications for residential and employment development need to provide EVC points within their schemes. Therefore, where relevant, if details of EVC points have not been submitted at the application stage, further details of their provision have been conditioned. Within this monitoring period approximately 657 EVC points have been approved for installation that came in as an application.				
	Number of planning applications approved contrary to National Highways advice	None – planning applications should not be approved where Highways England have issues with the proposal.	Target Met. No planning applications have been approved contrary to National Highways advice, enabling consistent national, regional, and local transport planning.				
LPA07 - Infrastructure Delivery and Funding	Number of community facilities (including health, education, neighbourhood retail and leisure) lost through new development	Development that includes the loss of a community facility should be resisted unless a better facility can be located locally.	Target Met. Whilst six community facilities (2 social clubs, 1 leisure centre, 2 churches and 1 public house) were lost through approval for new development within this monitoring period, the proposals involved the change of use to a differing form of community use, thereby retaining the community use on site. <table><tr><th>Application</th><th>Proposal</th></tr><tr><td>P/2025/0048/FUL</td><td>Change of use from Social club (Use Class F2) to day nursery (Use Class E(f)) and alterations to fenestration.</td></tr></table>	Application	Proposal	P/2025/0048/FUL	Change of use from Social club (Use Class F2) to day nursery (Use Class E(f)) and alterations to fenestration.
Application	Proposal						
P/2025/0048/FUL	Change of use from Social club (Use Class F2) to day nursery (Use Class E(f)) and alterations to fenestration.						

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
			P/2025/0239/FUL	Change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for care of up to 2no children.
			P/2025/0253/DEMPA	Prior approval for demolition of fitness centre.
			P/2025/0468/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from public worship/religious instruction (Class F1(f) use) to provision of education (Class F1(a) use) for primary and/or secondary age pupils.
			P/2025/0142/FUL	Change of use from disused chapel (F1) to 1-bedroom residential property (C3).
			P/2025/0208/FUL	Retrospective change of use of conservative club (Sui Generis) to retail on ground floor (Class E) with installation of air conditioning units and 2-bedroom flat on first floor (Class C3).
			Additionally, both churches were also vacant which shows they were no longer needed, and so the community facility was already lost beforehand. There are also other churches within the same vicinity of these vacant churches that are equally as accessible to the public and also compensate for the loss of them. Also, after the demolition of the fitness centre, it is being transformed into a new, state-of-the-art leisure, wellbeing, and	

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			training complex. This project, in partnership with St Helens R.F.C. (Saints), will replace the old facility on Ashcroft Street with a modern locality hub that includes training facilities for the rugby team.
	Number of planning applications amended on economic viability grounds	None – due regard should be made at application stage on the ability of development proposals to support the required level of developer contributions.	Target Met. No applications have been amended on economic viability grounds during this monitoring period.
LPA08 - Green Infrastructure	Area of green infrastructure created as the result of new development	A net increase in areas of provision as a reflection of the extant standards of provision.	Target Met. There has been an increase in new areas of green infrastructure created through 2 applications of 40+ dwellings for approved development within this monitoring period, and this is a positive reflection considering how early in the Local Plan period this monitoring period relates to. Moving forward it is anticipated that development of Local Plan allocations will further facilitate improvement of existing areas and/or the creation of new green infrastructure in the Borough.
	Number of new nature reserves created	Number of new nature reserves to rise in proportion to the increase in population arising from new development.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Whilst no new nature reserves have been created during the monitoring period, (as it requires significant work to gain Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status), it is still early in the Local Plan period with the development of allocated sites yet to facilitate and enhance sites through section 106 planning obligations and

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			Biodiversity Net Gain, which will potentially be used to fund management plans and applications for LNR status for certain sites.
LPA09 - Parkside East	Substantial progress towards site development, e.g., completion of a masterplan; agreed timescale for implementation; planning application process; works commencing on site	Substantial development of Parkside East for employment purposes by the end of the Plan period in accordance with the provisions of Policy LPA09.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Whilst no masterplan or timescale for implementation has been agreed, there has still been significant progress made in bringing this site forward within the plan period, including: ▪ The principle of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) on this site has been accepted with the adoption of the Local Plan by central government. ▪ With the adoption of the Local Plan, the SRFI is now a target for delivery and the requisite land is now safeguarded. ▪ Parkside Link Road is complete and this infrastructure is a critical element of the overall Parkside development and will be pivotal in unlocking the site's full potential. ▪ Parkside (St Helens) is one of three designated tax sites within the Liverpool City Region Freeport. ▪ The main development (now named Intermodal Logistics Park North) is currently at the pre-application stage of the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning process, with it expected that an application will be submitted in January 2027.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
LPA10 – Parkside West	Substantial progress towards site development, e.g., completion of a site masterplan; agreed timescale for implementation; planning application process; works commencing on site	Site is complete and operational by end of the Plan period (2037); Necessary infrastructure (including the Parkside Link Road) has been delivered to enable delivery of the site.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Despite being early in the Local Plan period, significant progress has been made including: ▪ An illustrative masterplan for the whole site has been submitted and approved at outline stage. ▪ Parkside Link Road is complete and this infrastructure is a critical element of the overall Parkside development and will be pivotal in unlocking the site's full potential. ▪ Parkside (St Helens) is one of three designated tax sites within the Liverpool City Region Freeport. ▪ The LCRCa secured £24 million funding for the Parkside Road scheme. ▪ <u>Phase 1</u> (southern extent of site) – outline planning permission was granted by the Secretary of State in November 2021 (P/2018/0048/OUP). Subsequent reserved matters approval was granted in March 2024 for enabling works (reference P/2023/0342/RES) and in relation to details of layout, scale and appearance for the three employment units on plots A, B and C (reference P/2023/0341/RES). Sitewide remediation works are underway. ▪ <u>Phase 2</u> (northern extent of site) – a hybrid planning application was submitted in August 2024 (Ref: P/2024/0419/HYEIA) for former Parkside Colliery Phase 2 comprising employment floorspace (Use Class (B8) and B2 / E(g) (ii) / E(g)(iii) with ancillary (E(g)(i)) and associated servicing and infrastructure, including sub-station, car

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			parking, vehicle and pedestrian circulation space (outline application) and detailed enabling and infrastructure works, to facilitate employment development comprising site wide earthworks to create development platforms, details of strategic landscaping, planting, ecological and noise mitigation, drainage and ground works and details of the means access served from the Parkside Link Road (PLR) (full application). Planning Committee resolution to grant planning permission.
LPA11 – Bold Forest Garden Suburb	Substantial progress towards site development, e.g. progress on preparation of a site masterplan and / or Supplementary Planning Document; agreed timescale for implementation; planning application process; works commencing on site	Development of the site commences with the housing trajectory and delivers at the rate envisaged within it.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. There has been good progress on bringing forward the Bold Forest Garden Village (previously known as the Bold Forest Garden Suburb). The Masterplan Framework was adopted in January 2026 following a consultation period in November 2025. Work is currently ongoing preparing an equalisation strategy to enable infrastructure to be delivered on the site. The Masterplan has been developed in line with Garden Village principles, with a focus upon high-quality design and landscape delivery; it is about ensuring a healthy, sustainable and connected life for all residents, future generations and the wider borough. The Masterplan aims to provide a mix of high-quality homes and supporting facilities and infrastructure that will form the makeup of a new, vibrant, connected, landscape-led residential community. There are three planning applications associated with this development:

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26			
			• P/2025/0556/OUP – Outline planning application for the erection of 212 dwellings with open space, landscaping and access. All matters reserved except for means of access – awaiting decision. • P/2025/0674/OUP – Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved other than access) for development for up to 220 dwellings, public open space and associated infrastructure works – awaiting decision. • P/2026/002/FUL – Erection of 1no dwelling – approved with conditions.			
LPA12 - Health and Wellbeing	See the indicators for Policies LPA03, LPA03.1, LPA04, LPA04.1, LPC05, LPD03 and LPD10	See the targets for Policies LPA03, LPA03.1, LPA04, LPA04.1, LPC05, LPD03 and LPD10	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. P/2023/0512/FUL - Land at Florida Farm South was granted on the 26.06.25. The healthcare contribution was £315,955. In addition to the targets set for the policies identified in this target, it can be reported that the Council has received and approved applications for the following facilities: ▪ 20 children’s homes; ▪ 1 young adult’s home; ▪ 1 short-term respite facility; ▪ 1 educational facility; ▪ 1 social care provision assessment centre; and ▪ 1 care home; <table><tr><td>Application</td><td>Proposal</td></tr></table>		Application	Proposal
Application	Proposal					

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
			P/2025/0121/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from dwelling (C3) to Childrens Home (C2) for 2no young persons.
			P/2025/0104/FP3	Change of use from C3 dwelling to C2 children's home for 2no children.
			P/2025/0099/FUL	Change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to (C2) for a short-term respite facility.
			P/2025/0162/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from C3 (residential) to C2 (children's home).
			P/2025/0215/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use for up to six young adults (16 to 30) with care needs (C3b).
			P/2025/0229/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from residential (Class C3) to children's home for up to 2no children (Class C2).
			P/2025/0239/FUL	Change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for care of up to 2no children.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
			P/2025/0327/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's care home for 1no child (C2).
			P/2025/0343/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home for 1no child (C2).
			P/2025/0347/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from residential dwelling (C3) to children's residential care provision for up to 2no children (C2).
			P/2025/0351/FUL	Change of use of existing offices at ground floor (Class E) and 2no residential flats at first floor level (Class C3) to assessment centre for families in connection with social care provision (Class C2).
			P/2025/0468/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from public worship/religious instruction (Class F1(f) use) to provision of education (Class F1(a) use) for primary and/or secondary age pupils.
			P/2025/0414/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use for 1no child/young person with care needs (Use Class C2).

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
			P/2025/0425/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for up to 2no children.
			P/2025/0486/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from residential (Class C3) to children's home for up to 1no child (Class C2).
			P/2025/0439/FUL	Change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to care home for 2no children (C2).
			P/2025/0513/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for up to 2no children.
			P/2025/0194/FUL	Hybrid planning application for mixed-use development comprising: (1) Full planning application for the realignment of Laffak Road and the erection of a retail store (Use Class E(a)) with vehicular access roads, car parking, servicing area, hard and soft landscaping, and associated infrastructure; and (2) Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for access) for a care home (Use Class C2), a drive-through restaurant (Use

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
				Class E(b) / Sui-Generis), a drive-through coffee shop (Class E(a) / Class E(b)), and a divisible commercial unit (Use Class E(a, b, c, and d)).
			P/2025/0554/FUL	Change of use from dwelling house (C3) into children's care home (C2).
			P/2025/0555/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for up to 2no children.
			P/2025/0642/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for up to 2no children.
			P/2025/0670/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from dwelling (C3) to children's home for care of 1no child (C2).
			P/2025/0683/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for a maximum of 2no children.
			P/2026/0010/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed change of use from dwellinghouse (C3) to children's home (C2) for a maximum of

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26	
				1no children living as a single household with care or support provided.
			P/2026/0041/CLP	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use of dwelling as children's home for care of 1 no child.
LPB01 - St Helens Town Centre and Central Spatial Area	Proportion of town centre premises that are vacant or in non-active use.	An increase in active town centre uses.	Target Met. There has been no further decline in the number of units in St Helens town centre this monitoring when compared to last year, when there was a decline due to the closure and demolition of the former Hardshaw Shopping Centre. The number of vacant units has also decreased, which is positive, and this is due to some of the businesses relocating into the Church Square Shopping Centre. This has taken the vacancy rate down and is part of a key strategy of the St Helens Town Centre Masterplan Development Framework. The table below shows the retail units monitored over various dates for St Helens town centre:	

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26																				
			<u>St Helens Town Centre Regeneration</u> The St Helens Town Centre Masterplan Development Framework was adopted by the Council's Cabinet in February 2022. Full planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area and outline planning permission for a development of a mix of uses, comprising hotel use (Use Class C1), residential units <table><tr><th>St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy</th><th>22/23</th><th>23/24</th><th>24/25</th><th>25/26</th></tr><tr><td>No. of Units</td><td>522</td><td>306¹</td><td>272</td><td>272</td></tr><tr><td>No. of Vacant Units</td><td>122</td><td>62</td><td>54</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Vacancy rate</td><td>23%</td><td>20%</td><td>19.85%</td><td>18.38%</td></tr></table> (Use Class C3), commercial, business and service uses (Use Class E(a-g)), local community & learning uses (Use Class F1(b-e) and F2(b)) and Sui Generis uses was granted in March 2023 (P/2022/0212/HYBR). A Reserved Matters application for Phase 1 of the development relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for an office (use class E(g)(i-ii) with ancillary use class E(b) floorspace), hotel (use class C1), residential use (use class C3);	St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	No. of Units	522	306 ¹	272	272	No. of Vacant Units	122	62	54	50	Vacancy rate	23%	20%	19.85%	18.38%
St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26																			
No. of Units	522	306 ¹	272	272																			
No. of Vacant Units	122	62	54	50																			
Vacancy rate	23%	20%	19.85%	18.38%																			

¹ There has been a change in the way in which the town centre retail units are now monitored, with only those units that fall within the Primary Shopping Area being monitored, hence the significant difference in the no. of units from March 2022 and December 2022.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			market (use classes E(a), E(b) & sui generis), retail/leisure floorspace (use classes E(a-f) and sui generis) (P/2023/0685/RES) was granted in September 2025. An application for Phase 2 (P/2025/0235/RES) Reserved Matters approval for access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale in relation to a multi-modal interchange with ancillary integral welfare facilities (Use Class Sui Generis); a travel centre (Use Class Sui Generis); commercial units (Use Classes E(a) and E(b)); and associated landscaping, parking, and servicing was granted in September 2025.
LPB02 - Earlestown Town Centre	Proportion of non-active commercial premises in town centre	A decline in the proportion of town centre commercial properties in non-active use.	Target Met. There has been no further decrease in the number of units within Earlestown town centre compared to the last monitoring period. There has been a decrease in the proportion of town centre vacant units within Earlestown town centre which is positive. The table below shows the retail units monitored over various dates for Earlestown Town Centre:

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26																				
			<table><tr><th>Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy</th><th>22/23</th><th>23/24</th><th>24/25</th><th>25/26</th></tr><tr><td>No. of Units</td><td>143</td><td>143</td><td>134</td><td>134</td></tr><tr><td>No. of Vacant Units</td><td>22</td><td>22</td><td>19</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Vacancy rate</td><td>15%</td><td>15%</td><td>14.18 %</td><td>12.69 %</td></tr></table> <u>Earlestown Town Centre Regeneration</u> A bid to Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund for Earlestown was successful securing £20m of Government investment (matched by £8m of Council investment) to deliver three key projects identified in the adopted Earlestown Town Centre Masterplan Development Framework. The three town centre projects relate to: - the revitalisation of the Market Square; - restoration of Earlestown Town Hall; and - improved rail station facilities, including the re-use of the original Grade II listed historic station building. The English Cities Fund (ECF) have been appointed as Development Managers and are overseeing delivery of the Market Square and Earlestown Town Hall elements together with	Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	No. of Units	143	143	134	134	No. of Vacant Units	22	22	19	17	Vacancy rate	15%	15%	14.18 %	12.69 %
Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26																			
No. of Units	143	143	134	134																			
No. of Vacant Units	22	22	19	17																			
Vacancy rate	15%	15%	14.18 %	12.69 %																			

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			associated public realm elements. The rail station improvements are being taken forward with strategic partners that include the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Merseytravel, Northern Rail and Network Rail.
LPC01 - Housing Mix	Percentage of dwellings designed to the “accessible and adaptable” standard, as set out in Part M4(2) and Part M4(3)(2)(a) of the Building Regulations or equivalent standard	At least 20% of new dwellings on sites of 25 or more new homes should be designed to meet Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations 2010.	Target Met. There have been 2 development proposals approved within this monitoring period that have met the criteria, i.e., for 25 units or more on a greenfield site. These are: P/2023/0512/FUL – Florida Farm South – Full planning application for the erection of 445 dwellinghouses with associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure P/2025/0124/RES – Lodge Lane, Haydock – reserved matters application following outline consent P/2022/0063/OUP seeking approval for layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for residential development of 122no dwellings. – The officer report on this application confirms <i>“In terms of accessible housing, the layout confirms that 100% of dwellings will meet M4(2) (accessible and adaptable) standards, and 6 dwellings (5%) will meet M4(3) (wheelchair user) standards. This satisfies Condition 19, which requires a minimum of 20% M4(2) and at least 5% M4(3)(2)(a) provision.”</i>
LPC02 - Affordable Housing Provision	Percentage of market housing developments of 10 or more homes granted planning permission that	All market housing developments of 10 or more homes to provide the necessary percentage of	Target Met. Two market housing developments of 10 or more homes were granted permission this monitoring period that met the criteria to

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26						
	provides affordable homes at the quantum required by the Policy.	affordable homes as set out in the Policy.	provide a necessary percentage of affordable homes set out in Policy LPC02. These were: <table><tr><th>Application</th><th>Proposal</th></tr><tr><td>P/2023/0512/FUL</td><td>Full planning application for the erection of 445 dwellinghouses with associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure.</td></tr><tr><td>P/2025/0124/RES</td><td>Reserved matters application following outline consent P/2022/0063/OUP seeking approval for layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for residential development of 122no dwellings.</td></tr></table> This will help increase the affordable housing stock in the Borough by around 256 affordable dwellings.	Application	Proposal	P/2023/0512/FUL	Full planning application for the erection of 445 dwellinghouses with associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure.	P/2025/0124/RES	Reserved matters application following outline consent P/2022/0063/OUP seeking approval for layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for residential development of 122no dwellings.
Application	Proposal								
P/2023/0512/FUL	Full planning application for the erection of 445 dwellinghouses with associated access, car parking, landscaping and infrastructure.								
P/2025/0124/RES	Reserved matters application following outline consent P/2022/0063/OUP seeking approval for layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for residential development of 122no dwellings.								
LPC03 - Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People	Maintenance of a supply of suitable sites to meet the requirement	Provision for 8 additional permanent pitches in the period to 2037 (GTAA minimum).	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. As the Local Plan has only been adopted relatively recently, no progress has been made on the provision of additional permanent pitches.						

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26															
LPC04 - Retail and Town Centres	Number of empty/Inactive town centre commercial properties.	A decrease in the number of vacant/inactive properties.	Target Met 2025-26 retail health have been carried out by the Town Centre Manager, and these statistics are the most up to date: <table><tr><td>Town Centre Retail Occupancy</td><td>22/23</td><td>23/24</td><td>24/25</td><td>25/26</td></tr><tr><td>No. of Vacant Units in St Helens Town Centre</td><td>75</td><td>62</td><td>54</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>No. of Vacant Units in Earlestown Town Centre</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>19</td><td>17</td></tr></table>	Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	No. of Vacant Units in St Helens Town Centre	75	62	54	50	No. of Vacant Units in Earlestown Town Centre	21	22	19	17
Town Centre Retail Occupancy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26														
No. of Vacant Units in St Helens Town Centre	75	62	54	50														
No. of Vacant Units in Earlestown Town Centre	21	22	19	17														
LPC05 - Open Space	Quantity and extent of new sport, open space, and recreational development.	Net increase in provision over the Plan period.	Target Met. Three new open space areas have been approved for development, providing a total gain of 43,100m². This mostly originates from the creation of new open spaces within approved housing developments such as amenity greenspace, play areas etc. When additional larger strategic housing allocations come forward, it is expected to increase further.															
LPC06 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Change in areas of land covered by local, national, or international policy protections for biodiversity, or areas provided for biodiversity	Net gains in areas of land specifically dedicated to and protected for biodiversity.	Target Met. The new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) rules have only relatively recently come into force and projects and planned developments that will yield a significant increase, such as Bold Forest Garden Village, are yet to come forward.															

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
	in mitigation through developments.		The sites below are consented developments within this monitoring period which are for and/or have included new areas specifically designated for biodiversity: • P/2025/0465/FUL - Land To The South Of Mill House Billinge Wigan - Erection of timber stables to provide 2no stables, hay store and tack room. • P/2024/0334/FUL - 19 Lords Fold Rainford St Helens WA11 8HP - Part-retrospective application for the installation of 97no self-storage units with associated landscaping, external lighting, parking and signage. • P/2024/0617/FUL - Ruskin Leisure Ruskin Drive Dentons Green St Helens WA10 6RP - Erection of 4no. padel tennis courts and a prefabricated kiosk/clubhouse. • P/2025/0238/FUL - Brown Edge Hotel, 299 - 301 Nutgrove Road • P/2024/0251/FUL - 526 - 528 Fleet Lane • P/2024/0478/FUL - Premier Lodge Travel Inn St Helens South Eurolink • P/2024/0276/OUP - Land Adjacent To 72 Victoria Road • P/2024/0191/FUL - Rainford Reservoir, Higher Lane • P/2024/0390/FUL - Christ Church Haydock United Reform Church, West End Road
LPC07 - Greenways	Amount of greenways	Net gains over Plan period.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Although there have been no net gains within this monitoring period to the existing greenways such as Newton Brook, Ravenhead, Sutton Brook, Mineral line, Rainford Linear Park and Parr Millennium Green, there has been no losses and it is anticipated that the number of greenways will significantly

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			increase as the Local Plan allocated housing sites come forward and start to be developed.
LPC08 - Ecological Network	Quantity and extent of additional land contributing to the ecological network as a result of Planning permissions granted.	Net gains since previous assessment.	Target Met. As for ecological networks, there has been extensive work across approximately 50ha of Bold Forest Park to improve habitats and increase the ecological connectivity of the area. Works include; heathland and mossland restoration at Bold North, new woodland at Royal Mail woodland and woodland management works at Griffin Wood. The key ecological networks for the Borough include the Sankey Valley Nature Improvement Area and Bold Forest Park.
LPC09 - Landscape Protection	Number of developments allowed on appeal that had been initially refused on landscape character grounds	No appeals lost.	Target Met. There have been no developments allowed on appeal that had been initially refused on landscape character grounds.
LPC10 - Trees and Woodland	Loss of trees and/or woodland as a result of development proposals	Justifiable losses replaced on a 2 for 1 ratio.	Data not available for this monitoring period. Due to the way in which data is gathered it has not been possible to collate the information necessary to measure this indicator. However, new data processes will be put in place to ensure that moving forward the way in which data is collated will capture the information required to monitor this target.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
	Total area of Ancient Woodland	No loss.	Target Met. There has been no loss of ancient woodland.
LPC11 - Historic Environment	Number of Heritage Assets on Historic England's 'At Risk' register. Number of heritage assets at risk on St. Helen's Local List of Heritage Assets (once established).	Reduction in the number of heritage assets on the Historic England's 'At Risk' register. Reduction in the number of heritage assets considered to be "at risk" on the local list of heritage assets once established.	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Within this monitoring period, there are currently 13 entries on Historic England's 'At Risk' register. These comprise of: 4 Buildings or Structures: ▪ Ruins of the Chapel of St Thomas of Canterbury in the Roman Catholic cemetery in Windlehurst ▪ Rainhill Hall Farmhouse, Rainhill ▪ Tank House beside canal at Crown Glass Works, Watson Street ▪ Cannington Shaw Bottle Shop, Site of Sherdley Works 4 Place of Worship: ▪ Church of Holy Trinity, Traverse Street ▪ Church of St Helen, Church Street ▪ Church of St Mary, North Street ▪ Church of St Peter, Broad Oak Road 3 Conservation Areas: ▪ George Street, St Helens ▪ Earlestown, Newton le Willows

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
			▪ Rainhill, Rainhill 2 Scheduled Monuments: ▪ Rainhill Hall Farm moated site and twelve fishponds in The Rough, Blundells Lane, Rainhill ▪ Old Moat House medieval moated house, Bold
LPC12 - Flood Risk	Number of planning applications granted permission for inappropriate development in Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3.	No planning applications granted permission for inappropriate development in Flood Zones 2 and 3.	Target Met. There have been no planning applications granted permission for inappropriate development in flood zones 2 and 3.
LPC13 - Renewable and Low Carbon Development	Number of proposals resulting in an unacceptable impact under paragraph 1 of policy not delivering agreed mitigation measures	No such planning applications granted without delivery of agreed mitigation	Target Met. There have been no planning applications granted without delivery of agreed mitigation measures.
	Proportion of new developments within strategic employment and housing sites ensuring at least 10% of their energy needs are met from renewable	All developments within strategic employment and housing sites, unless shown not to be practicable or viable	Target on course to be met within the Plan period. Planning applications granted outline consent prior to the adoption of the Local Plan were determined under the previous Development Plan (Core Strategy), and as a result do not comply with this policy. Therefore, any subsequent reserved matters application will also not comply with this policy; however, any

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
	and / or other low carbon energy sources, unless shown not to be practicable or viable		future planning applications that meet the criteria will need to adhere to this requirement.
LPC14 - Minerals	Number of proposals for non-mineral related uses permitted within the Mineral Safeguarding Area without demonstrating parts 2a) – i) of the policy	All proposals for non-mineral related uses within the Minerals Safeguarding Area have met the criteria set out in parts 2a) – i) of the policy	Target Met. There have been 52 proposals for non-mineral related uses permitted within the Mineral Safeguarding Area, all of which meet the correct criteria.
LPC15 - Waste	See Indicators within the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan	N/A	These matters are monitored separately in the AMR for the Joint Waste DPD – see chapter 6 of this AMR for further details of how to access this document.
LPD01 - Ensuring Quality Development in St Helens	Protection of the best and most versatile land from development (Grades 1, 2, and 3a)	No loss of the best and most versatile land unless justified by the benefits of the development.	Target Met. There have been ten planning applications granted permission on the best and most versatile land; however, these have mostly been for either single dwelling conversions, change of use, replacements or subdivisions of gardens, and none have resulted in any loss of agricultural land.
LPD02 - Design and	Number of applications approved contrary to policy	None – there should be 100% compliance with policy.	Target Met.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26																								
Layout of New Housing			There have been no planning applications approved contrary to Local Plan Policy LPD02.																								
	Number of new residential developments with incorporated recycle and waste storage	100% - development should comply with policy.	Target Met. All residential developments approved within this monitoring period have provided both recycle and waste storage facilities within the approved schemes.																								
LPD03 – Open Space and Residential Development	Amount of open space gained, and lost to other uses, measured both by number and type of facilities, and by amount of space of each type (with reference to the typology used in the Open Space Study).	Net gains in open space provision.	Target Met. A total of 43,100m ² open space has been gained within this monitoring period. This is broken down by each typology as set out in the Open Space study as follows: <table><tr><th>Type</th><th>Number</th><th>Amount (m2)</th></tr><tr><td>Parks and Gardens</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Natural and semi natural green space</td><td>1</td><td>8500</td></tr><tr><td>Green corridors</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Amenity Greenspace</td><td>1</td><td>4900</td></tr><tr><td>Young People and Children</td><td>0</td><td>5800</td></tr><tr><td>Outdoor sports facilities</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Allotments and Community Gardens</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	Type	Number	Amount (m2)	Parks and Gardens	0	0	Natural and semi natural green space	1	8500	Green corridors	0	0	Amenity Greenspace	1	4900	Young People and Children	0	5800	Outdoor sports facilities	0	0	Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0
Type	Number	Amount (m2)																									
Parks and Gardens	0	0																									
Natural and semi natural green space	1	8500																									
Green corridors	0	0																									
Amenity Greenspace	1	4900																									
Young People and Children	0	5800																									
Outdoor sports facilities	0	0																									
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0																									

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26		
			Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	0
			Other (type not specified)	1	23900
			No loss of open space means that the total net gain of open space for this monitoring period is 43,100 m².		
	Development resulting in a net loss of open space (contrary to policy)	No loss of open space.	Target Met. There has been no net loss of open space this year. Any loss was minor and was outweighed by the gains in open space provision from new developments.		
	Number of applications approved with contributions towards open space provision: ▪ on-site; ▪ off-site; and ▪ financial contributions collected for open space.	All new residential development of 40 or more dwellings to provide new open space, or the expansion or enhancement of existing open space provision.	Target Met. Two planning applications for 40 or more dwellings have been granted within this monitoring period. The planning applications provided the necessary open space on-site. No financial contributions have been collected towards open space this year.		
LPD04 - Householder Development	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on amenity grounds	No appeals lost.	Target Met. There have been no appeals lost for a development that was originally refused on amenity grounds.		

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on highway safety grounds	No appeals lost.	Target Met. There have been no appeals lost for developments that were originally refused on highway safety grounds.
LPD05 – Development in Green Belt.	Number of developments permitted in very special circumstances in accordance with national policy within the Green Belt	No development permitted except for that complying with very special circumstances in accordance with national policy.	Target Met. There have been no applications approved within the Green Belt within this monitoring period.
LPD06 – Development in Gateway Corridors	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on design grounds	No appeals lost.	Target Met. There have been no appeals lost on an application that was located within a gateway corridor.
LPD08 - Advertisements	Number of applications permitted that introduce visually obtrusive features or impact on the amenity of road users (including pedestrian and cycle traffic)	100% compliance with policy No applications permitted that introduce visually obtrusive features or impact on the amenity of road users (including	Target Met. Advertisement applications are assessed based on amenity (visual and residential) and highways impacts and any application which introduces visually obtrusive features or impact on the amenity of road users would be refused as there is very little in the planning balance to outweigh these issues.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2025/26
		pedestrian and cycle traffic)	During this monitoring period, one advertisement application that was initially refused on grounds of visual obtrusiveness was allowed on appeal: P/2024/0581/ADC & APP/2025/0003/ADVREF - Consent for internally illuminated advertisement display on communication hub. The inspector concluded that the proposed advertisement would not have a harmful effect on visual amenity.
LPD09 - Air Quality	All development in designated AQMAs should ensure consistency with the relevant Air Quality Action plan	Development proposals in designated AQMAs should not result in a worsening of air quality and where possible improve it.	Target Met. There have been no development proposals approved in any designated AQMAs.
LPD10 - Food and Drink	Number of hot food takeaways permitted contrary to criteria set out in policy	None – there should be 100% compliance with policy.	Target Met. There have been no hot food takeaways permitted during the monitoring period.

5. BOLD FOREST PARK AREA ACTION PLAN 2017: POLICY MONITORING

- 5.1 This chapter sets out current progress in delivering the policies of the Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (AAP) (adopted in July 2017). The AAP sets out (in Chapter 16) a Delivery Plan and Monitoring Framework which establishes the elements necessary to shape the Bold Forest Park and provide the necessary platform for its future development. The section below analyses progress against the indicators set out in that Framework during the period **1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026**.
- 5.2 Following the Covid-19 pandemic resourcing issues impacted on monitoring in this area, this has continued to affect our ability to collect data for some of the indicators and interrupted the scheduled data collection required for the Bold Forest Park Monitoring Framework. However, we have been provided with some recent statistics from The Mersey Forest which we are able to use to update some of the information within this section.

Indicator 1: Visitor numbers to the Bold Forest Park

Description of indicator	Target
Visitors to the Bold Forest Park a) Overall visitor numbers b) Numbers of visitors from Thatto Heath, Parr, Bold and Sutton wards	a) Upward trend on baseline b) Upward trend on baseline

- 5.3 The baseline estimated visits (2012) were calculated as follows:

Site	Total visits pa
Wheatacre	31,755
Sutton Manor	68,985
Clockface Country Park	43,691
Griffin Wood	21,079
Colliers Moss Common	16,863
Maypole	10,646
Brickfields	7,665
Total	200,683

- 5.4 The Council are working with Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) to acquire new visitor results as part of the Recreation Mitigation Study, which is currently on-going. Once this data has been collected and is available this indicator will be updated accordingly.

Indicator 2: Customer satisfaction rates

Description of indicator	Target
Customer Satisfaction Rates	Upward trend on baseline

- 5.5 Data for Indicator 2 is to be collected every three years and was due to be collected for the 2022 AMR period; however, it was not possible to undertake the survey due to the resourcing issues within not only the Council, but also externally, as no survey work has been undertaken. Therefore, there is no current data on customer satisfaction rates regarding the Bold Forest Park.

Indicator 3: Percentage of journeys made to Bold Forest Park by car

Description of indicator	Target
Percentage of journeys made to Bold Forest Park by car	Decrease on baseline

- 5.6 Baseline data, prepared before the AAP was adopted, suggests that most of the visitors to the Dream and the surrounding area were residents, and that the area is mainly used on a high frequency level by local people for walking and dog walking. The data suggested that 35% of visitors walked to the site and 56% drove from surrounding post code areas and just 8% drove from further afield.
- 5.7 The Mersey Forest have more recently provided some updated statistics on visits to the Bold Forest Park. There were on average 497,787 visits made by car and 619,385 visits made not by car, which gives an average of around 1,020,906 visits per annum.

Indicator 4: Environmental enhancements

Description of indicator	Target
Environmental enhancements in Bold Forest Park	
a) Percentage of tree cover in Bold Forest Park	a) Increase cover to 20% south of M62, 30% north of M62
b) Changes in Priority Habitats in the Forest Park	b) Minimum no net loss
c) Number of Lapwing	c) Monitoring of population trend

- 5.8 Trees within the Bold Forest Park have now matured and form an important green asset, providing, for example, the setting for the Dream landmark sculpture.
- 5.9 The 'St Helens Forest Plan 2017 to 2027', published by the Forestry Commission, summarises proposals for the management of several woodlands, of which those at: Sutton Manor (62ha); Wheatacre (22ha); Brickfield & Red Quarry (12ha); and Maypole (13ha) lie in Bold Forest Park. All these woodlands are managed by the Forestry Commission with the emphasis on creating a safe welcoming environment to be enjoyed by local families and visitors to the area.
- 5.10 The current progress in monitoring Indicator 4 is set out below.



Indicator element	Target	Frequency	Current Status						
Percentage of tree cover in Bold Forest Park	Increase cover to 20% south of M62, 30% north of M62.	Year 1	There has been the creation of a new 8.2ha woodland adjacent to Griffin Wood Restoration of ponds called The Royal Mail Woodland. This has also enabled the creation of grassland areas for butterflies, etc. The sites official opening was held early 2025. The site is registered with Woodland Carbon Code. BCA (consultancy) is currently designing the access link from Clockface to RM Woodland/Griffin Wood. Life for Life are also providing support to manage/create meadows on RM Woodland. Green hay from WWT Martin Mere used to enrich plant and invertebrate species at RM Woodlands and Griffin Wood Pond restored. Murphy Group donated a machine and staff to restore the ponds, which are now developing well. The Council intends to continue to work with its partners, Forestry England and The Mersey Forest to gain more detailed data.						
Changes in Priority Habitats in the Forest Park	Minimum no net loss	Year 3	In collaboration with The Mersey Forest, data for this target will be collected on a three-yearly basis. The most recent data we have is from 2025: <table><tr><th>Priority Habitat Types</th><th>Area (ha)</th></tr><tr><td>Deciduous Woodland</td><td>192.73</td></tr><tr><td>No main habitat but</td><td>20.18</td></tr></table>	Priority Habitat Types	Area (ha)	Deciduous Woodland	192.73	No main habitat but	20.18
Priority Habitat Types	Area (ha)								
Deciduous Woodland	192.73								
No main habitat but	20.18								



			additional habitats present	
			Good quality semi-improved grassland	13.08
			Lowland raised bog	4.69
			Lowland fens	1.53
			Traditional orchard	0.85
			Reedbeds	0.54
			Deciduous woodland, Lowland raised bog	0.20
			Total	233.78
Number of Lapwing	Monitoring of population trend	Year 3	In collaboration with The Mersey Forest, data for this target will be collected on a three-yearly basis. However, since the Covid-19 pandemic there have been resourcing issues which has meant that it has not been possible to measure this data as scheduled.	

Indicator 5: Protection of the historic environment

Description of indicator	Target
Protection of the Historic Environment in Bold Forest Park a) The number of Scheduled Monuments at risk in Bold Forest Park b) The number of listed buildings in Bold Forest Park	a) Zero b) No loss

5.11 The current progress in monitoring Indicator 5 is set out below:

Indicator	Target	Current Status
The number of Scheduled Monuments	Zero	Target not met - there are currently three Scheduled Monuments within the



at risk in Bold Forest Park		Bold Forest Park. Of these one is currently on Historic England's 'At Risk' list. Old Moat House Medieval Moat is in a generally unsatisfactory condition with major localised problems, with vehicle damage/erosion that appears to be extensive.
The number of listed buildings in Bold Forest Park	No loss	Target Met – in 2025/26, Bold Forest Park contained seven Listed Buildings, with no net losses.

Indicator 6: Developer contributions

Indicator description	Target
The number and amount of developer contributions to the infrastructure of the Forest Park	Increase on baseline

5.12 Indicator 6: Developer contributions - Target met.

Although the Council have not received any section 106 developer contributions within this monitoring period, there was a s106 agreement secured in May 2021 in relation to the land to the west of Omega South & south of the M62, Bold St Helens. It is anticipated that following the approval of allocated sites designated within the Local Plan, their subsequent build out will result in a positive impact on the wider Bold Forest Park Area.

5.13 The Mersey Forest have also secured £1,696,800 for Biodiversity Contribution and £180,000 for Bold Forest Park Infrastructure Contribution through Section 106 monies. The Bold Forest Park Omega 106 – Royal Mail Woodland also meets 90% of the S106 target for woodland creation.

5.14 The Local Plan states that any development on the allocated sites must be consistent with the vision, aims, objectives and policies of the Bold Forest Park AAP. The Council also has several requirements of any development on these sites as set out in Appendix 5 of the Local Plan. For example:

- Development on Site 4HA (Bold Forest Garden Suburb) must provide a well landscaped setting including extensive green links through and around the site, and tree planting to increase tree cover by 30% across the Bold Forest as a whole; and
- Development on Site 5HA (Land south of Gartons Lane) should integrate well into the Bold Forest Park setting and provide satisfactory pedestrian, bridleway, and cycleway access into the Forest Park. The developer will also be expected to fund the provision of a suitable access road to the car park area in the adjacent Bold Forest Park, as well as utility service connections.

Indicator 7: Increasing employment opportunities



Indicator description	Target
Increasing employment opportunities in Bold Forest Park a) Numbers of people employed in Bold Forest Park b) Percentage increase/decrease of VAT registered businesses in Bold Forest Park c) The number of development proposals resulting in employment floorspace generation	a) Upward trend from baseline b) Upward trend from baseline c) Upward trend from baseline

5.15 The Council has not obtained detailed information to monitor elements a) or b) of Indicator 7. However, following approval for Site 1EA - Omega West, a significant number of jobs have been created during the construction and operational phases of the development, thus significantly improving the local economy. Dedicated public transport service have also been introduced to support access to these significant employment opportunities.

5.16 The target in relation to element c) of this indicator has been met through completion of the Omega West development.

Indicator 8: Increasing accessibility in Bold Forest Park

Indicator description	Target
Increasing accessibility in Bold Forest Park a) Length of footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways b) Length of accessible footpaths (DDA compliant – in accordance with most up to date Department for Transport guidance)	a) Increase on baseline b) Increase on baseline

5.17 **Indicator 8: Increasing Accessibility in Bold Forest Park - Target Met.** No public rights of way have been improved in the Bold Forest Park area since 2017. Recent figures state that there are over 69km of paths within the BFP boundary. There have been several improvements on non-public rights of way paths and tracks on the Mersey Forest Colliers Moss site. Some improvements have also been carried out on Council owned land to the rear of Bold Business Park. A significant amount of improvement work had already been completed by 2017 (such as the mineral railway).

Indicator 9: Community engagement

Indicator description	Target
Community engagement	



a) Establishment of Bold Forest Park Community Network and numbers of members	a) Maintain active membership
b) Establishment of Bold Forest Park Community Action Plan	b) Establish Community Action Plan

5.17 Indicator 9: Community engagement – Target on course to be met within the plan period - Several community action groups exist in the Bold Forest Area including: The Friends of Griffin Wood; The Forest Park; and Shining Lights Heritage Group. Forestry England and The Mersey Forest also run community engagement programmes, which actively encourage local community participation. Whilst no formal Bold Forest Community Group or Action Plan has been developed to date, the Council hopes to address this matter in the near future.

Indicator 10: Addressing anti-social behaviour

Indicator description	Target
Incidence of anti-social behaviour in Bold Forest Park	Monitoring of trend

5.18 **Indicator 10: Addressing Anti-social Behaviour - Target Met.** The way in which incidents of crime are now reported has changed to how it was originally collated in previous years and reported in earlier AMRs. However, 932 incidents of crime were reported in the Bold and Lea Green ward area in the months from May 2024 to April 2025, most of these crimes occurred in the built-up urban areas within and surrounding the Park and this figure is lower than the previous year, which was 1271. This is based on data for individual crime incidents published via the www.police.uk open data portal, which has been linked by St Helens Borough Council (Local Insight) to selected neighbourhoods.

Indicator 11: Healthy living activities

Indicator description	Target
Number of Healthy Living Activities in Bold Forest Park (including participation levels in walking, cycling, horse riding and Green Gyms)	Increase on baseline

5.19 The data for Indicator 11 is to be collected every three years and was due to be collected for the 2022 AMR period. However, it was not possible to undertake the survey due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has continually affected the ability to collect data. Therefore, there is no current data on healthy living activities in the Bold Forest Park.



6 MERSEYSIDE AND HALTON JOINT WASTE LOCAL PLAN: POLICY MONITORING

Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan

- 6.1 Planning policy for waste management development in St Helens is contained in the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (WLP), adopted by the local authorities of Merseyside and Halton in July 2013. Upon adoption the WLP's policies and allocations became part of each authority's Local Plan. They form an important consideration in the determination of planning applications.
- 6.2 The WLP covers the period from 2013 to 2027 and must be regularly reviewed under relevant legislation. It contains 16 policies and 18 site allocations dealing with all aspects of waste management from waste prevention to energy from waste facilities. The WLP was prepared by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

Monitoring of the Waste Local Plan

- 6.3 To assess progress in implementing the WLP, an Implementation and Monitoring Report is prepared to cover the period from 1st April to 31st March each year. These documents are prepared by MEAS on behalf of the six Liverpool City Region councils. They also provide more recent contextual information especially where this relates to cross-boundary matters or progress with implementation of planning consents.
- 6.4 Unfortunately due to resource and capacity issues the implementation and monitoring report has not been updated, with the most recent Implementation and Monitoring Report for the WLP being the 2019/23 edition. That report and other documents relating to the Joint WLP, and its monitoring are available on the MEAS website at [Waste – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service \(merseysidebiobank.org.uk\)](http://merseysidebiobank.org.uk/Waste)
- 6.5 MEAS is currently undertaking a high-level review of the WLP. Formal updates to the WLP will be dependent on forthcoming Planning Reforms.



7. DUTY TO COOPERATE

Introduction

- 7.1 The 'Duty to Cooperate' used to require Local Planning Authorities and other prescribed bodies to cooperate on strategic matters to maximise the effectiveness of preparing development plan and other local development documents. It has since ceased to be a requirement; however, we will continue to work collaboratively with the relevant authorities.

The sub-regional context

- 7.2 St Helens, along with the local authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral, falls within the Liverpool City Region (LCR), with West Lancashire District Council as an associate member of the LCR. Whilst each of the LCR local authorities delivers their own Local Planning and other services, they have an extensive history of joint working. This was formalised in 2014 through the establishment of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (the LCRCA), which forms a joint entity with a range of functions covering employment and skills, culture and tourism, transport (delivered through Merseytravel, the integrated transport authority), economic development, and housing and strategic planning.
- 7.3 The Council has agreed statements of common ground with other authorities covering the Liverpool City Region² and Warrington³. Both these statements are available on request.
- 7.4 There are several officer working groups within the LCR including the Liverpool City Region Chief Planning Officers Group and its subgroups, with MEAS providing specialist support and advice to the City Region authorities on environmental planning, waste, minerals, contaminated land and ecology.
- 7.5 The Government has established a new £15.6 billion multi-year consolidated settlement fund called Transport for City Regions (TCR). TCR funding has been allocated to eligible Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSA) to support growth and decarbonise transport. TCR builds from the previously allocated multi-year settlement the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) fund. The Liverpool City Region has received £1.58 billion TCR to be allocated between 2025/26 to 2031/32 on transport priorities that align with the objectives of TCR. Following a sifting and prioritisation exercise led by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), the following schemes in St Helens have been allocated TCR funding subject to the completion of LCR Gateway Assurance Stages:
- 7.6
- The Sutton Oak Link – the repurposing of the disused but safeguarded railway line that runs between St Helens Central Railway Station and St Helens Junction Railway Station.

² Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground, October 2019. This document also covers West Lancashire.

³ Warrington Borough Council Statement of Common Ground, September 2021

- Town Centre Phase 2 – the delivery of the next phase of transport infrastructure improvements in and around the Town Centre building from the St Helens Multi-Modal Interchange (SHMMI) scheme currently in delivery (expected to complete by January 2027).
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) – the delivery of active travel improvements across the borough, including the delivery of the Jubits Lane/Chester Lane corridor improvement scheme.
- Carr Mill Railway Station – the delivery of a new railway station at Carr Mill.
- Metro Network Improvements – the delivery of improvements along the 10A bus service corridor between Liverpool and St Helens.

As an update to previously reported transport interventions, the Parkside Link Road scheme was completed, opening on 31st May 2025.

7.7 The LCR authorities have collaborated for several years on a wide range of joint projects. Examples of this include:

- LCR Brownfield Register (2021 - 2022);
- LCR Bus Service Improvement Plan (2022);
- Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground (2019);
- LCR Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2020);
- LCRCA Transport Plan (2019);
- LCR SHELMA Areas of Search Assessment (August 2019); and
- LCRCA Housing Statement 2019-24.

7.8 Due to its location on the edge of the Liverpool City Region, St Helens also has strategic cross boundary links with West Lancashire, Warrington and Wigan. St Helens Borough Council therefore co-operated extensively with these neighbouring authorities in preparing the St Helens Borough Local Plan.

7.9 Warrington Borough, immediately to the south and east of St Helens, although outside the Liverpool City Region, has very strong economic, housing and infrastructure links with St Helens.

Key activities under the ‘Duty to Cooperate’ in 2025/2026

7.10 St Helens Borough Council has worked jointly with neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations to deal with strategic issues that either extend across local authority boundaries or involve several different agencies. During the monitoring period it has (amongst others):

- Continued working closely with the LCR in contributing to the new Local Transport Plan.
- Worked with Warrington Borough Council on both its and St Helens Borough Council’s Local Plans, the Bold Forest Garden Village Masterplan and on several cross-border projects including Omega Park and Parkside, and Halton Borough Council on the active travel route to Widnes.

- Provided further detailed comments to the LCRCA on the Spatial Development Strategy and the associated evidence base.
- Continued working at length with the LCR, MEAS and Natural England on the Recreation Mitigation Strategy.
- Worked with Wigan Borough Council on its emerging Local Plan.

7.11 Further information about these activities, including outcomes of the cooperation which has taken place, is set out in the St Helens Borough Local Plan and its supporting documents, which are available on request.



8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AND ORDERS

8.1 The concept of neighbourhood planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. Neighbourhood planning provides a set of tools for local people and local businesses. Whilst it cannot be used by local communities simply to stop development from happening, it can be used to ensure that they get the right types of development in the right places. Neighbourhood planning can help communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape its future development and growth, provided that their approach aligns with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

Neighbourhood Plans

8.2 In summary, a Neighbourhood Plan is a document that can be prepared to set out planning policies for a specific neighbourhood area. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is finalised it is used with any adopted Local Plan to help decide whether planning applications should be approved. A Neighbourhood Plan is written by the local community rather than by the Local Planning authority. It can be a powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development in the right place and is an important document with real legal force; therefore, there are certain formal procedures that it must go through when being prepared.

8.3 A parish or town council (where one exists) is normally the responsible body for producing a neighbourhood plan. In areas where there is no parish or town council, a neighbourhood forum can be established for this purpose, which must consist of at least 21 individuals who live in, work in or represent the area.

Neighbourhood Development Orders

8.4 A Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) is a document which can be prepared to grant planning permission for specific types of development in a specific neighbourhood area. An NDO can:

- apply to a specific site, group of sites, or wider geographical area.
- grant planning permission for a certain type or types of development, and
- grant planning permission unconditionally or subject to conditions.

8.5 The preparation of an NDO is also subject to various legal procedures.

Current Neighbourhood Plans and Orders in St Helens

8.6 There are currently no neighbourhood plans or orders in the Borough; however, both Rainford and Windle Parish Councils have now successfully designated their parishes as Neighbourhood Areas.

8.7 Both applications were submitted by their respective Parish Councils (Rainford Parish Council and Windle Parish Council - as the relevant bodies) for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, and were approved by St Helens Borough Council on the 7th of December 2023. For further details please see the following link: [Neighbourhood planning - St Helens Borough Council](https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning).

APPENDIX A: DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMETABLE IN ST HELENS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, 2025 – 2028

Table 3.1: Overall Timetable for Development Plan Document Preparation

[illegible]