



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT**

**2023**

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# 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) outline what should be included within an AMR.
- 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. Within this monitoring period, St Helens Borough Council does not have any Neighbourhood Development Plans or Neighbourhood Development Orders in progress or made.
- 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 currently 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); and
  - identifies actions taken relating to the 'Duty to Cooperate' with neighbouring local authorities and other public bodies (Chapter 7).
- 1.6 This AMR covers the period **1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023**.

## Indicators and targets

- 1.7 The adopted St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (2022) contains a new monitoring framework 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.



- 1.8 Although the coronavirus (Covid19) pandemic has abated, there are still affects to many indicators and targets and can make them appear anomalous. Several factors could potentially cause this, some businesses within the Borough have struggled to re-establish themselves in the years since, potentially leading to more vacant units (both employment and retail); and new working patterns have affected the ways people shop and visit local attractions, etc..



## 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 2010);
- Biodiversity SPD (adopted June 2011);
- Design and Crime SPD (adopted October 2009);
- Design Guidance SPD (adopted September 2007);
- Ensuring a Choice of Travel SPD (adopted June 2010);
- Householder Development SPD (adopted June 2011);
- Hot Food Takeaway SPD (adopted June 2011);
- King Street Design Brief (adopted June 2011);
- List of Locally Important Buildings (adopted June 2011)
- Local Economy SPD (adopted November 2013);
- New Residential Development SPD (adopted June 2011);
- Residential Character Areas SPD (adopted June 2011);
- Shopfronts SPD (adopted June 2011);
- Telecommunications SPD (adopted June 2008);
- Trees and Development SPD (adopted June 2008);
- Eccleston Works Development Brief (adopted October 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, St Helens Borough Council will be preparing new and updated SPDs relevant to the new Local Plan policies and better aligned with current national planning policies.



### St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037

- 2.5 The St Helens Borough Local Plan up to 2037 (Local Plan) is the principal document that guides how decisions are made on planning applications within the Borough.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 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.
- 2.8 The Local Plan for St Helens Borough Council replaces the Core Strategy and remaining saved UDP policies. The Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Local Plan (July 2013) and the Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan (July 2017) remain in place.

### Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan 2017

- 2.9 The Bold Forest Park Area Action Plan is a statutory planning policy document, which 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. 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 (WLP) 2013**

- 2.10 This document contains 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.
- 2.11 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).

#### 2020 Local Development Scheme (LDS) timetable

- 3.2 As the Local Plan has now been adopted, there is currently no documents under preparation that require a new LDS. The latest LDS timetable is shown in Appendix A for reference. However, it is recognised that this latest edition is now out of date, and so will be reviewed and updated in due course.

#### Local Plan

- 3.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (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. Therefore, as the Local Plan was adopted July 2022, it is considered up to date with no current need for a review at this stage.

#### Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Early engagement has already been undertaken in terms of the SDS and it is expected further consultation will be undertaken later this year (2023-24).
- 3.6 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 2022 until 31 March 2023**.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>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 four sites previously listed on the 2022 Brownfield Land Register have now been successfully completed, providing a cumulative provision of 443<sup>1</sup> new homes on brownfield land, with a further five sites expected to be completed by the end of the year.</p> <p>In terms of new housing, the Local Plan contains six allocated strategic housing sites, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two are currently under construction (Sites 9HA and 10HA).</li> <li>▪ Two have had planning applications submitted (Sites 5HA and 6HA).</li> <li>▪ Whilst 409 homes built out of the total 433 homes completed this year have been built on previously developed land.</li> </ul> <p>In terms of employment development, the Local Plan contains four allocated strategic employment sites, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two have had planning permission granted and work has commenced on site.</li> <li>▪ Whilst the entirety of the 8,318 m<sup>2</sup> of employment land developed this year has been built on previously developed land.</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Construction of these dwellings has been achieved over several years, however, completion was reached within the monitoring framework period, thus explaining the variance in figures compared to the annual net homes completion figure, recorded below.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23										
LPA02 - Development Principles	All Local Plan indicators	Delivery of sustainable development.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>Since the adoption of the Local Plan in July 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There have been no planning applications approved on designated Green Belt land contrary to policy.</li> <li>▪ There have been no appeals or challenges against Local Plan policies to PINS that the Council has lost.</li> </ul>										
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	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>New employment land taken up this year:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;"> <th>Employment Type</th> <th>Hectares (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B2 General industrial</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B8 Storage and Distribution</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.6</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;"> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>8.28ha</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is just under 5% of the 173.24 ha total residual requirement for 2021-2037 stated in the Local Plan and is extremely encouraging so early in the Local Plan period.</p>	Employment Type	Hectares (ha)	E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial	3.1	B2 General industrial	3.58	B8 Storage and Distribution	1.6	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.28ha</b>
Employment Type	Hectares (ha)												
E(g) Office, Research and Development and Light Industrial	3.1												
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B8 Storage and Distribution	1.6												
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.28ha</b>												
	Total number of active businesses	Increase on previous years	<p><b>Target on course to be met.</b></p> <p>The latest data shows that there are currently 4,585 active businesses within the Borough as of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022<sup>2</sup>. However, the data collected from ONS is lagged due to the time in which it is collated and then released. Although specific figures have not yet been released, the ONS figure predicts an increase by 1025</p>										

<sup>2</sup> Source: ONS dataset *UK business: activity, size and location* were collected on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and released on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			new business registrations for the year 2022/23, which will be an increase of 800 on the year 2021/22 <sup>3</sup> .
LPA03.1 - Strategic Employment Sites	Number of Masterplans submitted	Every planning application for an allocated Strategic Employment Site should be accompanied by a masterplan.	<p><b>Target Met.</b> All planning applications received on strategic employment sites to date have been accompanied by a masterplan for the site.</p> <p>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.</p>
LPA04 - Meeting St Helens' Housing Needs	Distribution of new housing development across the Borough	Percentage of new homes built on allocated sites.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b> Whilst only 6.3% of the 430 new build homes completed this year were built on allocated sites, this was anticipated in the housing trajectory, as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Plan has only recently been adopted (July 2022), and as such many of the allocated housing sites are currently in the early stages of gaining consent for development. Only Site 10HA Moss Nook Urban Village has had homes completed within it</p>

<sup>3</sup> ONS Business Demography: Enterprise Births ( <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15186> )

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23																				
			<p>(further details are set out in Indicator for LPA04.1 - Strategic Housing Sites below).</p> <p>This number will significantly rise as planning applications for development on Local Plan allocations are submitted, approved and implemented.</p>																				
	<p>Net completions of new homes by house type and number of bedrooms, against annual and plan period targets</p>	<p>Annual net homes completions to be at least the residual number required for 2020-2037 of 486 homes per annum. within the Plan period</p>	<p><b>Target not met.</b></p> <p>There were 430 net dwelling completions for this monitoring period. However, the Housing Trajectory as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan forecast the completion of 433 dwellings for this period (2022/23) therefore, the number of annual net homes completions is still on track to be met within the Local Plan period. The housing mix of net completions has been difficult to monitor due to the number of amendments submitted to approved schemes. However, developers are encouraged to apply the housing mix as set out in Table 6.12 of Local Plan Policy LPC01, with the reality that for smaller sites the full housing mix would not be expected; however, a mix, in keeping with the surroundings, would be expected.</p> <p>Notwithstanding such, 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.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1144 1158 2063 1370"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1-bed</th> <th>2-bed</th> <th>3-bed</th> <th>4-bed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Market</td> <td>0</td> <td>52</td> <td>239</td> <td>258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low-cost home ownership</td> <td>0</td> <td>32</td> <td>66</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affordable housing (rented)</td> <td>0</td> <td>28</td> <td>26</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4-bed	Market	0	52	239	258	Low-cost home ownership	0	32	66	1	Affordable housing (rented)	0	28	26	14
	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4-bed																			
Market	0	52	239	258																			
Low-cost home ownership	0	32	66	1																			
Affordable housing (rented)	0	28	26	14																			

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
	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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>98% of the dwellings approved within this monitoring year meet the required density. The remaining 2% consisted of single dwelling replacements on existing plots, where other factors such as the existing building line, plot shape, planning constraints and Green Belt restrictions applied.</p>
	5 Year housing land supply	To have a 5 year + housing supply	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>As of March 2023, St Helens Borough Council has a housing supply of 7.3 years. This is a significant rise over previous years and reflects the new adopted Local Plan and its new housing allocations.</p>
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	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>The Housing Trajectory as set out in Table 4.10 of the Local Plan forecasts the completion of 22 new dwellings on allocated sites for this monitoring period. A total of 25 new dwellings were completed on Local Plan allocation 10HA (Moss Nook Urban Village).</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
LPA05 - Safeguarded Land	Number and extent of planning applications approved on land safeguarded for post-2037	Zero	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>No planning applications have been approved on safeguarded land for post-2037. This helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Local Plan.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
LPA06 - Transport and Travel	Number of developments approved resulting in significant transport impacts producing a transport assessment and travel plan agreed by the Council	Transport assessments/Transport Statement and Travel Plans submitted in all cases where these are required.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>Of the 90 developments approved within this monitoring period that could potentially result in significant transport impacts, a transport assessment was either submitted prior to approval or stipulated in a condition.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			<p>This shows positive progress in ensuring that new developments are sustainable and are better integrated within the existing transport network.</p>
	<p>Cycle and footpaths created (detailing how they have improved accessibility and reduced reliance on private transport)</p>	<p>Implement schemes and projects that will help to deliver sustainable economic growth (by reducing congestion and delays for businesses).</p>	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>Whilst there has been no new cycle and footpaths created within this monitoring period, St Helens Borough Council has been making substantial progress on starting to implement a network of quality walking and cycling infrastructure over recent years. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements to the greenway along the Sankey Valley &amp; Ravenhead Greenway have transformed often-impassable muddy tracks into quality public open spaces providing strategic connectivity across the borough and beyond</li> <li>▪ ‘Pop-up’ cycle lanes on Chester Lane and Clock Face Road were installed in 2020 and now carry an average of over 3,100 active trips every week</li> <li>▪ The St Helens Southern Gateway project has secured multimillion pound funding to deliver the Liverpool City Region’s first ‘Cycle Optimised Protected Signals’ (CYCLOPS) junction, along with a network of routes around an upgraded Lea Green rail station</li> <li>▪ Design concepts for further schemes on Jubits Lane and Elton Head Road were consulted on during Summer 2022 and, at the time of writing, a range of further links are under development across the borough.</li> </ul> <p>The soon to be adopted “<i>St Helens Borough Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan</i>” (LCWIP) sets out an ambitious 10-year plan for investment, prioritising a strategic network of</p>



POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			<p>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.</p> <p>Furthermore “<i>Our Borough Strategy 2021-2030</i>” highlights the Council’s aspiration to increase levels of walking and cycling across the borough, thereby improving health, boosting access to employment, and tackling the climate emergency. Successful delivery of the Council’s Local Plan, Highways Asset Management Strategy, Active Lives Strategy, Climate Response Plan and Town Centre Masterplan Development Frameworks, amongst other strategies, will all contribute to increasing the proportion of local trips taken by walking and cycling.</p>
	<p>Improvements to public transport infrastructure and services</p>	<p>All new sites allocated for development should have easy access to public transport.</p>	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>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 and 21% were built within 800m of a rail station (again as the crow flies). Thus, providing sustainable housing that integrates well into the existing urban settlements.</p> <p>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. For example, conditions included on planning approval P/2022/0480/FUL for 164 homes on land north of Elephant Lane, Thatto Heath, required improvements to public transport infrastructure that included:</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewal of the carriageway markings at Thatto Heath station.</li> <li>▪ Replacement of existing with a new shelter at Half end Elephant Lane; and</li> <li>▪ Renewal of carriageway markings at Lacey Street.</li> </ul>
	Number of electric vehicle charging points provided	Increase in Plan period.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Within this monitoring period approximately 310 EVC points have been approved for installation.</p>
	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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>No planning applications have been approved contrary to National Highways advice, enabling consistent national, regional, and local transport planning.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23				
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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b> Three community facilities (all Church buildings) have been lost through approval for new development or demolition within this monitoring period. However, only one building has not been replaced by an improved community facility and was submitted and determined against the requirements of Part 11, Class B (Demolition of Buildings) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as Amended), and not the policy requirements of the Local Plan, details as referenced in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1144 644 2072 778"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1144 644 1451 695">Application</th> <th data-bbox="1451 644 2072 695">Proposal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1144 695 1451 778">P/2021/0861/DEMPA</td> <td data-bbox="1451 695 2072 778">Prior approval for demolition of redundant church, presbytery and parish club.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application	Proposal	P/2021/0861/DEMPA	Prior approval for demolition of redundant church, presbytery and parish club.
Application	Proposal						
P/2021/0861/DEMPA	Prior approval for demolition of redundant church, presbytery and parish club.						
	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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b> There have been no planning applications amended on economic viability grounds within this monitoring period.</p> <p>It was not feasible nor desirable for one application (Ref: P/2022/0531/FUL, land at Somerset Street, St Helens) to provide open space within the proposed scheme, due to a number of factors, including the size of the proposal (40 semi-detached dwellings), its proximity to existing public open space and its provision of affordable housing in a zone where affordable housing might otherwise not be realised.</p>				

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>There has been an increase of 6,827m<sup>2</sup> of new areas of green infrastructure created through approved development. 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.</p>
	Number of new nature reserves created	Number of new nature reserves to rise in proportion to the increase in population arising from new development.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>Whilst no new nature reserves have been created this year, (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 Biodiversity Net Gain, which will potentially be used to fund management plans and applications for LNR status for certain sites.</p>
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.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The principle of an SFRI on this site has been accepted with the adoption of the Local Plan by Central government.</li> <li>▪ With the adoption of the Local Plan, the SFRI is now a target for delivery and the requisite land is now safeguarded.</li> </ul>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			<p>Work on the Parkside Link Road has now commenced and is on-track to complete by the end of 2023 and whilst initially for Parkside West this increase in road accessibility will strengthen Parkside East's business case.</p>
<p>LPA10 – Parkside West</p>	<p>Substantial progress towards site development, e.g., completion of a site masterplan; agreed timescale for implementation; planning application process; works commencing on site</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b> Despite being early in the Local Plan period, significant progress has been made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An illustrative masterplan for the whole site has been submitted and approved at outline stage.</li> <li>▪ Work on the Parkside Link Road has now commenced and is on-track to be completed by Spring 2025. The Link Road is a critical element of the overall Parkside development and will be pivotal in unlocking the site's full potential.</li> <li>▪ The approval of application P/2018/0249/FUL by the Secretary of State in November 2021 and the LCR Combined Authority securing £24 million funding for the Parkside Road scheme.</li> <li>▪ The Reserved Matters application for the first phase of Parkside West is expected to be submitted soon. Outline permission P/2018/0048/OUP was granted in May 2020 following a public enquiry.</li> <li>▪ The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) has confirmed that its successful bid submission to Government identified Parkside (St Helens) as one of three designated tax sites that will be included within the Freeport plan.</li> </ul>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
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.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>There has been good progress on bringing forward the Bold Forest Garden Village (previously known as the Bold Forest Garden Suburb). The Council have employed two permanent members of staff to facilitate its successful delivery, and specifically within this monitoring period work has begun on the preparation of the Bold Forest Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The next stage in this process will be a targeted screening and scoping consultation, which is anticipated later this year.</p>
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	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Care Homes; and</li> <li>• Two extensions to GP surgeries.</li> </ul> <p>No applications for new Health facilities have been submitted within this monitoring period.</p>
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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>There has been a decline in the number of vacant premises in St Helens Town Centre since March 2021. This increase in occupation could be down to the reduction in the number of units within the Town Centre overall, which is partially led by market trends and in anticipation of the town centre's redevelopment.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23																				
			<p>Retail in St Helens is consolidating into Church Square Shopping Centre from the Hardshaw Centre as a key strategy of the Town Centre Masterplan Development Framework. Church Square Shopping Centre has already welcomed new tenants with more on the horizon. The table below shows the retail units monitored over various dates for St Helens Town Centre</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;"> <th>St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy</th> <th>Jun 16</th> <th>Mar 21</th> <th>Mar 22</th> <th>Dec 22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">No. of Units</td> <td>443</td> <td>521</td> <td>522</td> <td>306<sup>4</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">No. of Vacant Units</td> <td>70</td> <td>125</td> <td>122</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Vacancy rate</td> <td>16%</td> <td>24%</td> <td>23%</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>St Helens Town Centre Regeneration</u> The English Cities Fund (ECF) have progressed design work to a detailed stage, which was presented to Members on 16th March 2023. The submission of a Reserved Matters Planning Application is scheduled for June 2023, with extensive public consultation to take place beforehand.</p>	St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy	Jun 16	Mar 21	Mar 22	Dec 22	No. of Units	443	521	522	306 <sup>4</sup>	No. of Vacant Units	70	125	122	62	Vacancy rate	16%	24%	23%	20%
St Helens Town Centre Retail Occupancy	Jun 16	Mar 21	Mar 22	Dec 22																			
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Vacancy rate	16%	24%	23%	20%																			
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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b> There has been a slight improvement in proportion of vacant premises in Earlestown Town Centre since March 2021. This</p>																				

<sup>4</sup> 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 2022/23																				
			<p>indicates a promising upturn in confidence in the area as this is despite an increase in the number of units.</p> <p>Several new and refurbished businesses have opened their doors across the borough, creating new jobs and contributing to economic growth. The table below shows the retail units monitored over various dates for Earlestown Town Centre</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1137 533 1928 826"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1137 533 1568 651">Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy</th> <th data-bbox="1568 533 1659 651">Jun 16</th> <th data-bbox="1659 533 1751 651">Mar 21</th> <th data-bbox="1751 533 1843 651">Mar 22</th> <th data-bbox="1843 533 1928 651">Dec 22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1137 651 1568 716">No. of Units</td> <td data-bbox="1568 651 1659 716">127</td> <td data-bbox="1659 651 1751 716">134</td> <td data-bbox="1751 651 1843 716">134</td> <td data-bbox="1843 651 1928 716">143</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1137 716 1568 772">No. of Vacant Units</td> <td data-bbox="1568 716 1659 772">15</td> <td data-bbox="1659 716 1751 772">23</td> <td data-bbox="1751 716 1843 772">21</td> <td data-bbox="1843 716 1928 772">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1137 772 1568 826">Vacancy rate</td> <td data-bbox="1568 772 1659 826">12%</td> <td data-bbox="1659 772 1751 826">17%</td> <td data-bbox="1751 772 1843 826">16%</td> <td data-bbox="1843 772 1928 826">15%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Earlestown Town Centre Regeneration</u></p> <p>A bid to the Levelling Up Fund for Earlestown was successful securing £20m of Government investment to deliver three key projects identified in the adopted Earlestown Town Centre Masterplan Development Framework.</p> <p>The three town centre projects relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the revitalisation of the Market Square;</li> <li>▪ restoration of Earlestown Town Hall; and</li> <li>▪ improved rail station facilities, including the re-use of the original Grade II listed historic station building.</li> </ul>	Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy	Jun 16	Mar 21	Mar 22	Dec 22	No. of Units	127	134	134	143	No. of Vacant Units	15	23	21	22	Vacancy rate	12%	17%	16%	15%
Earlestown Town Centre Retail Occupancy	Jun 16	Mar 21	Mar 22	Dec 22																			
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POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			<p>The ECF have been appointed as Development Managers to take forward the Market Square and Earlestown Town Hall elements together with associated public realm elements, with the outline designs making good progress. 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.</p> <p>An Engagement Plan relating to delivery of the Earlestown programme is being prepared by the ECF Partnership, with engagement sessions and events scheduled from May 2023.</p>
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.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>No development proposals approved within this monitoring period have met the criteria, i.e. where for 25 units or more on a greenfield site.</p> <p>It is anticipated that as and when the Local Plan allocated sites come forward then this provision will be met.</p>
LPC02 - Affordable Housing Provision	Percentage of market housing developments of 10 or more homes granted planning permission that provides affordable homes at the quantum required by the Policy.	All market housing developments of 10 or more homes to provide the necessary percentage of affordable homes as set out in the Policy.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>Market housing developments of 10 or more homes granted permission this monitoring period, have all provided the necessary percentage of affordable homes as set out in Policy LPC02. Meaning a total of 95 affordable dwellings were provided by this policy, or 29% of the total 323 dwellings granted planning permission this year.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23															
			This has helped increase the affordable and social rented housing stock in the Borough as well as ensuring a better tenure mix in new developments.															
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).	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>As the Local Plan has only recently been adopted, no progress has been made on the provision of additional permanent pitches.</p>															
LPC04 - Retail and Town Centres	Number of empty/Inactive town centre commercial properties.	A decrease in the number of vacant/inactive properties.	<p><b>Target Met</b></p> <p>It can be seen from the table below that, as of December 2022, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62 empty commercial properties in St Helens Town Centre. This is a decrease from the previous year; and</li> <li>• 22 empty commercial properties in Earlestown Town Centre. This is an increase from the previous year, however, is a decrease in the overall percentage as the no. of units in Earlestown has increased from the previous year.</li> </ul> <p>The table below compares both town centre number of vacant units.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1137 1070 2029 1366"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1137 1070 1608 1193">Town Centre Retail Occupancy</th> <th data-bbox="1608 1070 1711 1193">Jun 16</th> <th data-bbox="1711 1070 1814 1193">Mar 21</th> <th data-bbox="1814 1070 1917 1193">Mar 22</th> <th data-bbox="1917 1070 2029 1193">Dec 22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1137 1193 1608 1283">No. of Vacant Units in St Helens Town Centre</td> <td data-bbox="1608 1193 1711 1283">70</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1193 1814 1283">125</td> <td data-bbox="1814 1193 1917 1283">75</td> <td data-bbox="1917 1193 2029 1283">62</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1137 1283 1608 1366">No. of Vacant Units in Earlestown Town Centre</td> <td data-bbox="1608 1283 1711 1366">15</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1283 1814 1366">23</td> <td data-bbox="1814 1283 1917 1366">21</td> <td data-bbox="1917 1283 2029 1366">22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Town Centre Retail Occupancy	Jun 16	Mar 21	Mar 22	Dec 22	No. of Vacant Units in St Helens Town Centre	70	125	75	62	No. of Vacant Units in Earlestown Town Centre	15	23	21	22
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POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
LPC05 - Open Space	Quantity and extent of new sport, open space, and recreational development.	Net increase in provision over the Plan period.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>Five new open space areas have been approved for development, providing a total gain of 2,016m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>This mostly originates from the creation of new open spaces within approved housing developments and is expected to increase as and when the larger strategic housing allocations come forward.</p>
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 in mitigation through developments.	Net gains in areas of land specifically dedicated to and protected for biodiversity.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>Whilst there has been no specific land set aside for biodiversity this year, there are systemic reasons for this. The new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) rules are yet to 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.</p>
LPC07 - Greenways	Amount of greenways	Net gains over Plan period.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>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 increase as the Local Plan allocated housing sites come forward and start to be developed.</p>
LPC08 - Ecological Network	Quantity and extent of additional land contributing to the ecological network as a	Net gains since previous assessment.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>There has been only a small increase 0.68ha in the amount of land contributing to the ecological network this year.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
	result of Planning permissions granted.		<p>However, whilst we have secured significant BNG Section 106 developer contributions, the projects attached to these developer contributions are yet to be designed delivered and implemented. Once completed, they will contribute to the ecological network and mitigate loss of biodiversity. Currently, any BNG funding provided has been for mitigation as we cannot require any additional gain.</p> <p>The key ecological networks for the Borough include the Sankey Valley Nature Improvement Area and Bold Forest Park. Defining a wider network, identifying ecological networks in the area and opportunities to enhance them will come forward as part of the LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategies project.</p>
LPC09 - Landscape Protection	Number of developments allowed on appeal that had been initially refused on landscape character grounds	No appeals lost.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>There have been no developments allowed on appeal that had been initially refused on landscape character grounds. This demonstrates competent and knowledgeable use of the policy by Development Control Officers, whilst developers have accepted the argument for well thought out, designed landscaped areas.</p>
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.	<p><b>Data not available for this monitoring period.</b></p> <p>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 have been put in place to ensure that moving forward the way in which data is collated will capture the information required to monitor this target.</p>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
	Total area of Ancient Woodland	No loss.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>There has been no loss of ancient woodland. One planning application received within this monitoring period bordered an area of Ancient Woodland, however, there was no impact on existing trees.</p>
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.	<p><b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b></p> <p>Within this monitoring period, there are currently 12 entries on Historic England's 'At Risk' register. These comprise of:</p> <p><b>5 Listed Buildings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Church of St Helen</li> <li>○ Church of Holy Trinity</li> <li>○ Church of St. Mary</li> <li>○ Rainhill Hall Farmhouse</li> <li>○ Tank House Beside Canal at Crown Glass Works</li> </ul> <p><b>3 Conservation Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ George Street, St Helens</li> <li>○ Earlestown, Newton le Willows</li> <li>○ Rainhill Conservation area, Rainhill</li> </ul> <p><b>4 Scheduled Monuments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rainhill Hall Farm moated site and twelve fishponds in The Rough, Rainhill</li> <li>○ Ruins of the Chapel of St Thomas of Canterbury, Windlehurst Roman Catholic cemetery</li> <li>○ Old Moat House medieval moated house, Bold</li> <li>○ Cannington Shaw Bottle Shop, Site of Sherdley Works</li> </ul>

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
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.	<b>Target Met.</b> 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	<b>Target Met.</b> 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 and / or other low carbon energy sources, unless shown not to be practicable or viable	All developments within strategic employment and housing sites, unless shown not to be practicable or viable	<b>Target on course to be met within the Plan period.</b> 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 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	All proposals for non-mineral related uses within the Minerals Safeguarding Area have met the criteria set out	<b>Target Met.</b> There have been 28 proposals for non-mineral related uses permitted within the Mineral Safeguarding Area, all of which meet the correct criteria.

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23						
	without demonstrating parts 2a) – i) of the policy	in parts 2a) – i) of the policy							
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.	<b>Target Met.</b> There have been three planning applications granted permission on the best and most versatile land. However, these have all been for either single dwelling conversions, replacements, or subdivisions of gardens and none have resulted in any loss of agricultural land.						
LPD02 - Design and Layout of New Housing	Number of applications approved contrary to policy	None – there should be 100% compliance with policy.	<b>Target Met.</b> 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.	<b>Target Met.</b> 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	Net gains in open space provision.	<b>Target Met.</b> A total of 25,434m <sup>2</sup> 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 border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Amount (m2)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type	Number	Amount (m2)			
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POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23																								
	(with reference to the typology used in the Open Space Study).		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Parks and Gardens</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Natural and semi natural green space</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Green corridors</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Amenity Greenspace</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25,026</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Young People and Children</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">408</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Outdoor sports facilities</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Allotments and Community Gardens</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white;">Cemeteries and Churchyards</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table> <p>As there was a loss of 163m<sup>2</sup> of open space, the total net gain of open space for this monitoring period is 25,271m<sup>2</sup>.</p>	Parks and Gardens	0	0	Natural and semi natural green space	0	0	Green corridors	0	0	Amenity Greenspace	3	25,026	Young People and Children	1	408	Outdoor sports facilities	0	0	Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0	Cemeteries and Churchyards	0	0
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	Development resulting in a net loss of open space (contrary to policy)	No loss of open space.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>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.</p>																								
	Number of applications approved with contributions towards open space provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on-site;</li> <li>• off-site; and</li> <li>• financial contributions collected for open space</li> </ul>	All new residential development of 40 or more dwellings to provide new open space, or the expansion or enhancement of existing open space provision.	<p><b>Target Met.</b></p> <p>Only three planning applications for 40 or more dwellings have been granted within this monitoring period. All three planning applications provided the necessary open space on-site.</p> <p>No financial contributions have been collected towards open space this year.</p>																								



POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23						
LPD04 - Householder Development	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on amenity grounds	No appeals lost.	<b>Target Met.</b> There have been no appeals lost for developments which were originally refused on amenity grounds.						
	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on highway safety grounds	No appeals lost.	<b>Target Met.</b> There have been no appeals lost for developments which 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.	<p><b>Target Met.</b> There have been two applications approved within the Green Belt where very special circumstances had been demonstrated. These were:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Application</th> <th>Very Special Circumstances</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P/2022/0470/FUL</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting business diversification,</li> <li>Increasing the availability of EVC points, thereby supporting EVC ownership.</li> <li>Local business adapting to climate change.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/2022/0579/FUL</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low demand for offices/workshop to be converted to residential use due to poor quality broadband despite documented attempts to improve it.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application	Very Special Circumstances	P/2022/0470/FUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting business diversification,</li> <li>Increasing the availability of EVC points, thereby supporting EVC ownership.</li> <li>Local business adapting to climate change.</li> </ul>	P/2022/0579/FUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low demand for offices/workshop to be converted to residential use due to poor quality broadband despite documented attempts to improve it.</li> </ul>
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P/2022/0579/FUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low demand for offices/workshop to be converted to residential use due to poor quality broadband despite documented attempts to improve it.</li> </ul>								
LPD06 – Development in Gateway Corridors	Developments allowed on appeal which were refused on design grounds	No appeals lost.	<b>Target Met.</b> Although two applications were refused on design grounds and then later allowed on appeal within this monitoring period, neither application was located within a gateway corridor, and both were						

POLICY	INDICATOR	TARGET	PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN 2022/23
			determined under the previous Development Plan (Core Strategy).
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 pedestrian and cycle traffic)	<b>Target Met.</b> 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.
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.	<b>Target Met.</b> 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.	<b>Target Met.</b> There have been two hot food takeaways permitted, and none have been contrary to policy criteria as set out in Policy LPD10.

## 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 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 2022 until 31 March 2023**.
- 5.2 The Covid-19 pandemic 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. Therefore, some of the data has still not been updated for this year's report.

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,683*</b>

- 5.4 The Council are working with 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 Covid-19 pandemic. 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 As with Indicators 1 & 2, data for Indicator 3 is to be collected on a three yearly basis 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. Therefore, there is no current data on number of car journeys to the Bold Forest Park.

**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	This has been a difficult target to measure. Whilst there have been several tree planting schemes in and around the Bold Forest area since the AAP's adoption, these have not been quantified. The woodlands in the Bold Forest Park are all very young and have only just become fully established. No major felling operations are planned but some stands will be thinned out. The Council intends 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. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it has not been possible to measure this data as scheduled.
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, due to the Covid-19 pandemic 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) Zero



a) The number of Scheduled Monuments at risk in Bold Forest Park b) The number of listed buildings in Bold Forest Park	b) No loss
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5.11 The current progress in monitoring Indicator 5 is set out below:

Indicator	Target	Current Status
The number of Scheduled Monuments at risk in Bold Forest Park	Zero	<b>Target not met</b> - there are currently three Scheduled Monuments within the Bold Forest Park. Of these one is currently on Historic England's 'At Risk' list. Old Moat House Medieval Moat, Bold, 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	<b>Target Met.</b> – in 2022/23, 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.** Whilst the Council has received no Section 106 developer contributions within this monitoring period, 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 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

5.14 The Council has not obtained detailed information to monitor elements a) or b) of indicator 7. However, following approval for Site 1EA – Omega West, by the Secretary of State, it is expected that a significant number of jobs will be created during the construction and operational phases of the development, thus significantly improving the local economy.

5.15 The Council will work in partnership with the developer and its contractors to provide help and support that will enable local people to access the thousands of jobs and training opportunities that this development would offer, both during the construction and operational phases. The Council’s Ways to Work team will provide bespoke support including, running local ‘Access to Jobs’ events, help with application forms, training, and matching people to the available jobs on the site. The target in relation to element c) of this indicator has therefore not currently been met. However, because of site developments currently taking place (i.e., construction of Omega West Unit 1 distribution centre) it is anticipated that this target will be met in future AMR reporting periods.

**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





5.16 **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. However, 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 b) Establishment of Bold Forest Park Community Action Plan	a) Maintain active membership  b) Establish Community Action Plan

5.17 **Indicator 9: Community engagement – Not Met.** 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, 907 incidents of crime were reported in the Bold and Lea Green ward area in the months from June 2022 to May 2023, most of these crimes occurred in the built-up urban areas within and surrounding the Park and is lower than the previous year. This is based on data for individual crime incidents published via the [www.police.uk](http://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. 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 (WLP)

- 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 the Covid19 pandemic, the Implementation and Monitoring report has not been updated, with the most recent Implementation and Monitoring Report for the WLP being the 2018/19 edition, published in July 2020. 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)
- 6.5 MEAS is currently undertaking a review of the WLP, along with monitoring of the WLP as part of the ongoing WLP Review.



## 7. DUTY TO COOPERATE

### Introduction

7.1 The 'Duty to Cooperate' became a legal requirement under the Localism Act, which came into force in November 2011. It requires 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. Advice about the duty is set out in the NPPF and PPG. National regulations also require the AMR to include details of any activities undertaken in relation to the Duty to Cooperate.

### 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 Region<sup>5</sup> and Warrington<sup>6</sup>. 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 Under the LCR Strategic Investment Fund Framework and using Towns Deal funding and the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, the LCRCA and central government have agreed to co-invest in jointly agreed priorities across the City Region. Those which have or are likely to benefit St Helens include:

- The Parkside Link Road which is currently being delivered to provide better access to the M6 from a designated Employment Allocation.
- Funding for a new Green Bus Corridor between St Helens and Liverpool city centre and a new multimodal interchange in St Helens town centre as part of the regeneration scheme.
- Active Travel infrastructure, with concept and detailed designs now being developed for three active travel routes, including Sutton, Lea Green and Rainhill, and Haydock.

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<sup>5</sup> Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground, October 2019. This document also covers West Lancashire.

<sup>6</sup> Warrington Borough Council Statement of Common Ground, September 2021

- The Council is now seeking funding from Liverpool City Region for a railway station at Carr Mill after a Council commissioned report found a 4:1 cost benefit ratio.

7.6 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 (LCWIP);
- LCRCA Transport Plan (2019);
- LCR SHELMA Areas of Search Assessment (August 2019) and
- LCRCA Housing Statement 2019-24.

7.7 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 has therefore cooperated extensively with these neighbouring authorities in preparing the St Helens Borough Local Plan.

7.8 Warrington Borough, immediately to the south and east of St Helens, although outside the LCR, has very strong economic, housing and infrastructure links with St Helens. Over the past year, St Helens and Warrington have been working closely on the potential expansion of Omega, which is a large employment location on the boundary of both Boroughs.

#### **Key activities under the 'Duty to Cooperate' in 2022/2023**

7.9 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 establishment of Transport for the North and its emerging strategies.
- Worked with Warrington Borough Council on both its and St Helens Borough Council's Local Plans on several cross-border projects including Omega Park and Parkside, and Halton Borough Council on the active travel route to Widnes.
- Provided comments on Greater Manchester Combined Authority's spatial plan "Places for Everyone".
- 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.

7.10 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.



**APPENDIX A: DEVELOPMENT PLAN TIMETABLE IN ST HELENS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, 2020**

Local Plan Stage	September									
	October									
Preparation of Plan prior to submission	November									
	December									
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	January									
	February									
Examination in Public (H = hearing sessions)	March									
	April									
Inspectors Report	May									
	June									
Adoption	July									
	August									
	September									
	October									
	November									
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