



Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

HALEWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

Health Impact Assessment



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Health Impact Assessment

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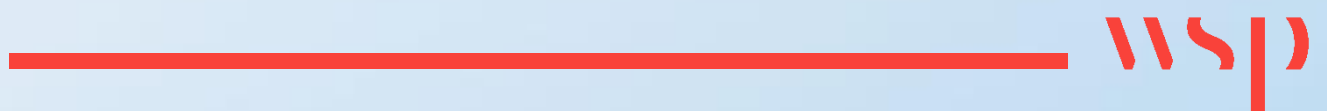
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1

INTRODUCTION



1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. This Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared by WSP in support of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council's (KMBC) application to enhance the existing Halewood Leisure Centre.
- 1.1.2. The proposal for investment in Halewood Leisure Centre is the direct result of KMBC's successful bid for Levelling Up Funding (LUF) to enhance recreational, leisure and sustainable transport facilities in and around the Halewood Local Centre.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

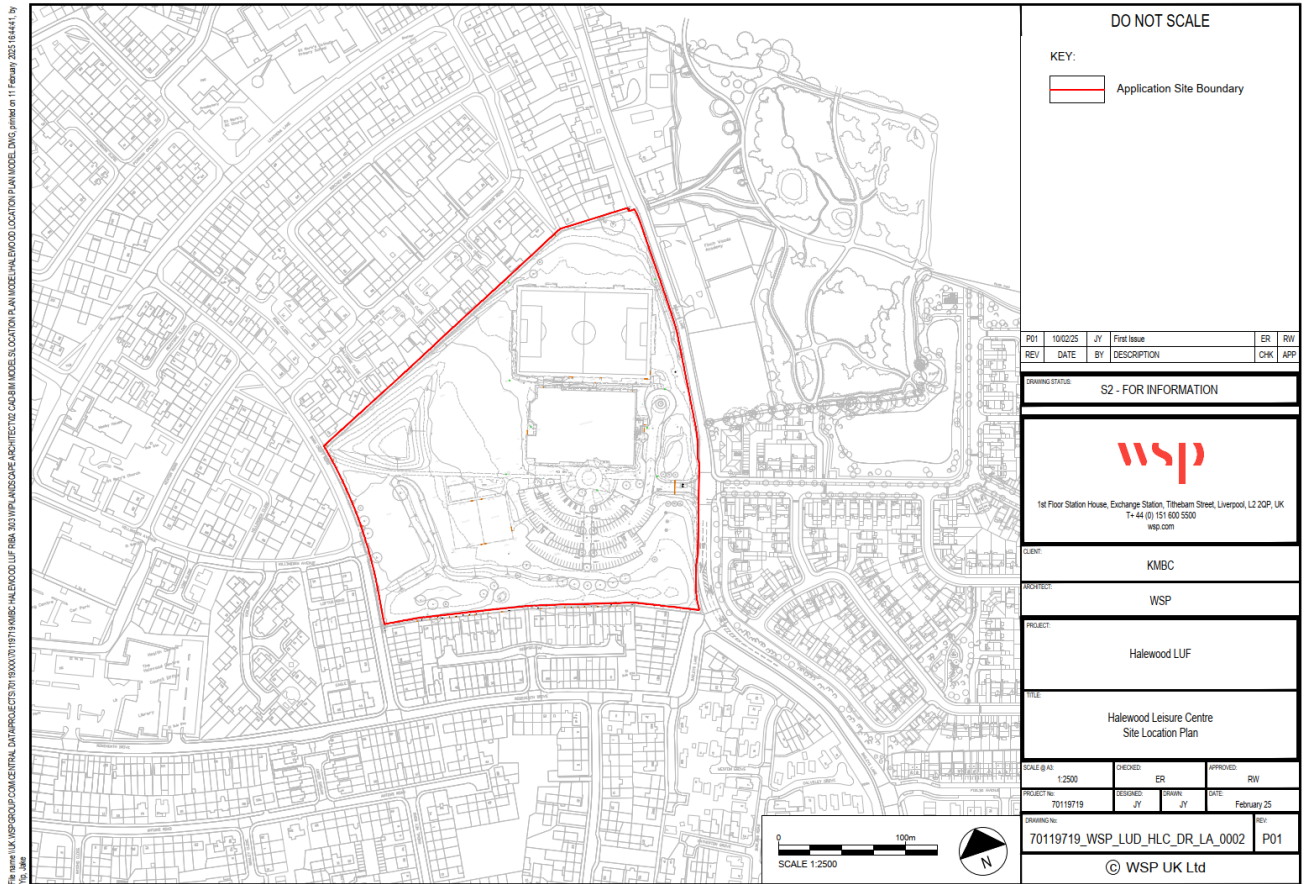
EXISTING USES ON SITE

- 1.2.1. Halewood Leisure Centre (the Site) is a community leisure centre owned by KBMC and is located on Bailey's Lane in Halewood in Knowsley. The Site is approximately 6.5Ha and comprises a number of functions and activities including:
 - A full-size football pitch used by Halewood Apollo FC; an adult football team based at the Site;
 - Swimming pool;
 - Gym;
 - Activity studio;
 - Group exercise classes; and
 - Sports hall
- 1.2.2. Immediately surrounding the Site are residential properties alongside the north, west and southern sides of the Site. On the eastern side, the Site is adjacent to a primary school and up to 1,500 new homes that currently being built out as part of the East of Halewood development proposals.
- 1.2.3. The Site is easily accessed from the local road network, with Bailey's Lane directly abutting the Site to the east. The Site also provides pedestrian access from Barn Croft Road.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2.4. The application for this Proposed Development is for a full planning application for external works and improvements to Halewood Leisure Centre. The description of development is:
- 1.2.5. *"Full planning permission for external landscape and public realm works to the existing Halewood Leisure Centre, including shared use pedestrian/cycle route, reconfiguration and improvement to existing car/coach parking, floodlighting/general lighting, CCTV, sustainable drainage works, the creation of 3 mini pitches and further circulation routes in addition to the shared route."*
- 1.2.6. The redline boundary for the Proposed Development is shown in Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 – Red Line Boundary for Proposed Development



Source: WSP (2025)

1.2.7. The Proposed Development comprises:

- The introduction of future sports facilities, inclusive of three Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA), to the west of the leisure centre;
- Reconfiguration and improvements to the on-site car parking facilities;
- Installation of floodlights to mini MUGA;
- Installation of CCTV and general lighting;
- Additional buffer planting throughout the Site, as well as natural biodiverse areas and meadow landforms throughout the Leisure Centre site;
- A shared-use pedestrian and cycle route, accentuated by an avenue of trees as well as new cycle storage space and a 'learn to cycle loop' to encourage active travel usage throughout the Site and the wider Halewood area;
- Potential future provision of a temporary pop-up area to the south of the existing leisure centre Site for village market days;
- Improvements to the existing coach drop-off area to the east of the Site, allowing direct access to the site which can be used by community and educational groups when visiting the Site; and
- Separate areas of SuDS have been identified to improve the Site's existing drainage.

- 1.2.8. It should be noted that the Leisure Centre is also in the process of undertaking a decarbonisation programme in order to reduce the running costs and make it more sustainable. A separate planning application for the decarbonisation and internal works to the leisure centre is submitted independently of the proposals set out in this application.
- 1.2.9. The figure below provides an indication illustration of the masterplan for the Site.

Figure 1-2 – Masterplan for the Proposed Development



Source: WSP (2025)

1.3 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PROPOSED FEATURES OF HALEWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

1.3.1. Table 1-1 provides a high-level summary of the existing conditions and proposed features of Halewood Leisure Centre.

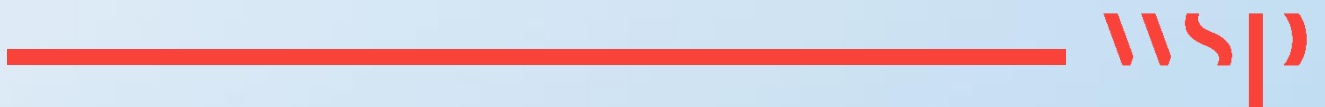
Table 1-1 – Existing conditions and proposed features of Halewood Leisure Centre

Feature	Status	Details
Astroturf (basketball court, football pitch etc.)	Removed	Condition of amenity currently very poor
Tarmac and soft surface	Removed	Dated and underused
Full sized all weather football pitch	Improved	General improvements including new access turnstiles and CCTV – it is noted that this is being carried out as part of a separate planning application.
Five-a-side pitches x 3	Added	Brand new pitches to the west of the leisure centre building
Sheffield bike stands x 6	Improved, increased	Numbers will increase and stands will be added to various locations on site
Car park	Improved, increased	Layout reconfigured, more standard bays, addition of 12 accessible bays and four EV charging bays
Shared use route	Formalised, improved	Repaved, wayfinding, formal crossing points
Learn to Cycle loop	Added	New facility for children to learn to cycle, formal crossing points to shared use and car park. Trim trail added along cycle loop.

Source: WSP (2024)

2

SCOPE OF THIS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT



2 SCOPE OF THIS HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.1.1. The aim of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is to describe the potential consequences, both positive and negative, for health and well-being resulting from the construction and operation of a Proposed Development. It involves a multidisciplinary approach combining qualitative and quantitative evidence from a range of technical experts.
- 2.1.2. There is no single definition of HIA, but a common description used is from the World Health Organization Gothenburg Consensus Paper (1999)¹ as:
- “a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of these effects within the population.”*
- 2.1.3. The purpose of this HIA is to examine potential health impacts that the Proposed Development may have on the local area. A range of social, environmental, and economic factors are considered to understand the context of the local area and the health profile of its current and future residents.
- 2.1.4. A HIA is a tool that assesses the likely impact on public health by planned developments. This includes planning frameworks and masterplans for large areas, regeneration and estates renewal programmes and outline and detailed planning applications.
- 2.1.5. The report will also look at how the Proposed Development corresponds to Knowsley’s health objectives within the Adopted Local Plan and various other high-level strategies such as Knowsley 2030, Knowsley’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the All Together Fairer report for Cheshire and Merseyside.

2.2 KMBC APPROACH TO HIA

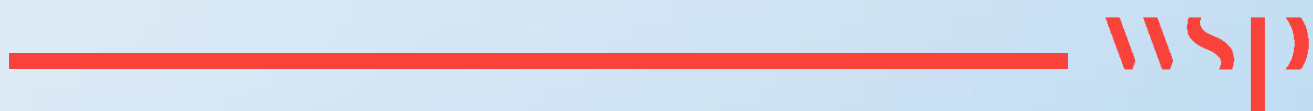
- 2.2.1. A meeting was held with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council’s (KMBC) in preparation for this HIA.
- 2.2.2. This HIA has been undertaken in accordance with KMBC guidance and approach to HIA, including use of KMBC’s HIA template². KMBC’s HIA template frames the Knowsley context, so as to help ensure that development proposals reflect Knowsley Council’s overarching priorities and consider relevant concerns, as well as ensure that development in the Borough can support economic goals and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2.2.3. The HIA template, in Chapter 6 of this report, provides an assessment matrix based on the 5 Knowsley 2030 themes. These are:
- A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres;
 - A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business;
 - A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need;
 - A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential; and
 - A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future.

¹ Health impact assessment: main concepts and suggested approach. Gothenburg consensus paper. Brussels, European Centre for Health Policy, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 1999.

² Knowsley Council, [Health Impact Assessment - explanation](#)

3

POLICY CONTEXT



3 POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 NPPF

National Planning Policy Framework, 2023

- 3.1.1. The current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that: *“The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”*³.
- 3.1.2. To achieve this, the planning system should be aligned with the United Nations’ 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection⁴. As such, the HIA represents a means of testing whether a Proposed Development has been designed in a way that is aligned with the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.1.3. The NPPF also states that: *“planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places”* and *“enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs”*⁵.
- 3.1.4. Chapter 8 goes on to outline how planning policies should provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to meet the community’s needs⁶.

3.2 PPG

Planning Practice Guidance, Healthy and Safe Communities, 2022

- 3.2.1. Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) sets out the steps councils should take in order to comply with national policy. PPG specifically outlines how planning can contribute to creating healthier communities.
- 3.2.2. The PPG defines a healthy place as *“one which supports and promotes healthy behaviours and environments and a reduction in health inequalities for people of all ages”*⁷.

3.3 LOCAL PLAN

KNOWSLEY CORE STRATEGY, 2016

- 3.3.1. The Knowsley Core Strategy was adopted in 2016 and steers development proposals in Knowsley until 2028. The Local Plan allocates the Site as a major sporting use and locates it within the centre of a substantial allocation of Primarily Residential area land.
- 3.3.2. Strategic Objective 3 of the Core Strategy seeks to regenerate and transform areas of social and economic deprivation, so they become sustainable, safer, healthier and more cohesive communities.
- 3.3.3. Strategy Objective 6 highlights the need for new developments to encourage a reduction in the overall need to travel, and prioritise sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

³ NPPF, Paragraph 7.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ NPPF, Paragraph 96.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ PPG (Healthy and safe communities), Ref ID 53-003.

- 3.3.4. Strategic Objective 9 seeks to promote health and wellbeing in Knowsley through the provision of healthy lifestyle options for those who live and work in the Borough.
- 3.3.5. Policy CS1 outlines the development principles that new development proposals in Knowsley will be expected to adhere to and follow. The principles support development that provides opportunities for positive lifestyles and healthier choices for people of all ages.
- 3.3.6. Policy CS8 of the Knowsley Core Strategy recognises the value of the Borough's Green Infrastructure, stating that the Council will support developments that maintain or make efforts to enhance Knowsley's existing Green Infrastructure assets. To achieve this, planning decisions will be supportive of proposals which improve the quality and quantity of the local provision of open spaces, including outdoor sports provision. Proposals which improve the accessibility of open spaces offering leisure and recreation facilities to communities as well as strive to improve green paths and cycleways linking residential areas and leisure facilities will be strongly supported by the Council.

3.4 KNOWSLEY 2030

- 3.4.1. Knowsley Council has set out its strategic vision for how the Borough will look in 2030. This is represented by five key objectives⁸:
 - 1. A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres;
 - 2. A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business;
 - 3. A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need;
 - 4. A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential; and
 - 5. A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future.
- 3.4.2. These objectives will be delivered by the Council and wider partners working in the Better Together Partnership. The delivery of new developments are key to this vision and must be completed in such a way that promotes good health and wellbeing by improving the wider determinants for both existing and new residents of Knowsley.
- 3.4.3. The Better Together Partnership is made up of Knowsley Council, Knowsley Clinical Commissioning Group, LIVV Housing, One Knowsley Chamber of Commerce, Knowsley Community College, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Liverpool City region Combined Authority.
- 3.4.4. Exploring the objective "A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need", the Knowsley 2030 strategy recognises that whilst life expectancy has improved in Knowsley, the Borough remains behind the national average and there are still a range of health inequalities between communities⁹.
- 3.4.5. To combat this, the strategy aims to ensure people can access personalised healthy and social care services to match their individual needs, with the most vulnerable residents being well-supported. It also states particular emphasis on making Knowsley an active place which enables people to live happier, healthier lives.

⁸ Knowsley 2030 Strategy, p. 1.

⁹ Knowsley 2030 Strategy, p. 7.

- 3.4.6. This latter point would be achieved by increasing the high-quality amenities, including green spaces, in order to provide opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy being active and underpin improvements to positive mental wellbeing¹⁰.
- 3.4.7. Knowsley have also set out a Green Space Strategy to consider how best to utilise attractive and accessible green spaces to help people remain healthy. This is consolidated in the Green Space Action Plan 2024-2030, which will be referenced later in this policy review.

3.5 KNOWSLEY JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

- 3.5.1. The Knowsley Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 has been developed as a vision to improve health and wellbeing across Knowsley, building upon the previous Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy from 2016-2020.
- 3.5.2. It considers that the health and social care system has faced profound challenges from reductions in public sector funding, and also states that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic worsened existing health inequalities, particularly for Knowsley residents¹¹.
- 3.5.3. The Strategy has been developed and will be delivered in line with the Knowsley Better Together principles, encouraging collaboration between the Council, residents and businesses across Knowsley in order to achieve a shared vision, and aims to provide a comprehensive needs assessment¹². It also works alongside the Knowsley 2030 Strategy.
- 3.5.4. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out two priorities:
1. Reduce health inequalities; and
- 3.5.5. Mental health, wellbeing and social isolation¹³.
- 3.5.6. Priority one (to reduce health inequalities) references the findings of the Marmot Review 10 Years On which reported that health is getting worse for people living in more deprived areas of England. Knowsley is reported as the second most deprived borough in the country, and therefore is acutely affected by health inequalities¹⁴.
- 3.5.7. In Knowsley:
- Life expectancy is lower for both males and females;
 - Inequality in life expectancy at birth is much higher for males and females; and
 - Healthy life expectancy has risen at a lower rate, so more years are spent in ill-health¹⁵.
- 3.5.8. The Strategy proposes to address health inequalities through using the Marmot inequalities framework, promoting the importance of prevention to improving health and wellbeing, and focusing on levelling up¹⁶.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, p. 2.

¹² Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, p. 6.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, p. 22.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

- 3.5.9. Priority two (mental health, wellbeing and social isolation) is identified as a key concern during the engagement which informed the evidence base for the Knowsley 2030 Strategy. Adults in Knowsley are more likely to suffer from or experience mental health issues and generally have lower levels of wellbeing, with both depression and anxiety becoming prominent issues in Knowsley. Social isolation can have a detrimental effect on a person's mental and physical health and was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁷.
- 3.5.10. The Strategy proposes to address mental health and wellbeing through non-clinical services and activities to tackle loneliness, social isolation and re-integrate individuals into society. This would include use of technology by the community and voluntary sector to promote more 'virtual' social interactions in the community.

3.6 ALL TOGETHER FAIRER REPORT

- 3.6.1. The Institute of Health Equity (IHE) was commissioned in 2021 by the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (HCP) to support work to reduce health inequalities through taking action on social determinants of health¹⁸.
- 3.6.2. The report sets out inequalities in health and social determinants of health in Cheshire and Merseyside and assesses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on these. It also includes recommendations for new and existing actions to improve the inequalities and develop a *"healthier and more equitable region"*¹⁹.
- 3.6.3. Referencing findings from the Health Equity in England: Marmot Review 10 Years On, the report states that within local authorities in the region, there is a life expectancy gap of more than 10 years between the least and the most deprived deciles²⁰.
- 3.6.4. In Knowsley, in 2018-20 the life expectancy at birth for women was 79.8 years, which is 3.3 years below the England average. For men it was 76.3 years, 3.1 years below the England average. The life expectancy discrepancy between most and least deprived deciles is demonstrated in the following chart, culminating in a 10.9-year gap for women and 12.4-year gap for men²¹.

¹⁷ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, p. 24.

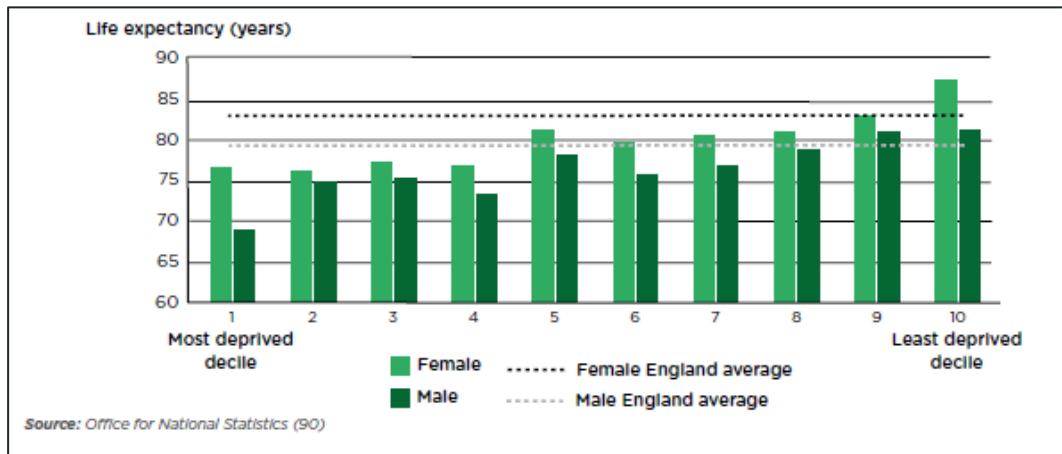
¹⁸ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 7.

¹⁹ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 8.

²⁰ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 31.

²¹ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 33.

Figure 3 – Life Expectancy at Birth by Deprivation Deciles (IMD 2019), Knowsley and England, 2018-2020



Source: Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report.

3.6.5. The IHE proposes the following recommendations covering the Marmot 8 principles and system-wide recommendations for action across the Cheshire and Merseyside system²²:

3.6.6. Increase and make equitable funding for social determinants of health and prevention.

1. Strengthen partnerships for health equity.
2. Create stronger leadership and workforce for health equity.
3. Co-create interventions and actions with communities.
4. Strengthen the role of business and the economic sector in reducing health inequalities.

3.6.7. Extend social value and anchor organisations across the NHS, public services and local authorities.

5. Develop social determinants of health in all policies and implement Marmot Beacon indicators.

3.6.8. The proposed Marmot Beacon indicators are demonstrated in the following figure.

²² Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, Executive Summary, p. 8.

Figure 4 – IHE All Together Fairer, Proposed Marmot Beacon Indicators

Life expectancy		Frequency	Level	Disagg.	Source
1	Life expectancy, female, male	Yearly	LSOA	IMD	ONS
2	Healthy life expectancy, female, male	Yearly	LA	IMD	ONS
Give every child the best start in life					
3	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years (in all five areas of development)*	Yearly	LA	NA	DfE
4	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)	Yearly	LA	FSM status	DfE
Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives					
5	Average Progress 8 score**	Yearly	LA	FSM status	DfE
6	Average Attainment 8 score**	Yearly	LA	FSM status	DfE
7	Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (15-19 years)	Yearly	LA	NA	Fingertips, OHID
8	NEETS (18 to 24 years)	Yearly	LA	NA	ONS
9	Pupils who go on to achieve a level 2 qualification at 19	Yearly	LA	FSM status	DfE
Create fair employment and good work for all					
10	Percentage unemployed (aged 16-64 years)	Yearly	LSOA	NA	LFS
11	Proportion of employed in permanent and non-permanent employment	Yearly	LA	NA	LFS
12	Percentage of employees who are local (FTE) employed on contract for one year or the whole duration of the contract, whichever is shorter***	-	-	-	NHS, local government
13	Percentage of employees earning below real living wage	Yearly	LA	NA	ONS
Ensure a healthy standard of living for all					
14	Proportion of children in workless households	Yearly	LA	NA	ONS
15	Percentage of individuals in absolute poverty, after housing costs	Yearly	LA	NA	DWP
16	Percentage of households in fuel poverty	Yearly	LA	NA	Fingertips OHID
Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities					
17	Households in temporary accommodation****	Yearly	LA	NA	MHCLG / DLUHC
Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention					
18	Activity levels	Yearly	LA	IMD	Active lives survey
19	Percentage of loneliness	Yearly	LA	IMD	Active lives survey
Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes					
20	Percentage of employees who are from ethnic minority background and band/level***	-	-	-	NHS, local government
Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together					
21	Percentage (E) spent in local supply chain through contracts***	-	-	-	NHS, local government
22	Cycling or walking for travel (3 to 5 times per week)-	Yearly	LA	IMD	Active lives survey

* Children achieving a good level of development are those achieving at least the expected level within the following areas of learning: communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; and mathematics.

** Both the Progress 8 and Attainment 8 scores are proposed for inclusion. Progress 8 scores at local authority level demonstrate that schools with a negative average score require systematic intervention. Attainment 8 shows the percentage achievement of school-leavers and is a more sensitive measure of annual change within schools.

*** These indicators will require the NHS and local authorities to establish new data recording and collection methods. We have factored the social value indicators into the 2022/23 work programme to align with the rollout of the Anchor Institute Charter. It will also require definitions of "local" in both the local supply chain and employment. All contracts, direct and subcontracted, should be analysed and included. This should be reviewed after the first year of implementation. Collecting ethnicity data related to employment should also be reviewed after the first year of implementation.

**** To be used to demonstrate annual changes, interpretation to factor in population changes.

- Active Lives Survey states the length of continuous activity is at least 10 minutes.

Source: Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report.

- 3.6.9. The action point to ‘create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities’ is pertinent to the aims of the Proposed Development as it proposes to tackle housing conditions and costs, high streets and regeneration, and good-quality green spaces²³.
- 3.6.10. The report claims that access to good-quality green space improves mental and physical health, improves community cohesion and supports actions to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect biodiversity. Green spaces have been shown to improve cognitive and immune functions, and to reduce mortality rates and health inequalities²⁴.
- 3.6.11. As deprivation increases, there is a correlation that access and use of good-quality green spaces reduces, which was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report estimates that parks and green spaces save the NHS £111 million per year in the UK, as a result of reduced GP visits²⁵.
- 3.6.12. As a result, one of the actions points within this recommendation category is: *“work with local residents and partners (such as business and the NHS) to improve quality of existing green spaces in areas of higher deprivation”*²⁶.

3.7 KNOWSLEYS GREEN SPACE ACTION PLAN

- 3.7.1. The Green Space Action Plan (2024-2030) builds upon the previous Green Space Strategy documents and provides a framework for decision making regarding the Council’s parks and green spaces in order to ensure that the public assets are managed accountably and consistently²⁷.
- 3.7.2. In Knowsley South, the Green Space Action Plan targets improvements to parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural spaces, amenity green spaces, outdoor sports, facilities for children and young people, and allotments.
- 3.7.3. The Action Plan is intended to be a flexible document providing indicative timescales for delivery.
- 3.7.4. Halewood Leisure Centre is named in the Green Space Action Plan for Knowsley South, with a priority action to deliver the Halewood Leisure Centre improvement project (as part of the wider Halewood Levelling Up Programme) between 2025/2026²⁸.
- 3.7.5. It also pledges to explore the delivery of an improved multi-use games area offer as part of the Play zones project between 2024/2025²⁹.

3.8 SUMMARY

- 3.8.1. Overall, this policy review has identified that health and wellbeing are considered across a range of documents on a national, regional and local level.
- 3.8.2. The Proposed Development aligns strongly with Knowsley’s policy and strategic direction by enhancing existing green infrastructure and providing facilities to boost local health and wellbeing outcomes.

²³ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 77.

²⁴ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 82.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Institute of Health Equity (2022), All Together Fairer Report, p. 84.

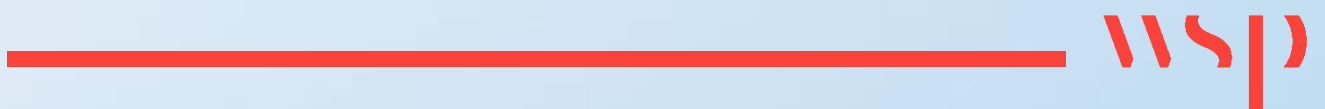
²⁷ Knowsley Green Space Action Plan 2024-2030, p. 4.

²⁸ Knowsley Green Space Action Plan 2024-2030, p. 21.

²⁹ Ibid.

4

BASELINE DATA ANALYSIS



4 BASELINE DATA ANALYSIS

- 4.1.1. This section considers the health profile of the local population, with specific reference to deprivation, employment and skills, general health rates and crime.
- 4.1.2. The purpose is to establish the socio-economic context in which the development is located in order to draw conclusions about the vulnerability of the local population and establish who might be affected.
- 4.1.3. The baseline provides a means of assessing the relevance of the Proposed Development within its local context.
- 4.1.4. The chapter assess the following indicators:
- Population;
 - Economic Activity;
 - Qualifications;
 - Occupations;
 - Deprivation;
 - Life Expectancy;
 - Mortality Rates;
 - Obesity Rates and Physical Activity;
 - Child Obesity Rates;
 - Self-Reported Health;
 - Disabilities;
 - Crime;
 - Air Quality;
 - Transport Accessibility;
 - Access to Green Infrastructure;
 - Access to Recreational Facilities;
 - The Potential Impact on Vulnerable Groups; and
 - Stakeholder Engagement.
- 4.1.5. The baseline data and corresponding assessment have been analysed at the following spatial levels:
- Neighbourhood– the Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) of Knowsley 020B;
 - Ward – Halewood South;
 - Local Authority – Knowsley;
 - Regional – North West of England; and
 - National: England.

- 4.1.6. The neighbourhood level forms the “study area” – the geography within which the impact of the Proposed Development is considered.

4.2 POPULATION

- 4.2.1. The Proposed Development is within the LSOA of Knowsley 020B. As of 2021, demographic data published by the ONS shows that the LSOA has a population of 1,567 people.
- 4.2.2. Table 4-1 below compares the estimated population of the study area between 2011 and 2022. This shows that population growth at the LSOA level has been significantly slower than the local authority, regional and national change over the same period.

Table 4-1 – Population change, 2011-2022³⁰

	2011	2021	Levels Change	% Change
Knowsley 020B	1,511	1,567	56	3.7%
Knowsley	145,893	157,107	11,214	7.7%
North West	7,052,177	7,515,718	463,541	6.6%
England	53,012,456	57,112,542	4,100,086	7.7%

Source: *Census 2011 - Table KS101EW, ONS (2024) – population estimates by single year of age.*

- 4.2.3. The age structure of residents in the study area differs with the trends seen at the wider level. As of 2022, approximately 24.3% of residents in Knowsley 020B are aged 0 to 15, above the averages for Halewood South (19.5%), Knowsley (19.7%), the North West (18.7%) and England (18.5%) as a whole. At the other end, approximately 12.5% of residents in the LSOA are 65+, which is significantly lower than that seen across all comparator areas as shown by Table 4-2
- 4.2.4. As such, the proportion of individuals classed as working age (63.2%) in the study area is greater than the averages for the ward (62.0%), local authority (63.1%), region (62.5%) and country (62.9%).
- 4.2.5. While the ONS does not provide population projects at the LSOA and ward level, Knowsley’s population as a whole is expected to age such that (21.5%) of its residents will be aged 65+ by 2041. This trend is expected to be seen at both the regional and national levels.

Table 4-2 – Age Structure, 2022

	Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
Aged 0-15	24.3%	19.5%	19.7%	18.7%	18.5%
Aged 16-64	63.2%	62.0%	63.1%	62.5%	62.9%
Aged 65+	12.5%	18.5%	17.1%	18.8%	18.6%

Source: *ONS (2024) – population estimates by single year of age*

³⁰ Note that Halewood South has been excluded from this table due to changes in ward boundaries between 2011 and 2021, which resulted in an expansion of the ward.

4.3 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- 4.3.1. According to Census 2021, 61.9% of residents of working age in Knowsley 020B are economically active; this is greater than the comparator areas of Halewood South (58.4%), Knowsley (59.4%), the North West (58.9%) and England (60.9%) as a whole.
- 4.3.2. That said, 4.5% of working age population in Knowsley 020B are unemployed. This compares to 3.9% at the ward level, 3.5% at the local authority level, 3.4% at the regional level and 3.5% at the national level.
- 4.3.3. Despite having a lower proportion of economically inactive residents overall, a significantly larger proportion of residents in Knowsley 020B (14.4%) are inactive due to looking after their home or family, or being disabled or long-term sick, compared to other geographies, as shown in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 – Economic Activity, 2021

	Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
All usual residents	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Economically active	61.9%	58.4%	59.4%	58.9%	60.9%
Economically active: in employment	57.5%	54.4%	55.9%	55.5%	57.4%
Economically active: unemployed	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%
Economically inactive	38.1%	41.6%	40.6%	41.1%	39.1%
Retired	14.3%	20.9%	19.3%	22.2%	21.5%
Student	5.2%	4.1%	4.1%	5.6%	5.6%
Looking after home or family	5.5%	4.7%	5.1%	4.7%	4.8%
Long-term sick or disabled	8.9%	8.0%	8.1%	5.3%	4.1%
Other	4.1%	3.9%	3.8%	3.3%	3.1%

Source: ONS (2022) – Census 2021, table TS066

4.4 QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.4.1. Census data indicates that 22.1% of residents in Knowsley 020B have a Level 4 or above qualification. This is lower than the ward (23.7%), local authority, regional (31.2%) and national averages (33.9%). At the other end, 25.7% of residents in the neighbourhood have no qualifications. This is consistent with the ward average (25.7%) and slightly below the local authority average (26.2%), but significantly higher than the regional (19.5%) and national (18.1%) averages.
- 4.4.2. These findings are shown in the following table.

Table 4-4 – Highest Level of Qualification, 2021

	Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
No qualifications	25.7%	25.7%	26.2%	19.5%	18.1%
Level 1 and entry level qualifications	12.7%	11.1%	10.6%	9.7%	9.7%
Level 2 qualifications	16.1%	14.2%	14.4%	13.6%	13.3%
Apprenticeship	4.4%	5.9%	5.5%	5.9%	5.3%
Level 3 qualifications	17.2%	17.0%	17.2%	17.6%	16.9%
Level 4 qualifications or above	22.1%	23.7%	23.8%	31.2%	33.9%
Other qualifications	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%	2.5%	2.8%

Source: ONS (2022) – Census 2021, table TS067

4.5 OCCUPATIONS

- 4.5.1. As of 2021, 34.0% of economically active residents in Knowsley 020B are employed in the high skilled occupations of managers, senior officials and professionals. This is lower than all other comparator areas. It is worth noting that at the other end, 24.1% of economically active residents at the neighbourhood level are employed in lower skilled occupations such as machine operatives and elementary occupations.

Table 4-5 – Occupations, 2021

		Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
Highly skilled	1. Managers, directors and senior officials	9.3%	8.2%	8.6%	11.4%	12.9%
	2. Professional occupations	14.1%	15.9%	15.2%	19.2%	20.3%
	3. Associate professional and technical occupations	10.6%	11.1%	11.4%	12.6%	13.3%
Moderately skilled	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.6%	10.2%	11.0%	9.7%	9.3%
	5. Skilled trades occupations	9.7%	9.8%	10.5%	10.0%	10.2%

		Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	13.2%	12.1%	12.0%	10.0%	9.3%
	7. Sales and customer service occupations	9.4%	10.2%	9.5%	8.4%	7.5%
Lower skilled	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	10.3%	10.6%	9.6%	7.6%	6.9%
	9. Elementary occupations	13.8%	12.0%	12.0%	11.0%	10.5%

Source: ONS (2022) - Census 2021, table TS063

4.6 DEPRIVATION

- 4.6.1. The English Indices of Deprivation (EID 2019) enable comparisons to be made for a range of deprivation indicators at the LSOA level³¹.
- 4.6.2. The EID 2019 provides an overall index of multiple deprivation which is based on seven separate deprivation domains. Each deprivation domain is weighted, as shown below:
- **Income deprivation** – with a weighting of 22.5%;
 - **Employment deprivation** – with a weighting of 22.5%;
 - Education, skills and training deprivation – with a weighting of 13.5%;
 - Health deprivation and disability – with a weighting of 13.5%;
 - **Crime** – with a weighting of 9.3%;
 - **Barriers to housing and services** – with a weighting of 9.3%; and
 - Living environment deprivation (9.3%).
- 4.6.3. Knowsley 020B is ranked 4,117 out of 32,844 LSOAs in England, where 1 is the most deprived. This places it amongst the 12.5% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- 4.6.4. Table 4-6 shows how the LSOA within which the Site falls (Knowsley 020B), is ranked, both overall and by each different domain, against all the LSOAs within England.

Table 4-6 – Deprivation Ranking for Knowsley 020B

Domain of Deprivation Rank out of 32,844 where 1 is most deprived)	Knowsley 020B
Overall IMD Rank	4,117

³¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) - [English Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)

Domain of Deprivation Rank out of 32,844 where 1 is most deprived)	Knowsley 020B
IMD % Decile	12.5% most deprived
Income Rank	2,958
Income % Decile	9.0% most deprived
Employment Rank	2,665
Employment % Decile	8.1% most deprived
Education, Skills and Training Rank	4,536
Education % Decile	13.8% most deprived
Health Deprivation and Disability Rank	3,579
Health % Decile	10.9% most deprived
Crime Rank	22,026
Crime % Decile	67.1% most deprived
Barriers to Housing and Services Rank	23,444
Barriers to Housing and Services % Decile	71.4% most deprived
Living Environment Rank	10,759
Living Environment % Decile	32.8% most deprived

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019) – [English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

- 4.6.5. The LSOA scores poorly with respect to a number of domains, ranking within the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in the country with regards to the employment (8.1%) and income deciles (9.0%).
- 4.6.6. In addition, Knowsley 020B ranks as the 3,579 LSOA with respect to the Health and Disability domain, placing it in the top 11% most deprived LSOAs in the country. This suggests that there is a significant risk for residents of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical and mental health.
- 4.6.7. That said, the LSOA performs significantly better in terms of the Barriers to Housing & Services and Crime domains, indicating that the majority of residents are able to access housing and local services and face relatively low risks of personal and material victimisation.

4.7 LIFE EXPECTANCY

- 4.7.1. The average life expectancy in Knowsley in 2022 was 76.6 years for men and 80.5 years for women. This is below the regional and national life expectancies of 77.7 years and 79.3 years for men and 81.7 years and 83.2 years for women, respectively.

- 4.7.2. It is worth noting that in 2019, life expectancy was 11.4 years lower for men and 12.6 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Knowsley than in the least deprived areas.
- 4.7.3. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 births for Knowsley between 2020-22 was 3.3. This is lower than the infant mortality rate for England as a whole at 3.9 per 1,000 live births³².

4.8 MORTALITY RATES

- 4.8.1. As of 2023, the under 75 mortality rate from all causes in Knowsley is equal to 483.5 per 100,000 residents. This is significantly higher than the corresponding rates for the North West (408.1) and England (341.6). The local authority also has a higher under 75 mortality rates from cardiovascular disease (114.5 per 100,000) and cancer (165.8 per 100,000) compared to the regional (93.8 and 134.5) and national (77.4 and 120.8) averages.

Table 4-7 – Under 75 mortality rate, 2023

	Knowsley	North West	England
From all causes	483.5	408.1	341.6
Cardiovascular disease	114.5	93.8	77.4
Cancer	165.8	134.5	120.8

Source: Public Health England (2024) – Local Authority Health Profile

4.9 OBESITY RATES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- 4.9.1. Between 2022 and 2023, 73.9% of adults in Knowsley were considered overweight or obese. This is higher than the North West average of 66.5% and the England average of 64.0%
- 4.9.2. In addition, only 60.7% of adults in Knowsley were considered physically active, compared to 65.7% in the North West and 67.1% across England.

4.10 CHILD OBESITY RATES

- 4.10.1. The prevalence of child obesity among child in year 6 (including sever obesity) was higher in Knowsley at 30.2% in 2023/24 compared to the North West (23.3%) and England (22.1%).

4.11 SELF REPORTED HEALTH

- 4.11.1. Census 2021 provides data on self-assessed health levels from the neighbourhood level to the national level. 51.1% of Knowsley 020B's population have self-assessed themselves as having very good health. That said, 2.0% of residents indicated that their health was "very bad." This compares to 1.4% and 1.2% at the regional and national levels.

³² [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

Table 4-8 – Self Reported Health

	Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
Very good health	51.1%	47.9%	47.3%	47.7%	48.5%
Good health	28.8%	29.5%	30.1%	32.7%	33.7%
Fair health	12.4%	14.0%	14.0%	13.4%	12.7%
Bad health	5.8%	6.3%	6.5%	4.8%	4.0%
Very bad health	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%	1.4%	1.2%

Source: ONS (2022) – Census 2021, table TS037

4.12 DISABILITIES

- 4.12.1. Census 2021 indicates that 21.6% of Knowsley 020B's population are disabled under the Equality Act, of which 11.6% have their day-to-day activities limited a lot. It is worth noting that an even larger proportion of residents at the ward (22.8%) and borough (22.6%) levels are disabled under the equality act and have their day-to-day activities limited a lot (equal to 11.9% for Halewood South and 12.4% for Knowsley).
- 4.12.2. It is worth noting that 4.7% of residents in Knowsley 020B are not considered to be disabled under the Equality Act but have a long term physical or mental health condition. This is lower than the equivalent proportion of each of the comparator geographies.

Table 4-9 – Disabilities, 2021

	Knowsley 020B	Halewood South	Knowsley	North West	England
Disabled under the Equality Act	21.6%	22.8%	22.6%	19.4%	17.3%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	11.6%	11.9%	12.4%	8.9%	7.3%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	10.0%	10.9%	10.3%	10.5%	10.0%
Not disabled under the Equality Act	78.4%	77.2%	77.4%	80.6%	82.7%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	4.7%	5.5%	5.5%	6.7%	6.8%
Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions	73.7%	71.7%	71.9%	73.8%	75.9%

Source: ONS (2022) – Census 2021, table TS038

4.13 CRIME

- 4.13.1. Knowsley's record crime rate per 1,000 population in 2023/24 was equal to 91.0. This rate is below the regional average (97.4) but above the national average (88.6).
- 4.13.2. The most commonly recorded crimes in the Borough were violence, theft and public order offences, accounting for 73.9% of total crime.

4.14 AIR QUALITY

- 4.14.1. According to Knowsley's Air Quality Strategy 2024-2027, there are 35 monitoring locations within Kirby, Huyton, Prescot and Halewood. The study notes that in 2022, the measured Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentrations across Knowsley predominantly saw decreases and have demonstrated long term compliance with DEFRA's Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives.
- 4.14.2. While Knowsley does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS), which are declared when there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of Air Quality Objectives, it is noted that one monitoring site within Halewood had concentrations of nitrogen dioxide within 10% of the national objective (40µg/m³).

4.15 TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY

- 4.15.1. The transport assessment for this application, prepared by WSP, indicates that the Leisure Centre is very accessible by a number of transport modes. In terms of buses, there are 11 stops within 850 metres of the Site, offering a range of services to the wider Knowsley and Liverpool region. As for Rail, Halewood Railway Station is within 700m of the Leisure Centre. It serves one route which runs between Warrington Central (16 minutes) and Liverpool Lime Street (26 minutes) once an hour.

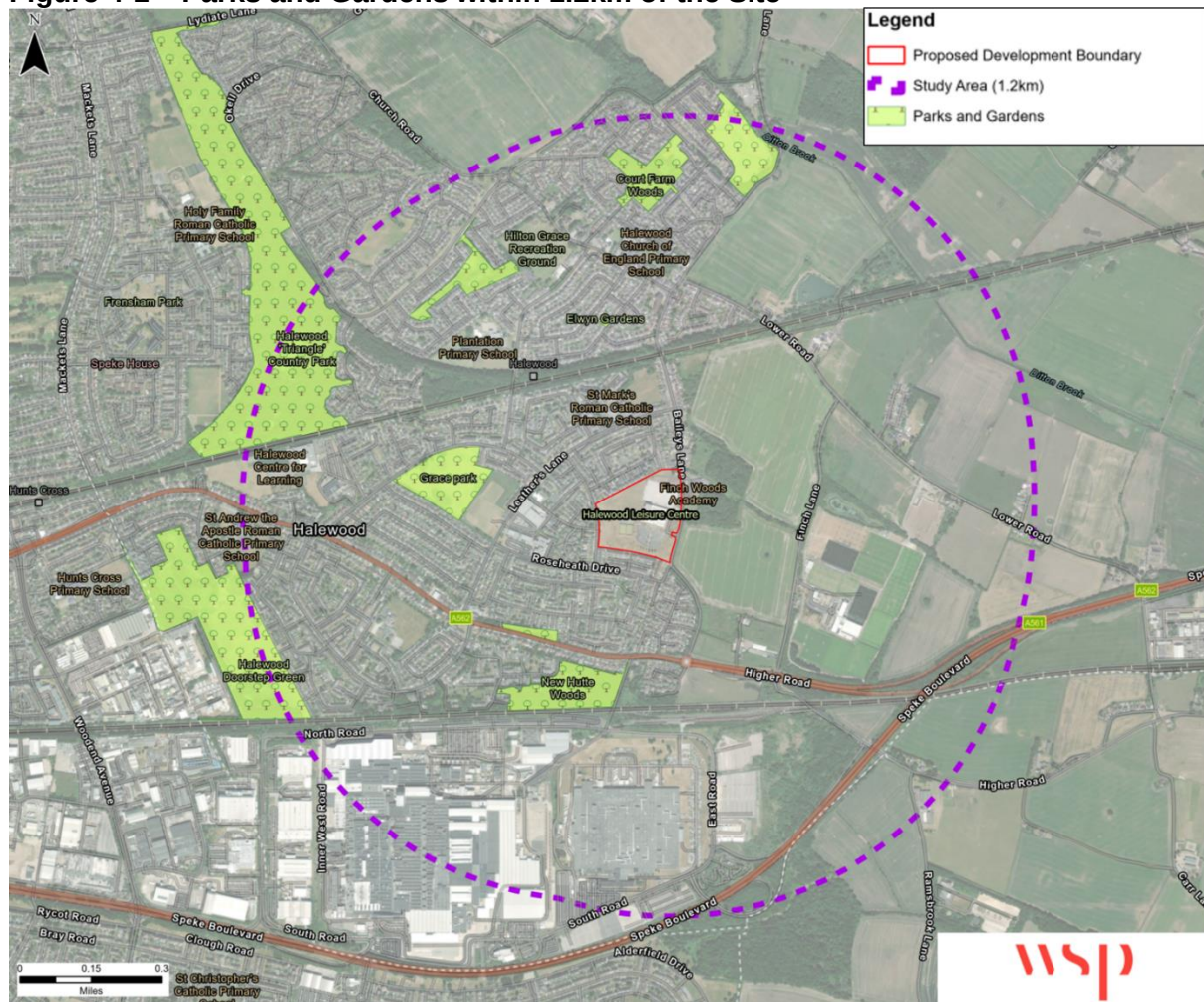
4.16 ACCESS TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Using the Accessibility Standards indicated in Knowsley's adopted Local Plan³³, Figure 4-1 shows the number of parks and gardens within 1.2km of the Site. It indicates that there is strong provision to the West of the Site, inclusive of Grace Park. However, to the East of the Site, aside from the newly enhanced Finch Woods³⁴, there is a clear lack of Gardens and Parks to the East.

³³ Knowsley Council (2016) - [Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy](#)

³⁴ Knowsley News (2024) – [Halewood's Finch Woods reopens following major improvement works](#)

Figure 4-1 – Parks and Gardens within 1.2km of the Site



Source: WSP (2024)

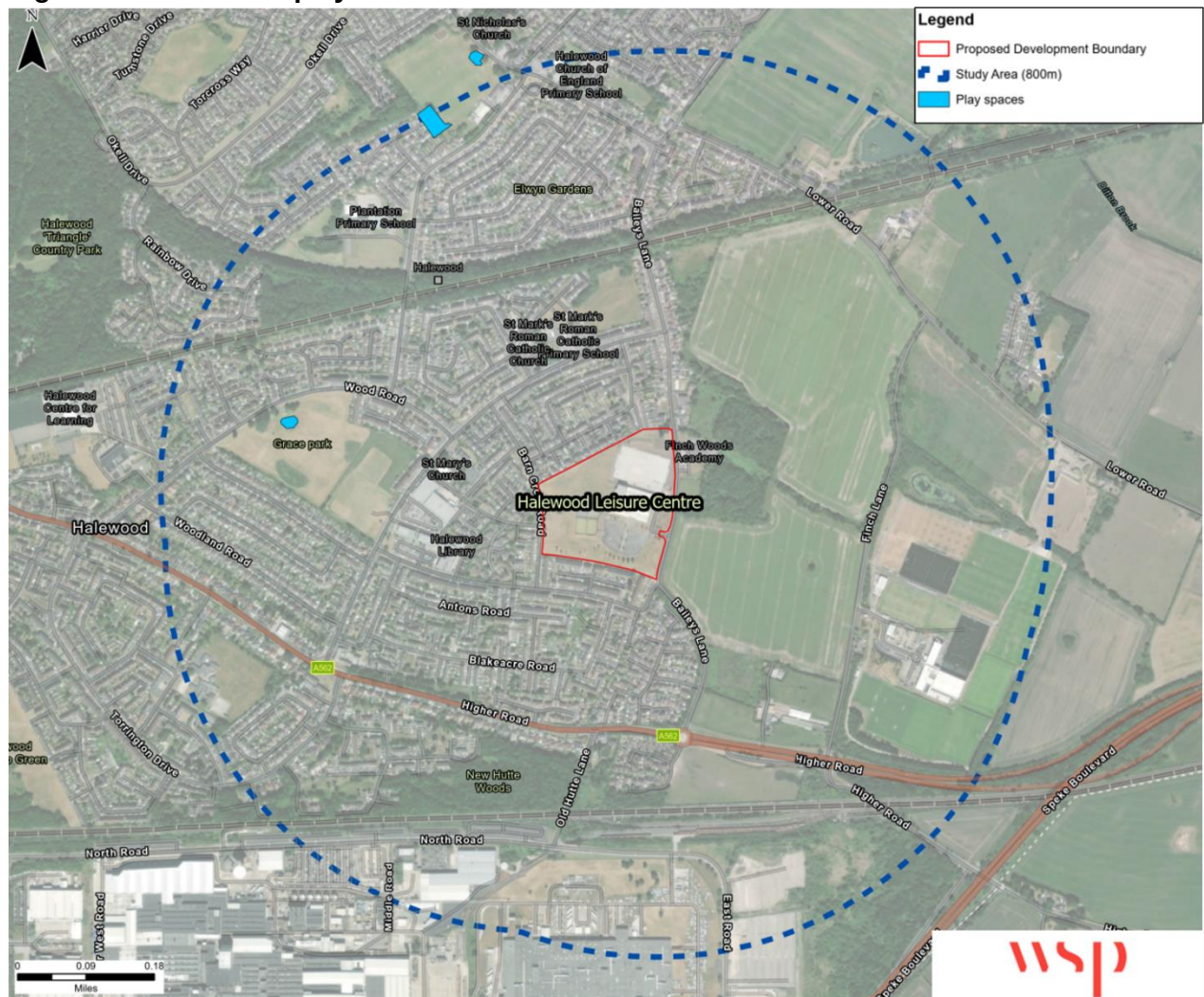
4.17 ACCESS TO PLAY SPACES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SPORT FACILITIES

4.17.1. The following sub-section provides an indication of the play spaces, recreational spaces and sports facilities within close proximity of the Site, in line with the Accessibility Standards highlighted in Knowsley's adopted Local Plan.

CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACES

4.17.2. Figure 4-2 indicates that there are two children play spaces within 800m of the Leisure Centre. These are located in Grace Park and just off Hollies Road to the North of the Site.

Figure 4-2 – Children play areas within 800m of the Site

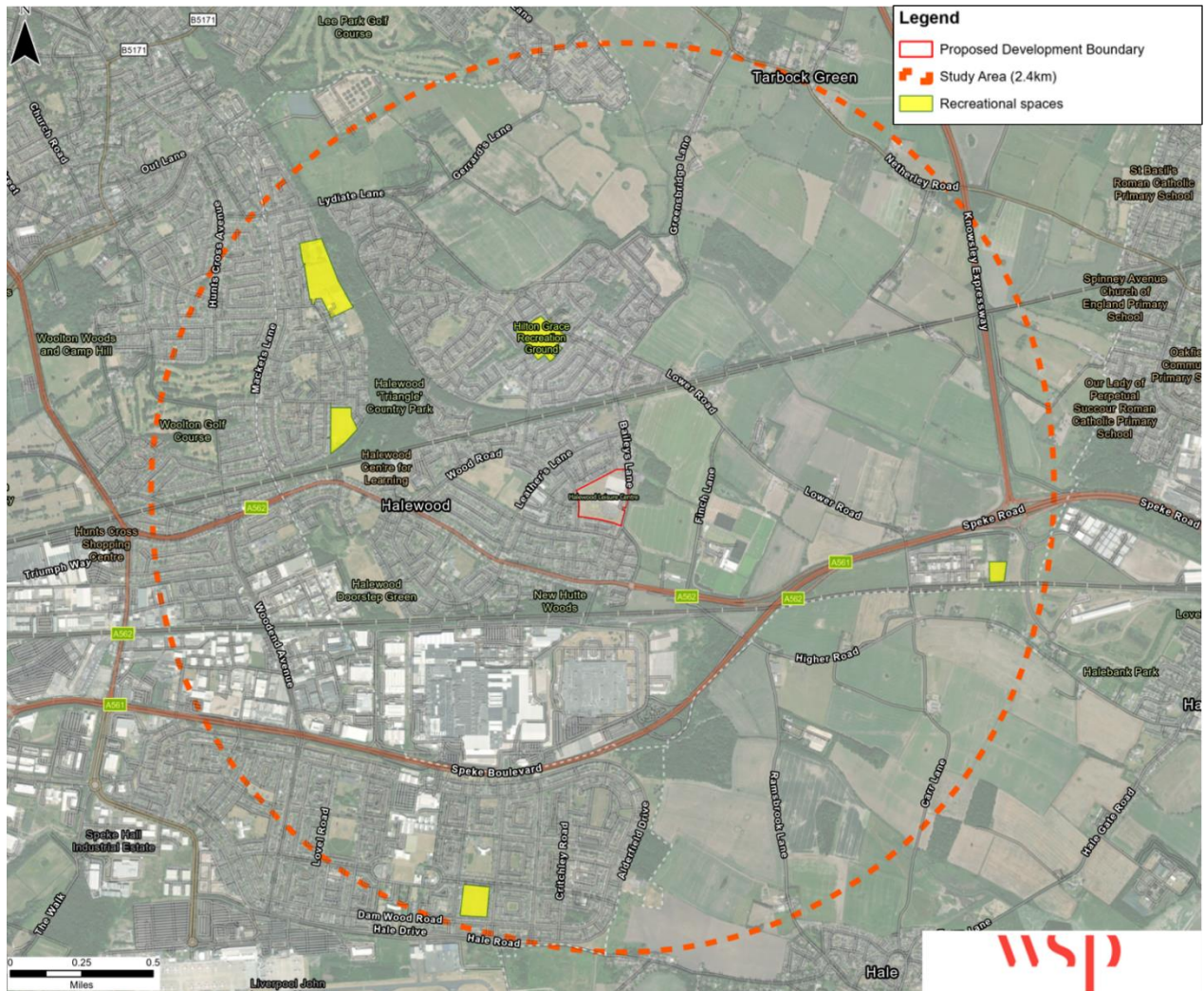


Source: WSP (2024)

RECREATIONAL SPACES

4.17.3. Within 2.4km of the Site, there are five recreational spaces inclusive of the Hilton Grace Recreational Ground. These are shown on Figure 4-3.

Figure 4-3 – Recreational Spaces within 2.4km of the Site



Source: WSP (2024)

SPORTS FACILITIES

- 4.17.4. Within 2.4km of the Site there are a number of sports facilities including the Austin Rawlinson Sports Centre, Gemini Boxing club and Woolton Golf Course.

Figure 4-4 – Sports Facilities within 2.4km of the Site



Source: WSP (2024)

4.18 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.18.1. In early 2024, Knowsley Council undertook consultation with residents seeking views on major investment into Halewood. In total 785 responses were received with 180 residents attending in-person events.
- 4.18.2. It is noted that 65% of respondents supported the proposed improvements to Halewood Leisure Centre including internal improvements and modernisation, the creation of three new 3G multi-use games areas and a full decarbonisation programme to reduce carbon emissions and make the building more sustainable³⁵.

³⁵ [The future for Halewood – your views - Knowsley News](#)

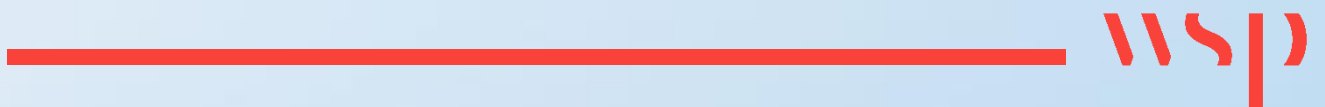
4.19 SUMMARY OF BASELINE ASSESSMENT

4.19.1. A summary of the health profile of the local area is presented below:

- The Proposed Development is within the LSOA of Knowsley 020B, which had an estimated population of 1,567 in 2022. This forms the “study area” of the HIA.
- On the whole, the study area has a younger population than all other comparator areas.
- Despite having a lower proportion of working age individuals that are economically inactive, a significantly larger proportion of residents in the study area are inactive due to looking after their home or family or being disabled or long-term sick.
- A smaller proportion of individuals in the study area have a level 4 or above qualification compared to comparators. In line with this, a lower proportion of economically active residents are also employed in high skilled occupations.
- The LSOA that the Proposed Development is in ranks within the top 12.5% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. The LSOA performed worst in relation to the Income, Employment and Health Domains but performed better in relation to the Barriers to Housing and Services and Crime Domains.
- Knowsley has a higher under 75 mortality rate from all causes as well as from cardiovascular disease and cancer compared to the regional and national average.
- Knowsley has a lower proportion of physically active adults and a higher proportion of adults who are overweight or obese compared to the North West and England averages. Additionally, the prevalence of child obesity in Knowsley is significantly higher than in the North West and England. It is reasonable to assume that the prevalence of obesity in the study area mirrors that of the wider borough.
- The crime rate in Knowsley is lower than that realised in the North West and England.
- The proportion of individuals that are disabled and have their day-to-day activities limited a lot in Knowsley is greater than that recorded at the regional and national levels.
- Stakeholder and community engagement was undertaken in 2024. Of 785 respondents, 65% supported the proposed improvements to Halewood Leisure Centre.

5

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH IMPACTS



5 ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH IMPACTS

5.1 SUMMARY OF HIA FINDINGS

- 5.1.1. This HIA has considered the socio-economic and health profile of the local area through examining different spatial scales:
- Local – Knowsley 020B
 - Ward – Halewood South
 - Local Authority - Knowsley
 - Regional – North West
 - National – England
- 5.1.2. In evaluating the health impacts of the scheme, the HIA has addressed the 38 questions raised by Knowsley Council, in line with the five key themes taken from Knowsley 2030. In addition to this, a bespoke review of the community health priorities has been undertaken to understand how the Proposed Development could provide a beneficial response to these existing issues.
- 5.1.3. Table 5-1 summarises the effects of the scheme by each theme included within the framework set out by Knowsley Council.

Table 5-1 – Summary of Assessed Health Impacts Across all Themes

		A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business	A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential	A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future
Negative Impact	Low					
	Moderate					
	High					
Positive impact	Low	2				1
	Moderate	6	5	6		1
	High	1		4		2
Not applicable		2		1	7	
Total		11	5	11	7	4

5.2 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON VULNERABLE GROUPS

- 5.2.1. The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) provides a Population Groups Checklist, that is used during a HIA Screening and Appraisal, to identify the population groups that could be more impacted than others by a proposal.
- 5.2.2. The listed groups have been identified by WHIASU as more susceptible to poor health and wellbeing. It is noted that the list is a guide and is not exhaustive as the groups identified as more sensitive to potential impacts will depend on the characteristics of the local population, the context, and the nature of the proposal itself.

Figure 5-1 – WHIASU Population Groups Checklist³⁶

Sex/Gender related groups - Female - Male - Transgender - Other (please specify)	Groups at higher risk of discrimination or other social disadvantage - Black and minority ethnic groups (please specify) - Carers - Ex-offenders - Gypsies and Travellers - Homeless - Language/culture (please specify) - Lesbian, gay and bisexual people - Looked after children - People seeking asylum - People with long term health conditions - People with mental health conditions - People with physical, sensory or learning disabilities/difficulties - Refugee groups - Religious groups (please specify) - Lone parent families - Veterans	Income related groups - Economically inactive - People on low income - People who are unable to work due to ill health - Unemployed/workless
Age related groups <i>(could specify age range for special consideration)</i> - Children and young people - Early years (including pregnancy and first year of life) - General adult population - Older people		Geographical groups and/or settings <i>(note – can be a combination of factors)</i> - People in key settings: workplaces/schools/hospitals/care homes/prisons - People living in areas which exhibit poor economic and/or health indicators - People living in rural, isolated or over-populated areas - People unable to access services and facilities

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON VULNERABLE GROUPS

Sex/Gender related groups

- 5.2.3. Some vulnerable groups relating to sex and gender can disproportionately experience higher rates of crime. Creating well-lit spaces can also help to reassure users of the Leisure Centre and encourage feelings of safety within the community.

Age related groups

- 5.2.4. While the local neighbourhood has a relatively young population, it is expected to age over the coming years in line with national trends. It is noted that accessibility to the scheme as a whole will comply Building Regulations listed in [“Approved Document M: access to and use of buildings, volume 2: buildings other than dwellings.”](#) and will therefore be suitable for all ages.

³⁶ [WHIASU Population Groups Checklist.pdf](#)

- 5.2.5. In addition, the scheme's consideration of design to reduce crime and 'fear of crime' is particularly important for people in older or younger age groups. As above, creating well-lit spaces can also help to reassure users of the leisure centre and encourage feelings of safety within the community.
- 5.2.6. As such, it is not envisioned that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on specific age-related groups.

Groups at higher risk of discrimination or other social disadvantage

- 5.2.7. The development proposal includes a number of design techniques, ensuring the Site is both accessible and inclusive.
- 5.2.8. For example, the Proposed Development will include 12 accessible parking spaces for residents with disabilities. In addition, the use of wide hard-surface paving which will ensure wheelchair-friendly navigation. For individuals with visual impairments, the development will feature various lighting techniques with an appropriate contrast ratio.
- 5.2.9. As such, it is unlikely that the Proposed Development will negatively impact on groups which are at higher risk of discrimination or other social disadvantages.

Income related groups

- 5.2.10. Currently, the Site includes sports amenities, which includes a basketball court and a football pitch, that are free to use. The Proposed Development will deliver three new sports pitches that require a fee to use, therefore disproportionately impacting those on lower incomes. It is however noted that the current space is in very poor condition, and this therefore, deters the full use of current facilities. It is important to note that Volair, who are in charge of maintaining the Site's facilities along KMBC via a Service Level Agreement (SLA), already work with recognised partner groups offering them discount on hire costs. Clubs are also given a discount for block bookings and the added facilities will fall under the same policy.
- 5.2.11. The Proposed Development does provide an amenity lawn that can be used for free for recreational activities. This feature is beneficial to those on lower incomes, providing a new space that can be utilised.

Geographical groups and/or settings

- 5.2.12. As indicated in the Baseline subsection of this report, the LSOA performs poorly in terms of health, with significant levels of adult and child obesity, low physical activity rates, and high mortality rates for those under 75. The proposed improvements for the Site and the introduction of future sports facilities will not only enhance the amenities available to local residents but also encourage physical activity and social interaction, which should, in turn, improve health and wellbeing outcomes.
- 5.2.13. Therefore, it is likely that the Proposed Development will positively impact the groups within this category.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.3.1. Taking into account the HIA framework, this HIA makes the following recommendations to ensure mitigation, enhancement and monitoring:
 - To mitigate the impacts of dust, smoke, light and odours during the construction phase within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This plan should be conditioned within the planning decision to ensure effect management of these environmental factors.

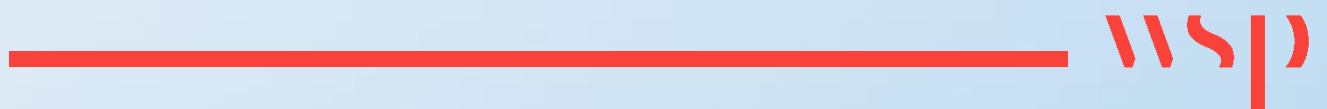
- To minimise disruption to car park users during the enhancement, it is envisaged that at least part of the car park will remain open. This will enable those who are car-dependent to access the Site easily, rather than having to park off-site.
- The Noise Assessment accompanying this Planning Application indicates that road traffic noise from Baileys Lane and Barn Croft Road were the dominant noise sources, audible across the Site. To control noise level, in line with recommendations of the Noise Assessment, the existing acoustic fence will be extended to include the mini- artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Additionally, a 1.8m acoustic fence will be put in along the southern boundary of the Site. With this mitigation in place, the overall effect is at the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL).
- With regard to employment during the operational phase, the Site is currently maintained by Volair and KMBC under a Service Level Agreement (SLA), with the level of maintenance depending on the Site's needs. Once operational, it is expected that this maintenance arrangement will remain unchanged, in line with the SLA. Volair has indicated that any increase in staffing levels will largely depend on a significant rise in the Site's usage. Should further employment opportunities arise, Volair has indicated that they are willing to working with Knowsley Works to advertise these opportunities to local residents.

5.4 CONCLUSION

- 5.4.1. Based on the information available as of February 2025, the Proposed Development overall satisfies Knowsley Council's HIA requirements and provides a positive potential impact on the health of existing residents in the local area.

6

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT EVALUATION TOOL



6 HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT EVALUATION TOOL

6.1 OVERVIEW

6.1.1. This Chapter sets out the HIA in line with KMBC guidance. KMBC's HIA template, provides an assessment matrix based on the 5 Knowsley 2030 themes. These are:

- A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres;
- A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business;
- A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need;
- A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential; and
- A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future.

KMBC HIA instruction

6.1.2. The following is extracted from KMBC's HIA guidance. Please note that for the purposes of this assessment, the "Level of Impact" column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

There are 5 themes in the assessment which are taken from the overarching strategy [Knowsley 2030](#). In order to complete the assessment, you need to:-

- Consider whether each question applies to your proposal – tick Y/N as appropriate.
- Assess whether the impact is positive or negative, and the level of the impact – severe, moderate or weak.
- Provide a brief summary of the evidence for your answer, including design and mitigation where appropriate. Reference to more detailed evidence and information can be made.
- In some responses reference will need to be made to existing, local facilities, particularly in terms of employment, transport and health provision. You will need to consider the local elements as well as Knowsley as a whole.
- Consider all the different population groups within your answer. It may be the case that different groups are impacted in different ways, negatively and positively.
 - Age
 - Those with disabilities or low mobility
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
 - Religion or belief
 - Socio-economic position (defined by education, employment status, income, household composition)
 - Vulnerable and inclusion health groups (e.g. homeless, prison leavers, care leavers)

- Area based variations by deprivation, service provision, urban or rural setting
- Also consider those impacted by the development now, and in the future
- Please refer to the guidance document for further assistance and to [Building for a Healthy Life](#) for practical examples of how to make a development healthier.



Explanation - Health
Impact Assessment in

KMBC HIA Template – Section 1

6.1.3. KMBC's HIA template first requests that the following questions are answered.

Date: 03/12/24

Author of health impact assessment: WSP

Planning proposal and reference (if known):

Please provide a brief summary of the proposal

Full planning permission for external landscape and public realm works to the existing Halewood Leisure Centre, including shared use pedestrian/cycle route, reconfiguration and improvement to existing car/coach parking, floodlighting/general lighting, CCTV, sustainable drainage works, the creation of 3 mini pitches and further circulation routes in addition to the shared route.

Please provide a brief summary of any planned or completed consultation

In early 2024, Knowsley Council undertook a consultation with residents seeking views on major investment into Halewood. In total 785 responses were received with 180 residents attending in-person events.

It is noted that 65% of respondents supported the proposed improvements to Halewood Leisure Centre including internal improvements and modernisation, the creation of three new 3G multi-use games areas and a full decarbonisation programme to reduce carbon emissions and make the building more sustainable.

6.2 EVALUATION TOOL

Theme 1: A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
1. Describe how the proposal will create mixed communities with a variety of tenures and uses		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
2. Describe the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable housing and how this responds to local housing needs		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
3. How does the proposal provide and enhance access to the public transport network?	Y		P	M	The Proposed Development will enhance access to the public transport network. The proposals include a pedestrian and cycle route from Barn Croft Road through to Baileys Lane. Users of the future Site will be able to access the Site via public transport as well as by private travel. As indicated by the accompanying Transport Assessment for this planning application, the Site is already relatively well served by public transport: Bus – there are eight bus stops within 500 metres of the Site and further three within 850 metres. The closest bus stop, Wood Road/Leather Lane is approximately 240 metres from the Site.

³⁷ For the purposes of this assessment, the “Level of Impact” column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					Rail – Halewood Railway Station is within 800m from the Leisure Centre. It services one route which runs between Warrington Central (16 minutes) and Liverpool Lime Street (26 minutes)³⁸. This aligns with Objective 6 in Knowsley's Adopted Local Plan which seeks to ensure new developments prioritise sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
4. Describe how the proposal addresses the needs of people who are car dependent	Y		P	M	It is noted that Knowsley, on the whole, has a larger proportion of individuals considered to be disabled with their day-to-day activities limited (equal to 12.4%) than at the regional (8.9%) and national (7.3%) level. As part of the Proposed Development, the existing car park to the north will be enhanced. These improvements include reconfiguring the parking spaces from semicircular to square and increasing the number of spaces. Additionally, there will be 12 accessible parking bays and four electric vehicle charging bays. Consequently, the redevelopment of the Site will better accommodate the needs of people who are car dependent³⁹. Furthermore, the proposal will include the illumination of the car parks. Lighting will provide light levels for vehicles as well as safety and facial recognition⁴⁰. To minimise disruption to car park users during the enhancement, it is envisaged that at least part of the car park will remain open. This will

³⁸ WSP (2024)

³⁹ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Transport Statement

⁴⁰ WSP (2024)

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					enable those who are car-dependent to access the Site easily, rather than having to park off-site ⁴¹ .
5. Does the proposal include adequate parking as set out in the Ensuring Choice of Travel SPD and are electric vehicle charging points included?	Y		P	M	As indicated above, the redevelopment of the Site will ensure adequate parking provision that includes 12 accessible parking bays and four electric vehicle charging bays. The increase in the number of parking bays will assist with preventing too many cars being parked on the streets and restricting access to more sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking ⁴² .
6. Describe how the proposal provides and enhances sustainable transport facilities	Y		P	M	A shared pedestrian and cycle tarmac path is proposed intersecting the Site between Barn Croft Road access and Bailey's Lane access. The path will provide pedestrian and cycle access to all facilities within the Site to encourage more sustainable modes of transport, in line with Strategic Objective 6 in Knowsley's adopted Local Plan. Furthermore, formal crossing points will be provided along the path between the Leisure Centre and car park, which will increase pedestrian and cyclist safety on the Site. A crossing point is also proposed at the western point of the shared use route at the "Learn to Cycle loop"⁴³. At present, there is a covered but unsecure bike storage rack with six spaces. The Proposed Development will see an increase to 12 racks situated at the entrance of the Leisure Centre. This will accommodate 24 bicycles. A further 12 are intended to be installed near the Learn to Cycle Loop.

⁴¹ Information provided by KMBC via Teams Meeting 22/01/2025

⁴² WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Transport Statement

⁴³ WSP (2024)

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					The mini roundabout immediately east of the leisure centre building used for coach drop off and pick up, as well as for services, refuse collection and emergency vehicle access will be unchanged since it functions well ⁴⁴ .
7. Is the proposal designed to include traffic management and calming measures to help reduce and minimise road injuries?	Y		P	L	According to the accompanying Transport Assessment, an analysis of accident data has shown a low number of collisions across junctions in the study area, and a lack of significant patterns in location. From this it is concluded that no off-site mitigation is required with respect to road safety. The addition of formal crossing points will increase pedestrian and cyclist safety on the Site, minimising road injuries⁴⁵.
8. How will the proposal minimise waste and the use of new materials?	Y		P	M	Recycling/ site won soil The materials used for site production will be recycled or locally sourced where possible. Retaining street furniture has been considered. However, items are in a dissatisfactory state of repair and would still need cleaning/ repainting/ repairing. Instead, we proposed a fresh and succinct palette of street furniture to strength the cohesion of the design. The construction of the design aims to produce minimal waste. Site won soil will be favourable before importing soil. Site won soil will be considered for use for a low nutrient growing medium for species rich grassland. Existing hard surfacing that is to be broken up, can be recycled and used as hardcore for the construction of the design.

⁴⁴ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Transport Statement

⁴⁵ Ibid

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					Litter At the Halewood Leisure Centre site, bins have been located to provide ample opportunity for appropriate litter disposal, including outside the Leisure centre building, at entry/ exit points to/from the Site and within and close to the car park ⁴⁶ .
9. Will a plan be in place to mitigate the impacts of dust, noise, smoke, light and odours during construction?	Y		P	L	Measures to mitigate the impacts of dust, noise, smoke, light and odours can be included within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which can be conditioned within the planning decision.
10. Will the proposal have any measures to minimise air pollution and ensure that existing sources of air pollution do not impact on residents?	Y		P	H	The long-term operational phase of the Proposed Development will help to improve air quality through landscape interventions. Varied planting creates a rough planting surface of different heights (grass, shrubs, trees) which increases pollution dispersal (i.e. better air quality). The more variety of planting, the bigger expected air quality improvement. At the Site, wildflower, SuDs planting, trees and shrub planting are proposed, optimising the capture of air pollution/ aiding air purification. The design of the Proposed Development is to exchange low value amenity lawn with a varied and extensive planting palette, proving a better, higher quality space than is existing. This carries other benefits such as increased biodiversity and reduced urban heat island effect, which is particularly relevant to urban environments such as Halewood⁴⁷.

⁴⁶ WSP (2024)

⁴⁷ WSP (2024)

A place with welcoming, vibrant, well-connected neighbourhoods and town centres	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ³⁷	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
11. How will the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by the development and ensure that existing sources of noise will not impact on new homes and open spaces?	Y		P	M	The Noise Assessment accompanying this Planning Application indicates that road traffic noise from Baileys Lane and Barn Croft Road were the dominant noise sources, audible across the Site. To control noise level, in line with recommendations of the Noise Assessment, the existing acoustic fence will be extended to include the mini- artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Additionally, a 1.8m acoustic fence will be put in along the southern boundary of the Site. With this mitigation in place, the overall effect is at the No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL).

Theme 2: A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business

A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact)	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁴⁸	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
12. How will the proposal allow local residents to access employment opportunities during the construction phase?	Y		P	M	The construction phase of the Proposed Development will create temporary on-site jobs in the construction industry. In addition, the construction phase could also support jobs in the local area within construction industry supply chains. A proportion of these jobs are likely to be taken up by local residents.
13. When operational how will the proposal provide accessible and diverse employment opportunities appropriate to the skill sets present in the local community?	Y		P	M	The Site is currently maintained by Volair⁴⁹ and KMBC under a Service Level Agreement (SLA), with the level of maintenance depending on the Site's needs. Once operational, it is expected that this maintenance arrangement will remain unchanged, in line with the SLA. Volair has indicated that any increase in staffing levels will largely depend on a significant rise in the Site's usage. Should further employment opportunities arise, Volair has indicated that they are willing to working with Knowsley Works⁵⁰ to advertise these opportunities to local residents⁵¹.
14. Does the proposal provide opportunities for community activities and /or the	Y		P	M	As a result of the Proposed Development, there will be ample space for communal activities. These activities can take place using the various sports facilities such as the leisure centre, new

⁴⁸ For the purposes of this assessment, the "Level of Impact" column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

⁴⁹ [Volair](#) is responsible for the management and delivery of Knowsley's leisure services. Volair is a council-owned and controlled organisation that has been established specifically to maintain leisure services across Knowsley.

⁵⁰ The [Knowsley Works](#) team help and support local residents into paid employment, providing advice and guidance, job search, CV and application support as well as job coaching and mentoring.

⁵¹ Information provided by Volair via email 3rd February 2025.

A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact)	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁴⁸	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
voluntary and community sector?					sports pitches and the “Learn to Cycle” Loop with outdoor gym equipment. In addition, areas rich in ecological value on the Site will be more accessible as a result of the PD. It will create opportunities for voluntary groups that have an interest in the biodiversity and management of ecological resources.
15. Describe how the proposal creates an attractive business location that encourages investment (e.g. good infrastructure, clean and pleasant environment)	Y		P	M	The Proposed Development creates an attractive business location by providing visual amenity through the extensive planting scheme, including trees for filtering views of sports activities. Acoustic measures have also been incorporated within the design to control noise levels, ensuring there is separation from activities which generate noise. It is worth noting that a fresh and succinct palette of street furniture has been proposed to strength the cohesion of the Proposed Development, adding to attractiveness of the Site ⁵² . Lastly, architectural lighting will be provided to all pedestrian and cyclist routes to ensure safe navigation within the Site. The lighting will be aesthetically pleasing and meet the relevant British Standards and best practice guidance. This can help deter antisocial behaviour and contribute to creating a pleasant environment ⁵³ .

⁵² WSP (2024)

⁵³ ibid

A place with a thriving, inclusive economy, with opportunities for people and business	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact)	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁴⁸	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
16. Describe how the proposal creates healthy workplaces	Y		P	M	The Proposed Development will help to support a healthy workplace for people working at the on-site Leisure Centre building, through the provision of green space and safe access for cyclists and pedestrians. The Proposed Development aims to enhance the greenspace provided on Site by providing an amenity lawn located near the car park, in which people can use for recreational activities. This aligns with Policy CS8 of the Knowsley Core Strategy which states that the Council will support developments that maintain or make efforts to enhance Knowsley’s existing Green Infrastructure assets. In addition, the Proposed Development provides safe access for cyclists and pedestrians by including a path that can access all facilities on site. Other safety measures include ensuring appropriate light levels will be provided to all pedestrian routes to allow them to navigate through the public-realm. In addition, formal crossing points will be provided along the path between the Leisure Centre and car park, which will increase pedestrian and cyclist safety on the Site. A crossing point is also proposed at the western point of the shared use route at the “Learn to Cycle loop”⁵⁴.

⁵⁴ Ibid

Theme 3: A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
17. How has the proposal assessed the location and accessibility of social infrastructure (e.g. schools, and community facilities)?	Y		P	M	There is potential for the Leisure Centre and its accompanying facilities to be used by nearby schools. The nearest primary school to the Site is St Mark’s Catholic Primary School, located a nine-minute walk from the Leisure Centre. Other nearby primary schools include: ▪ Halewood Church of England Primary School – 15-minute walk from the Site ▪ Plantation Primary School – 15-minute walk from the Site ▪ Yew Tree Primary Academy – 19-minute walk from the Site ▪ St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Primary School – 24 minute walk from the Site As for secondary schools, Halewood Academy is located a 20-minute walk from the Site. A coach drop-off area is also proposed to the east of the Site allowing direct access to the existing leisure centre for potential community and educational groups visiting the Site. The Proposed Development will feature a shared pedestrian and cycle tarmac path, offering access to all facilities within the Site⁵⁶. This initiative aligns with Knowsley’s adopted Local Plan (Strategic Objective 6) through promoting sustainable transportation modes, potentially boosting physical

⁵⁵ For the purposes of this assessment, the “Level of Impact” column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

⁵⁶ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Landscape Strategy

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					activity rates in Knowsley and addressing the high obesity rates among children and adults. In terms of safety, appropriate light levels will be provided to all pedestrian routes to allow them to navigate through the public-realm. In addition, formal crossing points will be provided along the path between the Leisure Centre and car park, which will increase pedestrian and cyclist safety on the Site. A crossing point is also proposed at the western point of the shared use route at the “Learn to Cycle loop”.
18. How will the proposal allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings and places?	Y		P	H	It is noted that Knowsley, on the whole, has a larger proportion of individuals considered to be disabled with their day-to-day activities limited (equal to 12.4%) than at the regional (8.9%) and national (7.3%) level. The Proposed Development will feature a cycle and pedestrian path which enable access to all facilities on site. The path, which will be 4 metres wide, will have tarmac surfacing making it suitable for wheelchair users. Furthermore, the Site will have a range of street furniture including benches with backrests for those who may need to sit and rest. Secondly, all buildings will be accessible and comply with building regulations listed in “Approved Document M: access to and use of buildings, volume 2: buildings other than dwellings.” This includes ensuring there is level access to existing buildings. The scheme will also comply with British Standards “BS8300-1_2018” and “BS8300-2_2018⁵⁷.” In addition, appropriate light levels will be provided to all pedestrian routes to allow them to navigate through the public-realm with safety. Lighting to steps or change of level will have the appropriate contrast ratio⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Landscape Strategy

⁵⁸ WSP (2024)

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
19. How will the proposal provide, retain and enhance open and natural spaces?	Y		P	M	A key aim of this Proposed Development is to enhance the open and natural space currently provided by the Halewood Leisure Centre site. Not only will the development visually enhance open spaces within the Site but it will also provide areas in which individuals can interact, play and relax such as the amenity lawn located near the car park⁵⁹. The enhance of open space, that will be provided by this Proposed Development, with various Knowsley strategic documents, such as Knowsley 2030 and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as it provides a range of opportunities that can enable social interaction and boost wellbeing outcomes.
20. Describe how the proposal includes opportunities for active play and exercise	Y		P	H	The proposal includes a number of opportunities for active play and exercise which have the potential to boost physical activity rates in Knowsley and address the high obesity rates among children and adults. These include: - Three multi-use games areas and fenced sports pitches with 3G synthetic turf, which can be used in all weather conditions - An Amenity lawn grassed area for recreational use - A “Learn to Cycle loop” with outdoor gym equipment - A shared cycle and pedestrian route with an entrance from Barn Croft Lane, encouraging active travel to the Site⁶⁰.

⁵⁹ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Landscape Strategy.

⁶⁰ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Landscape Strategy.

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					As such, the Proposed Development directly aligns with various Knowsley strategic documents, such as Knowsley 2030 and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as it provides a range of exercise opportunities that cater to a variety of individuals and age groups.
21. Describe how the proposal links into open and natural spaces for all community groups	Y		P	H	The Proposed Development will include a shared pedestrian and cycle path, separate from the main vehicular entrance, which provides access to all facilities on Site. The path will be tarmac and 4 metres wide which makes it suitable for push chairs and wheel-chair users. In addition, the development will provide a range of street furniture include benches with back rests, bespoke raised planters with integrated seating, picnic tables for outdoor seating encouraging families to spend the day at the Site. Lastly, the development enhances and provides a range of social facilities which can be utilised by all community groups. These include three new sports pitches and the “Learn to Cycle Loop” with outdoor gym equipment⁶¹.
22. How does the proposal reduce the need to travel especially by car?	Y		P	H	While the Site will provide ample parking for car-dependent visitors, the Proposed Development also connects to the wider South Halewood area via a pedestrian and cycle entrance on the west side. From this entrance, a tarmac path grants access to all on-site facilities⁶². As indicated above, five schools ,four primary and one secondary, are within a 20 minute walk from the Site.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁶³	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					In addition, Halewood Shopping Centre, a 40,000 sqft commercial centre, is approximately a nine-minute walk from the Site.
23. How will nearby education and employment opportunities be accessible by public transport, and walking or cycling routes?	Y		P	M	As indicated by the accompanying Transport Assessment for this planning application, the Site is already relatively well served by public transport: ▪ Bus – there are eight bus stops within 500 metres of the Site and further three within 850 metres. The closest bus stop, Wood Road/Leather Lane is approximately 240 metres from the Site. ▪ Rail – Halewood Railway Station is within 800m from the Leisure Centre. It services one route which runs between Warrington Central (16 minutes) and Liverpool Lime Street (26 minutes)⁶³. Five schools are able to walk to the Site within 20 minutes. In addition, the Site is located a nine-minute walk from Halewood Shopping Centre, a 40,000 sqft commercial centre that provides job opportunities to the local community. A coach drop-off area is also proposed to the east of the Site allowing direct access to the existing leisure centre for potential community and educational groups visiting the Site.
24. How will walking / cycling away from the main traffic routes be encouraged?	Y		P	M	The Proposed Development will include a shared pedestrian and cycle tarmac path which will provide access to all facilities within the Site. This path is accessible from the west of the Site and links to Barn Croft Lane. In addition, architectural lighting will be provided to all pedestrian and cyclist routes to enable the safe navigation within the Site. Lighting will be

⁶³ WSP (2024) – Leisure Centre Transport Statement.

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					aesthetically pleasing and meet the relevant British Standards and best practice guidance ⁶⁴ .
25. Have low carbon heating solutions been considered?		N			The planning application for this Proposed Development does not include the leisure centre building, nor will it result in additional buildings on the Site. Consequently, low carbon heating solutions have not been considered as part of this HIA⁶⁵. However, a separate planning application for the decarbonisation and internal works to the leisure centre will be submitted independently. This application will feature several low carbon heating solutions for the leisure centre building. The proposals include installing new air-to-water heat pumps to replace the existing gas-fired boiler, as well as upgrading the building's fabric to enhance efficiency
26. What energy efficiency measures have been considered?	Y		P	M	Materials are to be locally sourced where possible, to reduce the carbon emissions of transportation associated with supplying materials⁶⁶. In addition, the Site will feature four electric vehicle charging bays to encourage the use of electric vehicles. Should demand increase, KMBC have also indicated that they are open to expanding the Site's electric charging capacity⁶⁷. All proposed lighting will be low-energy and efficient LED lighting. Lighting will direct where required, avoiding illuminating soft landscape areas. Lighting controls will be implemented to ensure lighting will be switched

⁶⁴ WSP (2024).

⁶⁵ Information provided by KMBC via email 30/01/2025.

⁶⁶ WSP (2024).

⁶⁷ Information provided by KMBC via Teams Meeting 22/01/2025.

A place where people are active and healthy and have access to the support they need	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁵⁵	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					using timeclock and photocell and switched off at a predetermined curfew time ⁶⁸ .
27. How does the development offset the carbon emissions it produces?	Y		P	M	Carbon missions will be offset through the extensive planting design, which includes wildflower, SuDs planting, trees and shrub planting. The objective of the Site as a facilitator of an active lifestyle, encourages active travel/ transport by bicycle, by providing a well-connected cycle lane and somewhere to store bicycles. Giving the opportunity to access the Site by bicycle, means reduced access by vehicles, therefore reduced carbon emissions associated with accessing the Site by vehicle ⁶⁹ .

⁶⁸ WSP (2024).

⁶⁹ ibid

Theme 4: A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential

A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact)	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁷⁰	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
28. Will all homes meet at least the minimum requirements set out in the Nationally Described Space Standards in order to be adequately 'liveable'?		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
29. Will there be provision of homes that enable older and disabled people to live independent lives?		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
30. Has accessibility been considered eg Will homes be wheelchair accessible inside and out?		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
31. Describe how the proposal may reduce fuel poverty through energy efficiency measures such as insulation		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
32. Describe any measures taken to reduce risk of overheating in homes		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses

⁷⁰ For the purposes of this assessment, the "Level of Impact" column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

A place where people of all ages are confident and can achieve their full potential	Applicable?		Positive (P) or negative (N) impact)	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁷⁰	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
33. Describe how you will ensure that damp, condensation and mould growth is prevented through the provision of heating, ventilation and drying facilities		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.
34. Do all homes have access to private outdoor space?		N			This question is not relevant, reflecting that the Proposed Development does not include residential uses.

Theme 5: A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future

A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁷¹	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
35. Does the proposal facilitate community integration i.e. land uses which encourage social interaction?	Y		P	H	Halewood Leisure Centre (the Site) currently operates as a community leisure centre and provides a range of open space and sport amenities for the local community. The proposed improvements to the open spaces and sports amenities will be a public amenity, which can be used by a wide range of demographic and socio-economics groups, including vulnerable groups. The Site of the Proposed Development is located adjacent to a nearby residential neighbourhood. Immediately surrounding the Site are residential properties alongside the north, west and southern sides of the Site. The Site is easily accessed from the local road network, with Bailey's Lane directly abutting the site to the east. The Site also provides pedestrian access from Barn Croft Road. Therefore, the existing Halewood Leisure Centre and the Site of the Proposed Development is easily accessible within walking distance of local community. Located to the eastern side of the Site, 1,500 new homes are planned and currently being built out as part of the East of Halewood development proposals. Therefore, the improvements to Halewood Leisure Centre will provide an improved local amenity that can provide a third space and promote social interaction between the existing community and the new community residing at the East of Halewood development area. The enhancements that will be provided as part of this Proposed Development will foster greater levels of social interaction. For instance, the additional sports pitches and Learn to Cycle Loop offer opportunities for people to engage in exercise together. The Learn to Cycle Loop is

⁷¹ For the purposes of this assessment, the "Level of Impact" column in the template has been changed from Weak, Moderate and Severe to Low, Moderate and High to better reflect the extent of the positive impact.

A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁷¹	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					specifically directed towards young children learning to cycle, therefore supports families with young children to use the new amenities. Additionally, there are several non-sport-related spaces available for public use that encourage social interaction. These include an amenity lawn grassed area for recreational activities and street furniture for picnics and other social gatherings. A coach drop-off area is also proposed to the east of the Site allowing direct access to the existing leisure centre for potential community and educational groups visiting the Site. This will encourage schools to use the facilities at the Site. A potential temporary pop-up area to the south of the existing leisure centre for potential village market days, which will allow a space for the community to congregate and offers a new opportunity for social interaction. The site currently includes car parking, and the proposed development aims to enhance this provision. These improvements will ensure that people living further away, as well as vulnerable groups who rely on cars, can access the Leisure Centre. Consequently, both local residents and those from more distant areas will find it easier to visit the Leisure Centre, fostering social interaction between the immediate local community and the wider population.
36. Has the proposal been designed to incorporate crime prevention measures and to reduce the fear of crime?	Y		P	M	Some vulnerable groups relating to sex and gender can disproportionately experience higher rates of crime. Creating well-lit spaces can also help to reassure users of the Leisure Centre and encourage feelings of safety within the community. Architectural lighting will be provided to all pedestrian and cyclist routes to ensure safe navigation within the Site. The lighting will be aesthetically pleasing and meet the relevant British Standards and best practice guidance.

A place where strong and safe communities can shape their future	Applicable?		Positive (p) or negative (n) impact	Level of impact – high (H), moderate (M) or low (L) ⁷¹	Evidence, Design and Mitigation
	Y	N			
					This can help deter antisocial behaviour and contribute to creating a pleasant environment ⁷² .
37. Does the proposal prioritise making security, management and maintenance easy?	Y		P	M	Security: The Site will feature several CCTV cameras to deter vandalism and enhance the sense of safety in and around Halewood Leisure Centre⁷³. In addition, lighting proposals will be compliant to the Secure by Design principles and in accordance with all relevant British Standards, CIBSE/SLL lighting guides. Lighting will ensure sufficient semi-cylindrical illumination for facial recognition. Maintenance: Once operational, it is expected that the maintenance arrangement between Volair and KMBC will remain unchanged, in line with the SLA⁷⁴. Notably, all lighting will be of high longevity, low-maintenance LED luminaires. Luminaire drivers (where applicable) will be located in dry, ventilated and accessible locations for easy access and maintenance⁷⁵. Furthermore, the Site will feature several planning areas which will be easy to maintain.
38. Are there opportunities for digital inclusion?	Y		P	L	While the open spaces on Site will not have their own Wi-Fi hotspots, the leisure centre building offers free Wi-Fi, allowing individuals using the open space or new sports facilities to access Wi-Fi relatively easily ⁷⁶ .

⁷² WSP (2024).

⁷³ Information provided by KMBC via Teams Meeting 22/01/2025.

⁷⁴ Information provided by KMBC via Teams Meeting 22/01/2025.

⁷⁵ WSP (2024).

⁷⁶ Information provided by KMBC via Teams Meeting 22/01/2025.



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