

5. Socio Economics

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. This Chapter determines the baseline socio-economic conditions and considers the likely socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development. The considerations of this Chapter are mostly related to the effects of the Proposed Development on the human population who will live in the vicinity of the Site.
- 5.1.2. The assessment presented in this chapter is made by studying the potential effects arising from the Proposed Development and assessing the impact this could have on relevant economic and social baseline, services and facilities. In particular, it identifies and assesses the likely significant effects resulting from the Proposed Development on employment, economic contribution, the wider economy, housing, access to education and healthcare provision, open space, and health and wellbeing during the construction and operational phases, as applicable. The Chapter describes the methods used to assess the likely significant effects, the baseline conditions currently existing at the site and surroundings, the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the development, the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce, or offset the identified significant effects and the residual effects.
- 5.1.3. This Chapter, and its associated appendices, is intended to be read as part of the wider Environmental Statement (ES) with particular reference to the introductory chapters (Chapter 1 to Chapter 4).

5.2. Assessment Approach

Methodology

- 5.2.1. The methodology adopted for this socio-economics ES chapter has been guided by the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) Social Impact Assessment Guide (2025) , which provides a framework for evaluating the social and economic effects of development proposals within the UK planning context. The ISEP guidance draws on UK and international best practice, current legislation and policy frameworks, outlining key steps including scoping, stakeholder engagement, baseline data collection, impact evaluation and mitigation.
- 5.2.2. In addition, the approach adopted for the assessment will be based on professional experience, best practice, industry benchmarking, and consideration of relevant policy. This approach ensures that the assessment is proportionate, robust, and tailored to the specific context of the Proposed Development, with a focus on identifying and addressing the likely significant socio-economic impacts on affected communities.
- 5.2.3. The assessment specifically includes the following:
- Identification of the socio-economic baseline in respect of each of the key socio-economic issues identified, focusing on the characteristics of the economy and labour force. These characteristics have been used as a measure for assessing future changes associated with or resulting from the Proposed Development.

- Analysis of a range of socio-economic effects, both direct and indirect, arising from the Proposed Development, during the construction (temporary effects) and operation (permanent effects).

Assessment of Significance

5.2.4. The first step in the assessment is to identify the sensitivity of the receptors. In socio-economic assessments, receptors are not sensitive to changing environmental conditions in the same way as many environmental receptors are. To address this, the assessment draws on a combination of measurable indicators and a consideration of the importance of the receptor in policy terms to gauge the receptor's sensitivity. This is considered alongside the weight attached to these issues in local policy. Table 5.1 shows the sensitivity criteria followed in this assessment.

Table 5.1: Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity	Evidence for Sensitivity Assessment
High	Evidence of direct and significant socio-economic challenges relating to receptor. Accorded a high priority in local, regional or national economic regeneration policy. Evidence of direct and significant socio-economic challenges including: • Areas of population increase / decrease well in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas of employment change well below regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment well in excess of regional / national averages and high levels of relative deprivation (i.e. top 10%). • Areas with claimant count well in excess of regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate well below regional / national averages. • Areas with GVA well below regional / national averages. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have no capacity / are over-subscribed. • Areas with a considerable shortfall of open and recreational space / poor-quality resources, or tourist attractions of national importance, national cycle routes and national trails and no potential for substitution. • Areas with house price affordability ratios well in excess of regional / national averages, in respect of median affordability ratios or lower quartile affordability ratios, or both, as applicable. • Areas with net additional annual dwelling delivery that is consistently well below the Adopted Local Plan Housing Target Figure.
Medium	Some evidence of socio-economic challenges linked to receptor, which may be indirect. Change relating to receptor has medium priority in local, regional and national economic and regeneration policy. Some evidence of socio-economic challenges, including: • Areas of population increase / decrease in excess of / below regional / national averages. • Areas of employment change below regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment above regional / national averages and levels of relative deprivation (i.e. top 50%). • Areas with claimant count above / below regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate below regional / national averages. • Areas with GVA below regional / national averages. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have limited capacity.

	• Areas with a shortfall of open and recreational spaces / moderate-quality resources, or tourist attractions / recreational provision of regional importance and limited potential for substitution. • Areas with House Price Affordability Ratios in excess of regional / national averages, in respect of median affordability ratios or lower quartile affordability ratios, or both, as applicable. • Areas with net additional annual dwelling delivery that is consistently below the Adopted Local Plan Housing Target Figure.
Low	Little evidence of socio-economic challenges relating to receptor. Receptor is accorded a low priority in local, regional and national economic and regeneration policy. Little evidence of socio-economic challenges, including: • Areas of population increase / decrease in line with regional / national averages. • Areas of employment increase / decrease in line with regional / national averages. • Areas with levels of unemployment in line with regional / national averages and levels of relative deprivation (i.e. bottom 50%). • Areas with claimant count in line with regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate in line with regional / national averages. • Areas with GVA increase / decrease in line with regional / national averages. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have some capacity. • Areas with a surplus of open and recreational space / high-quality resources or recreational provision of local importance only. • Areas with House Price Affordability Ratios in line with or below regional / national averages, in respect of median affordability ratios or lower quartile affordability ratios, or both, as applicable. • Areas with net additional annual dwelling delivery that is consistently in line with/above the Adopted Local Plan Housing Target Figure.
Negligible	No socio-economic issues relating to receptor. Receptor is not considered a priority in local, regional and national economic development and regeneration policy. • No socio-economic issues relating to a receptor. • No or little change in population. • No change to employment levels. • Areas with levels of unemployment considerably less than regional / national averages and very low levels of relative deprivation (i.e. bottom 10%). • Areas with claimant count considerably less than average regional / national averages. • Areas with economic activity rate considerably higher than average regional / national averages. • Areas within which social and community infrastructure (e.g. education, healthcare and community facilities) have substantial surplus capacity. • Areas with a considerable surplus of open and recreational space / high-quality resources, or, conversely, no provision of any tourism or recreational facilities to be considered as sensitive. • Areas with House Price Affordability Ratios well below regional or national averages, in respect of median affordability ratios or lower quartile affordability ratios, or both, as applicable.

5.2.5. The magnitude of change upon each receptor is then determined by considering the predicted deviation from baseline conditions, both before and, if required, after mitigation. The

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magnitude of effect criteria proposed to be used in the Socio-Economics ES Chapter is presented in Table 5.2.

- 5.2.6. Wherever possible, the magnitude of change will be quantified. Where this is not possible, consideration of magnitude of change will be on a qualitative basis and justified through baseline research, a review of relevant policy, and consultations undertaken. Similar to the sensitivity receptor, not all of the criteria may be relevant to the Proposed Development.

Table 5.2: Criteria for Magnitude of Change

Magnitude of Impact	Description / Criteria
High	Proposed Development would cause a large change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. • Greater than 5% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. • Greater than 5% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. • Considerable increase in business rates in the economy. • Considerable increase in wages paid to workers on-site. • Levels of skills of on-site workers above the average for the economy. • Considerable increase in demand on social and community infrastructure with no capacity / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with ample surplus capacity. • Considerable increase in housing delivery.
Medium	Proposed Development would cause a moderate change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. • 1% – 5% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. • 1% – 5% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. • Increase in business rates in the economy. • Increase in wages paid to workers on-site. • Levels of skills of on-site workers in line with average for economy. • Moderate increase / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with limited capacity. • Moderate increase in housing delivery.
Low	Proposed Development would cause a minor change to existing socio-economic conditions in terms of absolute and/or percentage change. • Limited increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of 0.1% – 0.99% increase / decrease on existing baseline levels of employment. • 0.1% – 0.99% increase / decrease in GVA from baseline. • Limited increase in business rates in the economy. • Limited increase in wages paid to workers on-site. • Levels of skills of on-site workers below average for economy. • Limited increase / decrease in demand on social and community infrastructure with surplus capacity. • Limited increase in housing delivery.
Negligible	No discernible change in baseline socio-economic conditions.

- 5.2.7. There are no industry standard significance criteria for the assessment of socio-economic effects. The assessment is quantitative where possible. In circumstances where this is not possible, the assessment is qualitative in nature and based on professional judgement. The significance of effect is identified by combining the sensitivity of the receptor against the magnitude of impact using the matrix in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Significance Matrix

Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity of Receptor				
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor to Moderate	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor to Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 5.2.8. Using this scale, effects identified as major or moderate are regarded as being significant. Effects of minor or lesser significance are also identified but regarded as not significant.

Table 5.4: Summary of assessment scope

Potential effect	Relevant study area	Potential receptor(s)
CONSTRUCTION		
Employment opportunities	Local authority – Knowsley Borough	Local workforce – Knowsley Borough
Economic contribution	Local authority – Knowsley Borough	Local economy – Knowsley Borough
Disturbance to Neighbourhood Amenity	Local Area – Whiston and Cronton Ward	Existing residents
OPERATION		
Employment	Local authority – Knowsley Borough	Local economy – Knowsley Borough
Economy	Local authority – Knowsley Borough	Local economy – Knowsley Borough
Economic contribution	Local authority – Knowsley Borough	Local economy – Knowsley Borough

Study Area

- 5.2.9. Baseline information is presented at an appropriate scale, and where publicly available. The following spatial scales are covered, as shown in Table 5.5:

Table 5.5: Study area for the socio-economic assessment

Spatial Scale	Title
Lower Super Output Areas (2021)	Knowsley 013C & 017C
Ward	Whiston and Cronton
District	Knowsley
Regional	North West
National	England

- 5.2.10. The range of data sources used in the assessment include, but are not limited to:

- Census data (Census 2021, where available and applicable).
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019).

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- Annual Population Services.
- Office for National Statistics.
- Business Register and Employment Survey.
- Quarterly labour force survey.
- UK Business Count.
- Public Health England.

Legislative and Policy Framework

National Planning Policy

- 5.2.11. The NPPF (December 2024)¹ provides the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It identifies how local planning authorities should plan for sustainable development within their area and across local boundaries, and emphasises the three interdependent roles of sustainable development:
- "An economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - A social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - An environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy."
- 5.2.12. The NPPF as a whole defines sustainable development, and summaries this in paragraph 7 as *"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"*.
- 5.2.13. Chapter 6 sets out the objective of building a strong and competitive economy, relevant points to note include:
- Paragraph 85 states that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity.
 - Paragraph 87 finds that, alongside this, planning policies and decisions should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, December 2024.

- 5.2.14. There is currently an updated version of the NPPF out for consultation, published in December 2025. Whilst it has not yet been adopted, it is expected that once it has been adopted, a number of changes will be implemented within the planning system that will strengthen the housebuilding sector.

The Development Plan

Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy

- 5.2.15. The Knowsley Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016 and sets the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. The vision outlined in the Core Strategy is that by 2028, Knowsley Borough *“will be known for its successful suburban townships that provide a sense of place and community, having sustainable, diverse, more prosperous and healthy populations.”* In addition, the economy of Knowsley *“will be stronger and more diverse”* and *“Knowsley will provide a wide choice of housing to meet needs”*.
- 5.2.16. The Core Strategy goes on to outline Strategic Objectives, such as strategic objective 1 *“to encourage and maintain sustainable economic and employment growth in Knowsley”*. Strategic objective 2 relates to the housing market and aims *“to promote a well-balanced housing market throughout Knowsley by providing a sufficient quantity and mix of high quality sustainable housing in appropriate locations to meet needs and demand”*.
- 5.2.17. To meet these objectives, the Core Strategy sets out a number of Policies relating to various matters within the Knowsley economy. Policy CS3 outlines that provision will be made for 8,100 new dwellings to be delivered in Knowsley across the period between 2010 and 2028, equating to 450 dwellings per annum. Policy CS4 relates to Economy and Employment and explains that *“planning, site assembly and other available interventions will be used to support sustainable economic growth”*.

EIA Scoping Process

- 5.2.18. As discussed in Chapter 2, a request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted on behalf of the Applicant to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) on 30th January 2025, which set out the proposed scope of assessment (see **Appendix 2.1**). This was proposed to include a series of potential effects relevant to each development phase as outlined below:

- Construction phase:
 - Employment.
 - Economic contribution.
 - Disturbance to neighbourhood amenity.
- Operational phase:
 - Employment.
 - Economy.
 - Educational capacity.
 - Healthcare provision.

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- Open space and recreation.

- 5.2.19. KMBC issued their Scoping Opinion on 27th March 2025 and is summarised in Chapter 2 and included in full at **Appendix 2.2**. At that time, the intention was to submit one planning application for 2 parcels of land, referred to as Phase 2b and Phase 3. However, the planning application, which this ES supports, is now seeking planning permission in relation to Phase 3 only at this time.
- 5.2.20. It is considered that the Scoping Opinion provides relevant information to ensure a robust assessment in relation to the Phase 3 site, and has therefore been used to guide the scope of this chapter and ES as a whole.
- 5.2.21. With regards to Socioeconomics matters, there were no relevant responses received from the consultees. Therefore, this Chapter has been prepared in line with the scope as proposed and through professional experience of previous projects.

Limitations to the Assessment

- 5.2.22. Baseline information is derived from the latest available statistics, however, there is often a time-lag associated with the publication of this data. As such, a process of triangulation is utilized wherever possible and relevant whereby baseline data is collated and presented from a range of sources to ensure that as full and up to date picture as possible is presented.

5.3. Baseline Conditions

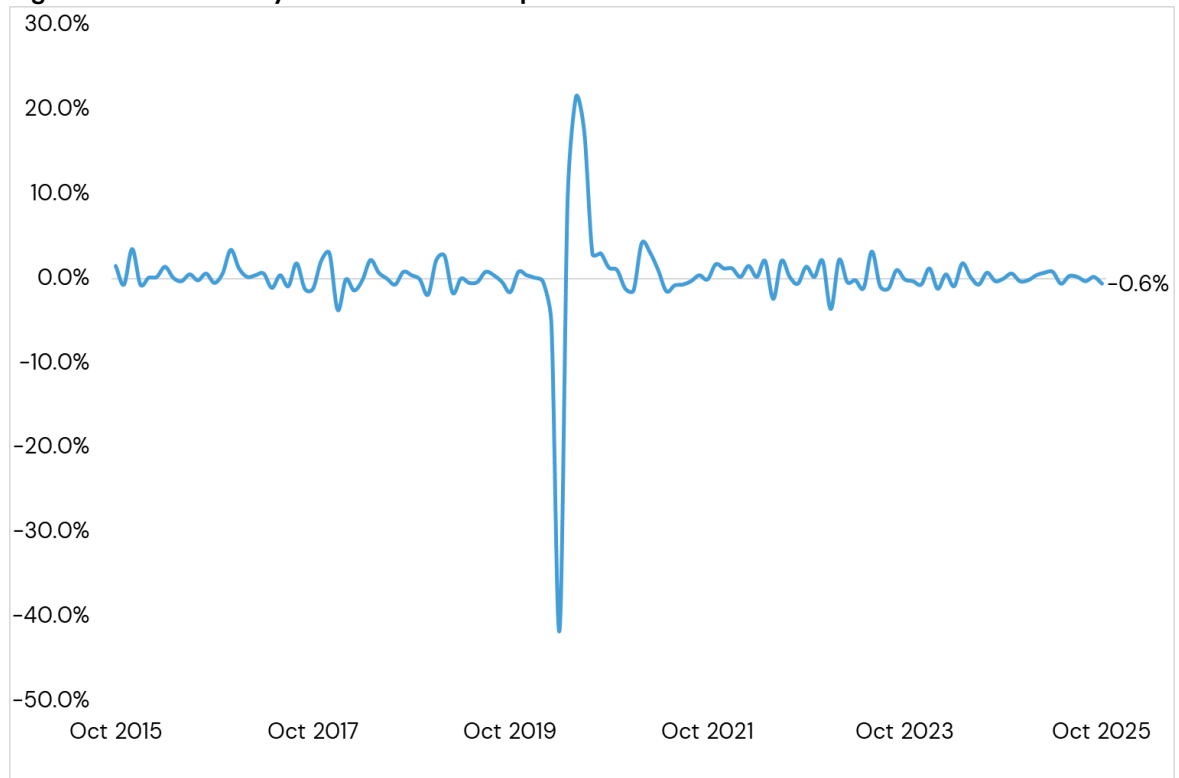
Site Description and Context

- 5.3.1. The Site is located in Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) and is located c. 12km to the east of Liverpool City Centre. The Site lies immediately to the north of the M62 and east of Junction 6, with Whiston settlement lying c 1.2km to the north. The Site itself extends to 8.71ha. (Phase 3A: 5.47ha and Phase 3B: 3.24ha). The Site forms part of a large Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) 'South of Whiston and Land South of M62' which is allocated for development within the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016) under Policy SUE2 for approximately 1,500 dwellings, 22ha of employment and a country park. Baseline Survey Information

Construction Output

- 5.3.2. According to the ONS, construction output experienced an increase of 0.6 percentage points between September 2025 and October 2025² (see **Figure 5.1**). This compares to an increase of 0.2 percentage points between August 2025 and September 2025.

² The latest period for which data is available

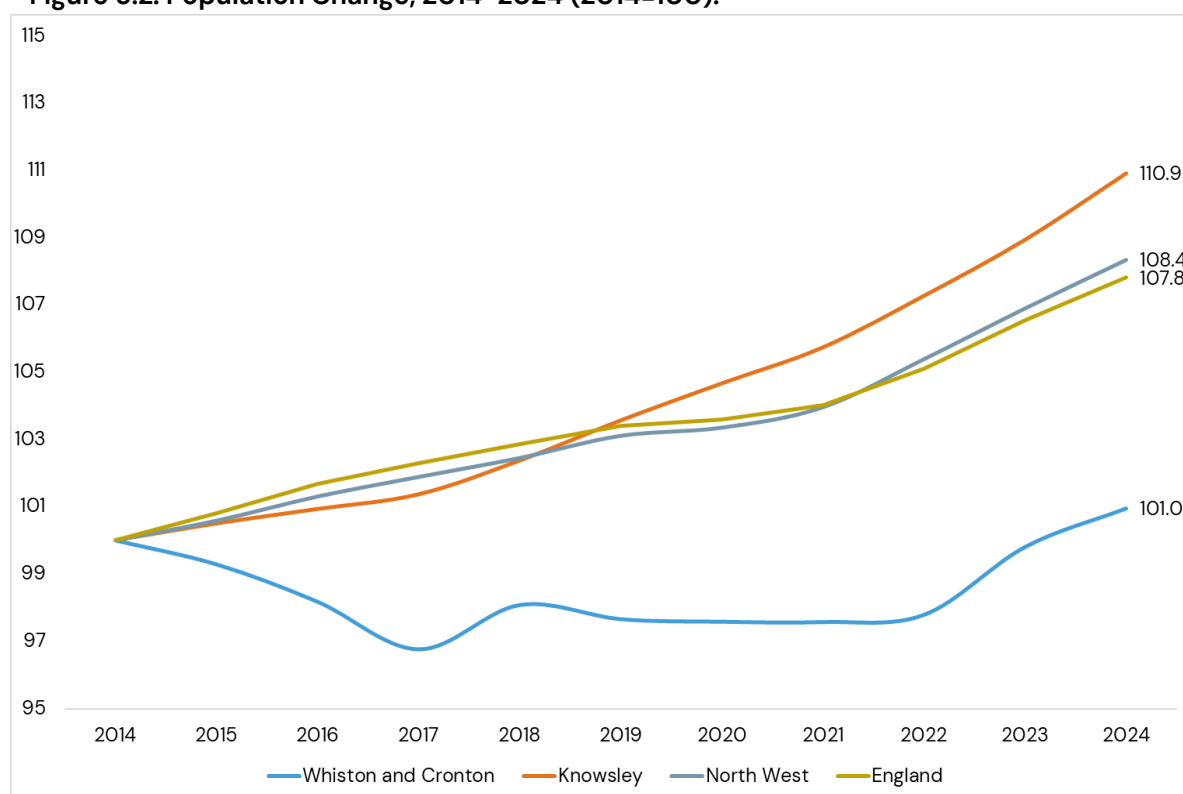
Figure 5.1: UK Monthly Construction Output Index

Source: ONS

Population

- 5.3.3. According to the ONS, the population in Knowsley grew from 146,562 to 162,565 between 2014 and 2024, a rise of 10.9%. **Figure 5.2** shows the population growth in this timeframe for the local authority and comparator areas.
- 5.3.4. The growth rate of the population in Knowsley between 2014 and 2024 was higher than the growth of 8.4% seen across North West region and the growth of 7.8% across England. During the same time period, the population of the Whiston and Cronton ward saw growth of 1% and as of 2024 the ward population totalled 9,344 people.

Figure 5.2: Population Change, 2014–2024 (2014=100).



Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

- 5.3.5. **Tables 5.6–5.9** present population change by age between 2014 and 2024 for the Whiston and Cronton ward, Knowsley, the North West, and England. It shows that across all areas, population growth has been driven by the ageing population. In Whiston and Cronton those aged 65+ increased by 7.3%, whilst across Knowsley this group saw growth of 16.2%, which is above the equivalent figure in the North West of 13.9% and 15.5% in England.
- 5.3.6. The working age population (16–64) increased by a higher rate in Knowsley compared to elsewhere. Those aged 16–64 increased by 8.5% between 2014 and 2024, which is higher than the comparative growth for this age group seen across the North West and across England. The lowest growth in those aged 16–64 was seen in the ward, with an increase of 0.8%.
- 5.3.7. Knowsley also saw the highest growth in those aged 0–15 compared to other areas, with growth of 14.3% between 2014 and 2024. This was substantially higher than the increases seen in the North West and across England. The Whiston and Cronton ward saw a decline in the number of people aged 0–15 of 4.9% across the same period.

Table 5.6: Population Change by Age in Whiston and Cronton, 2014 – 2024

	2014	2024	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	1,765	1,679	-86	-4.9%
16–64	5,687	5,730	43	0.8%
65+	1,804	1,935	131	7.3%
Total	9,256	9,344	88	1.0%

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

Table 5.7: Population Change by Age in Knowsley, 2014 – 2024

	2014	2024	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	28,239	32,267	4,028	14.3%
16–64	94,099	102,138	8,039	8.5%
65+	24,224	28,160	3,936	16.2%
Total	146,562	162,565	16,003	10.9%

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

Table 5.8: Population Change by Age in North West, 2014 – 2024

	2014	2024	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	1,343,816	1,440,242	96,426	7.2%
16–64	4,518,731	4,840,994	322,263	7.1%
65+	1,278,549	1,456,178	177,629	13.9%
Total	7,141,096	7,737,414	596,318	8.4%

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

Table 5.9: Population Change by Age in England, 2014 – 2024

	2014	2024	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	10,255,533	10,768,248	512,715	5.0%
16–64	34,610,320	36,870,761	2,260,441	6.5%
65+	9,504,466	10,981,092	1,476,626	15.5%
Total	54,370,319	58,620,101	4,249,782	7.8%

Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

Population Projections

- 5.3.8. **Tables 5.10–5.12** show the population projections for Knowsley, the North West and England³. All areas are expecting to see growth between 2022 and 2042, with the population of Knowsley expected to increase by the highest percentage of 17.4%, followed by the North West with 11%, and England with an increase of 10.8%.
- 5.3.9. When looking into the data, the growth in Knowsley is projected to be largely driven by growth of those aged 65+, with this age group expected to grow by 29.2%. However, the projected growth in this age group is lower for the Borough than the equivalent increases for the North West and England.
- 5.3.10. Conversely, Knowsley is expected to see higher growth in those aged 0–15 and 16–64 compared to the North West and England. Those aged 0–15 are projected to increase by 5.9% in Knowsley, whilst across the North West and England this age group is expected to decrease in number between 2022 and 2042. The working age population is set to grow by 17.8% in Knowsley, which is substantially higher than the projected increases in the North West and across England.

Table 5.10: Population Projections in Knowsley, 2022–42

	2022	2042	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	31,016	32,844	1,828	5.9%
16–64	99,166	116,853	17,687	17.8%
65+	26,925	34,780	7,855	29.2%
Total	157,107	184,477	27,370	17.4%

Source: ONS, 2022–based subnational population projections

³ Population projection data is not available at the ward level.

Table 5.11: Population Projections in the North West, 2022–42

	2022	2042	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	1,405,777	1,302,895	-102,882	-7.3%
16–64	4,695,546	5,224,537	528,991	11.3%
65+	1,414,395	1,814,518	400,123	28.3%
Total	7,515,718	8,341,922	826,204	11.0%

Source: ONS, 2022–based subnational population projections

Table 5.12: Population Projections in England, 2022–42

	2022	2042	Absolute Change	% Change
0–15	10,567,635	9,646,795	-920,840	-8.7%
16–64	35,915,152	39,408,988	3,493,836	9.7%
65+	10,629,755	14,205,816	3,576,061	33.6%
Total	57,112,542	63,261,582	6,149,040	10.8%

Source: ONS, 2022–based subnational population projections

Deprivation

- 5.3.11. The 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation provides an indication of the average levels of deprivation for Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across England. The index provides an overall assessment of the average levels of deprivation as well as an assessment against domains of deprivation. In total England has 33,755 LSOAs. All LSOAs are ranked in the English Indices of Deprivation (2025) from 1 (being the most deprived) to 33,755 (being the least deprived). The Proposed Development Site falls across two LSOAs, Knowsley O13C and O17C.
- 5.3.12. Knowsley O13C falls within the 40% most deprived LSOAs in England, and the most deprived domain is health for which Knowsley O13C ranks in the top 20% most deprived LSOAs. The least deprived domain for Knowsley O13C is the living environment domain for which the LSOA ranks in the top 20% least deprived.
- 5.3.13. Knowsley O17C falls within the 50% most deprived LSOAs in England, and the most deprived domain is employment, for which Knowsley O17C ranks in the top 40% most deprived LSOAs. The least deprived domain for Knowsley O17C is the crime domain, for which the LSOA ranks in the top 20% least deprived.

Table 5.13: Knowsley O13C and O17C IMD 2025 Domain Rankings

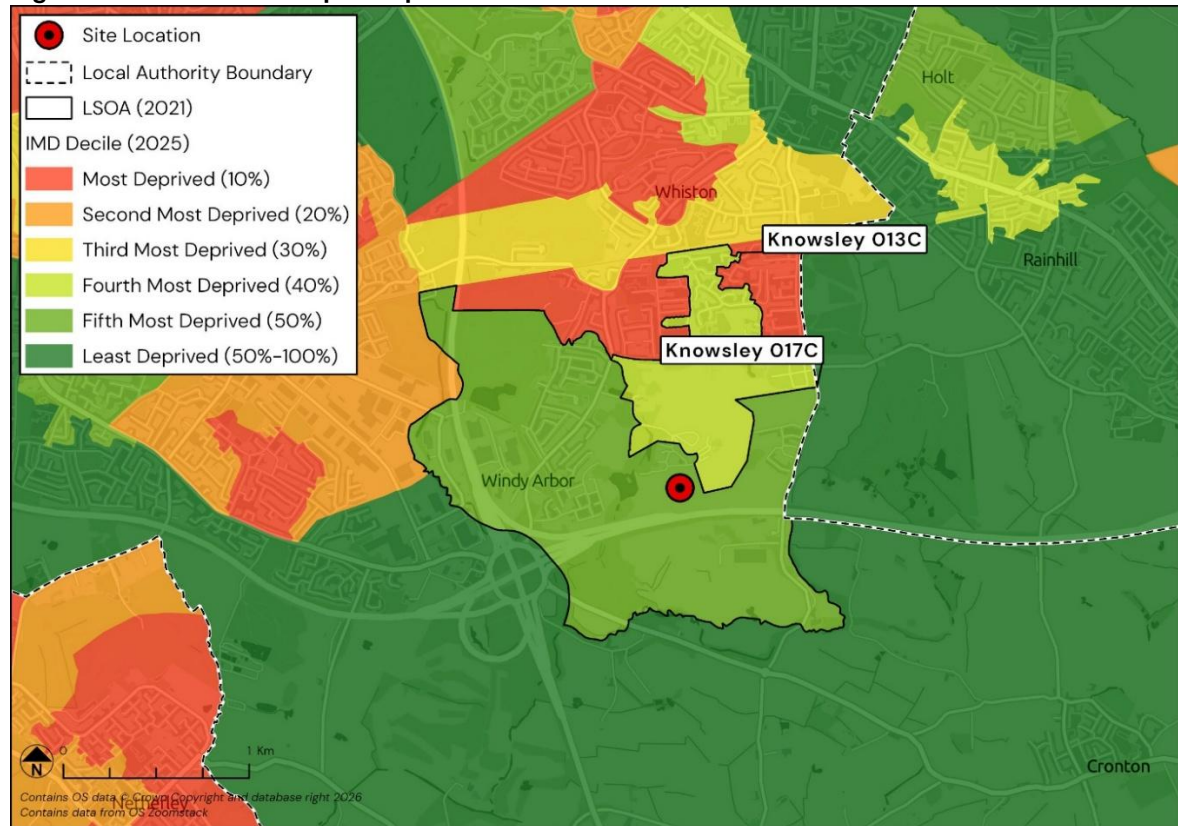
	Knowsley O13C Rank	Knowsley O13C Decile	Knowsley O17C Rank	Knowsley O17C Decile
Overall IMD	12,778	Top 40% (most)	15,734	Top 50% (most)
Income	13,957	Top 50% (most)	17,578	Top 40% (least)
Employment	12,865	Top 30% (most)	12,379	Top 40% (most)
Education & Training	14,831	Top 30% (most)	14,680	Top 50% (most)
Health	7,035	Top 20% (most)	10,643	Top 30% (most)
Crime	12,482	Top 40% (most)	23,922	Top 20% (least)
Barriers to Housing & Services	7,284	Top 30% (most)	14,482	Top 50% (most)
Living Environment	24,543	Top 20% (least)	14,211	Top 50% (most)

Source: Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government

- 5.3.14. **Figure 5.3** presents the overall deprivation data for Knowsley O13C and Knowsley O17C and the surrounding area. The majority of the surrounding area to the east and south of the Site is

located within the top 50% least deprived LSOAs. However, to the immediate north and west of the Site there are notable LSOAs which fall into the top 10–20% most deprived in England.

Figure 5.3: Index of Multiple Deprivation for Site Location

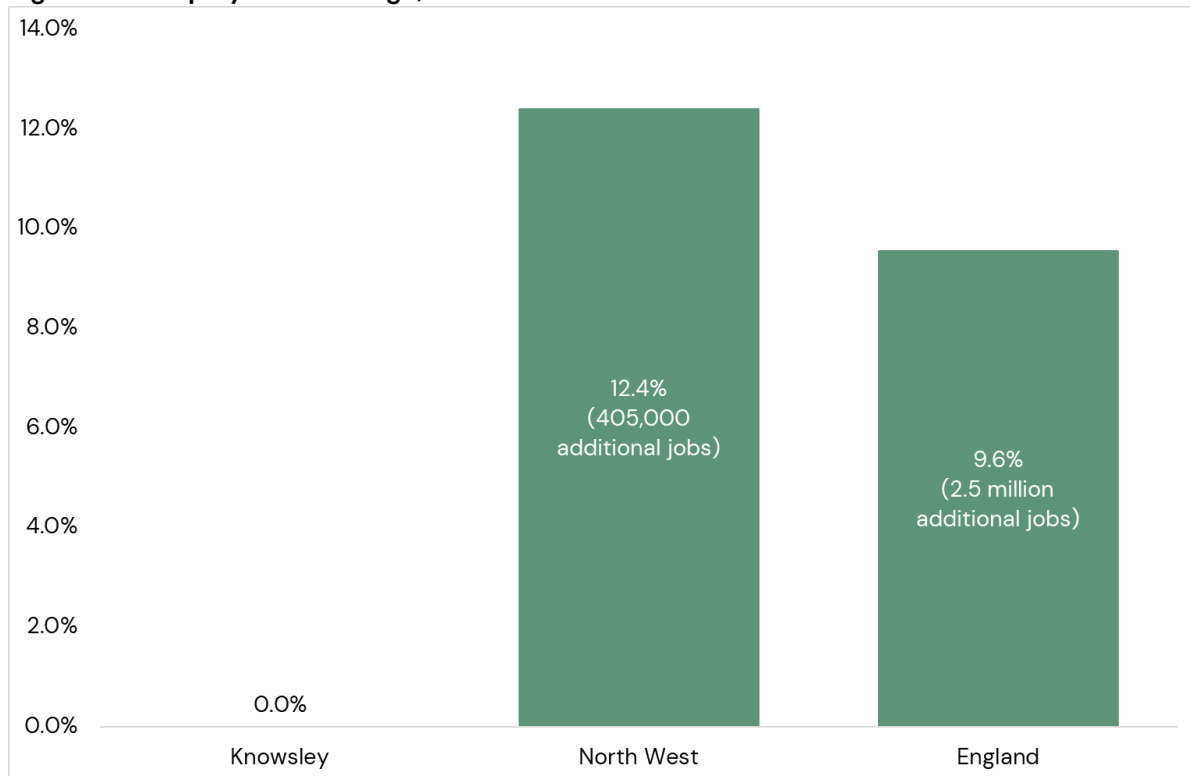


Source: Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government

Employment

- 5.3.15. As of 2024, there are 66,000 jobs in Knowsley, with 2,500 of these jobs based within the Whiston and Cronton ward. Between 2015 and 2024, Knowsley saw no change in jobs, this compares to growth of 12.4% at a regional level and 9.6% at a national level. It is not possible to analyse the change in employment between 2015 and 2024 for the ward due to a change in boundary. **Figure 5.4** shows the employment change in the listed areas in further detail.

Figure 5.4: Employment Change, 2015–2024



Source: Business Register and Employment Survey

- 5.3.16. The main employment sector in Knowsley is the public admin, education and health sector, which accounted for 33.1% of total employment in the area and supported an estimated 22,000 jobs in 2024 (see **Table 5.15**). Within the Whiston and Cronton ward, the largest proportion of employment is supported by the business, financial & professional services sector at 39.3% of employment (1,035 jobs).
- 5.3.17. During the build phase of the Proposed Development the construction sector is the sector most likely to benefit. In Knowsley, as of 2024, the construction sector accounted for 6% of total employment and supported 4,000 jobs, this is a greater proportion than that across the North West (5%) and England (5%). Within the ward, construction supports 2.8% of employment, equating to 75 jobs.

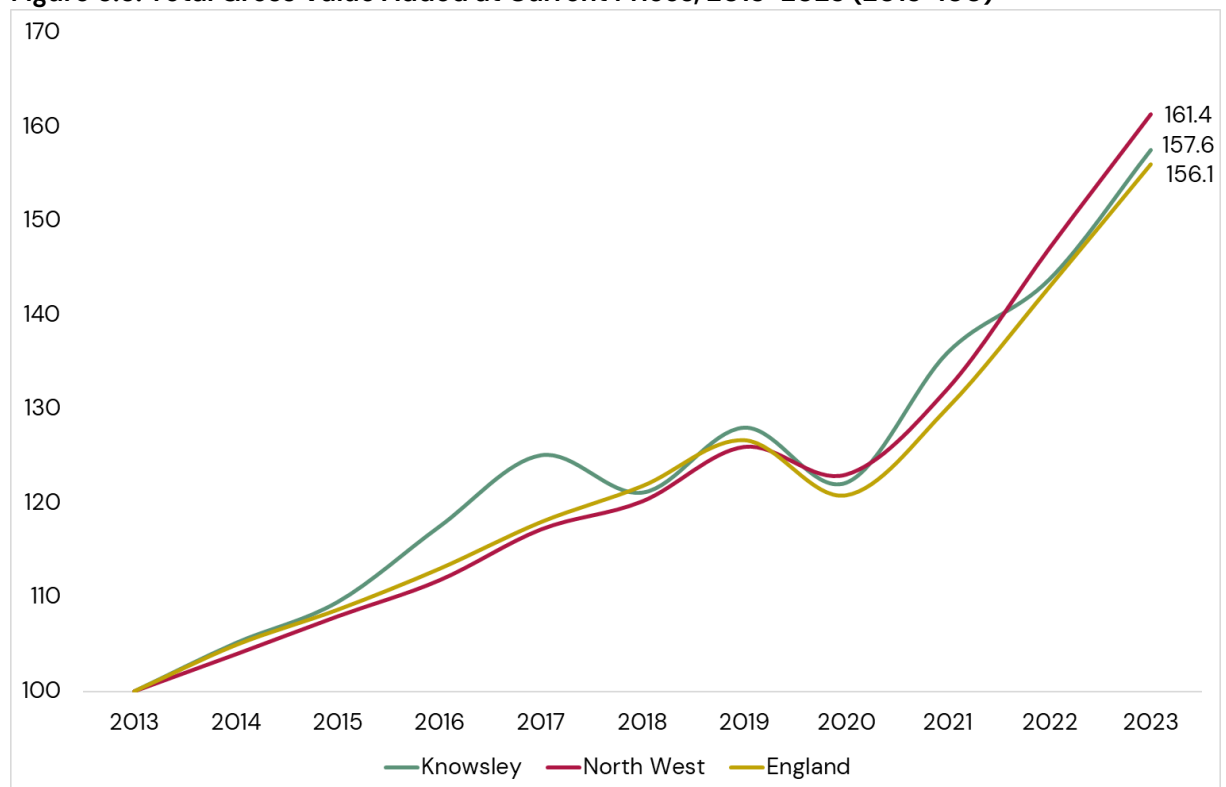
Table 5.15: Employment by Sector, 2024

	Whiston and Cronton	Knowsley	North West	England
Agriculture, mining, utilities etc	0.4%	1.2%	2.1%	2.3%
Manufacturing	6.6%	15.1%	8.5%	7.0%
Construction	2.8%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Wholesale & retail	6.5%	13.6%	14.0%	13.7%
Transport & storage	3.8%	7.5%	4.7%	5.1%
Accommodation & food services	5.7%	3.8%	7.5%	7.6%
Information & communication	0.2%	1.9%	2.9%	4.7%
Business, financial & professional services	39.3%	14.0%	22.5%	23.9%
Public admin, education & health	28.1%	33.1%	28.8%	26.2%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	6.6%	3.8%	4.0%	4.5%

Source: ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey

Economic Output

5.3.18. **Figure 5.5** shows the change in Total Gross Value Added (GVA) for Knowsley, the North West, and England from 2013 to 2023. In this time frame, the total GVA for Knowsley increased by 57.6%. This was above the rate of growth for England (56.1%), although below the regional growth of 61.4%.

Figure 5.5: Total Gross Value Added at Current Prices, 2013–2023 (2013=100)

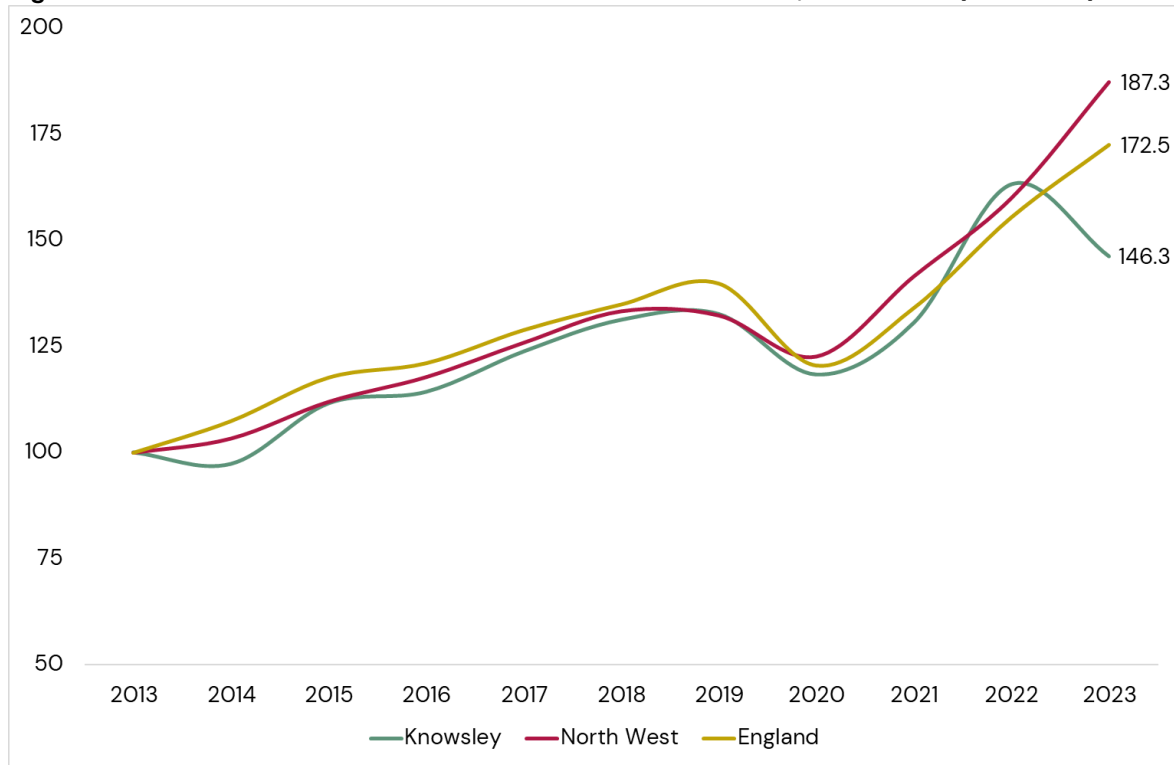
Source: Office for National Statistics

5.3.1. **Figure 5.6** shows the change in Construction GVA for Knowsley, the North West and England from 2013 to 2023. In this time, the construction GVA for Knowsley increased by 46.3%. This was below

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the rate of growth for the North West, which saw construction GVA rise by 87.3%, and England which saw a rise of 72.5%.

Figure 5.6: Construction Gross Value Added at Current Prices, 2013–2023 (2013=100)

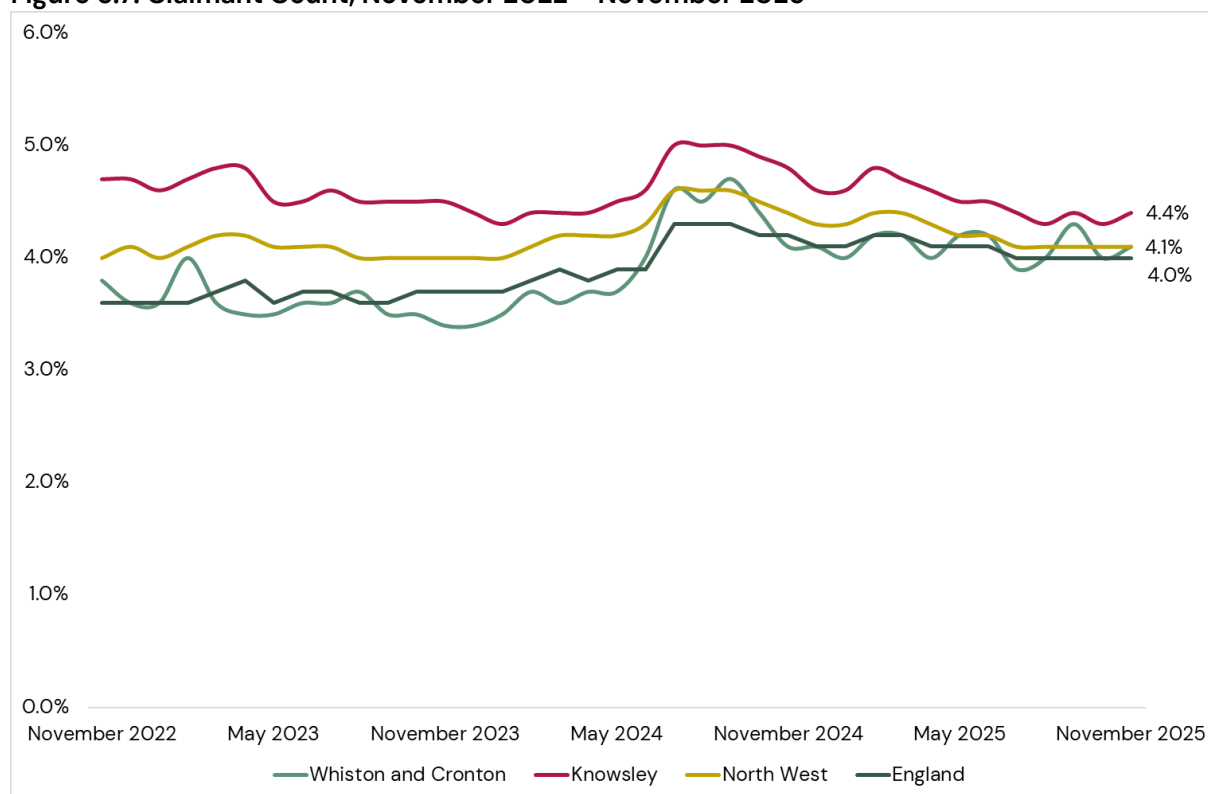


Source: Office for National Statistics

Claimant Count

- 5.3.2. The claimant count measures the number of people claiming the Jobseeker's Allowance combined with those who are claiming Universal Credit and are required to either be available to work or are actively seeking employment.
- 5.3.3. **Figure 5.7** presents the claimant count for Whiston and Cronton, Knowsley, the North West and England every month from November 2022 – November 2025, expressed as a proportion of residents aged 16–64.
- 5.3.4. In November 2022, the claimant count in Knowsley was 4.7%, whilst in the ward the figure was 3.8%. The rate in Knowsley was above the regional figure of 4% and the national figure of 3.6%. As of November 2025, Knowsley's claimant count was 4.4% and the ward figure was 4.1%. The rate in Knowsley remains above the regional and national figures of 4.1% and 4.4% respectively.

Figure 5.7: Claimant Count, November 2022 – November 2025



Source: ONS.

Home Ownership

- 5.3.5. **Tables 5.16 and 5.17** present data derived from the 2011 and 2021 Census regarding housing tenure in Knowsley, compared to the regional and national comparators.⁴
- 5.3.6. In 2011, around 61.8% of households owned their home in Knowsley, which was below the proportion across the North West and across England. Conversely, a much higher proportion of households lived in social rented properties with over a quarter of households in Knowsley living in such tenure. This also meant that a lower proportion of households in Knowsley were living in private rented properties compared to the North West and England. **Table 5.18** sets the 2011 Census data out in more detail.

Table 5.16: Housing Tenure, 2011.

	Knowsley	North West	England
Owned	61.8%	64.5%	63.3%
Shared ownership	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Social rented	26.6%	18.3%	17.7%
Private rented	9.8%	15.4%	16.8%
Living rent free	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%

Source: 2011 Census.

⁴ Due to ward boundary changes between 2011 and 2021, it is not possible to include ward level data.

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- 5.3.7. In 2021, home ownership had decreased to 59.5% of households in Knowsley, this was below the proportion across the North West and across England. Levels of ownership also decreased across the regional and national scale. The proportion of households living in social rented properties decreased in Knowsley yet still remained around a quarter of households. Conversely, the proportion of households in Knowsley living in private rented properties has increased since 2011. **Table 5.17** sets the 2021 Census data out in more detail.

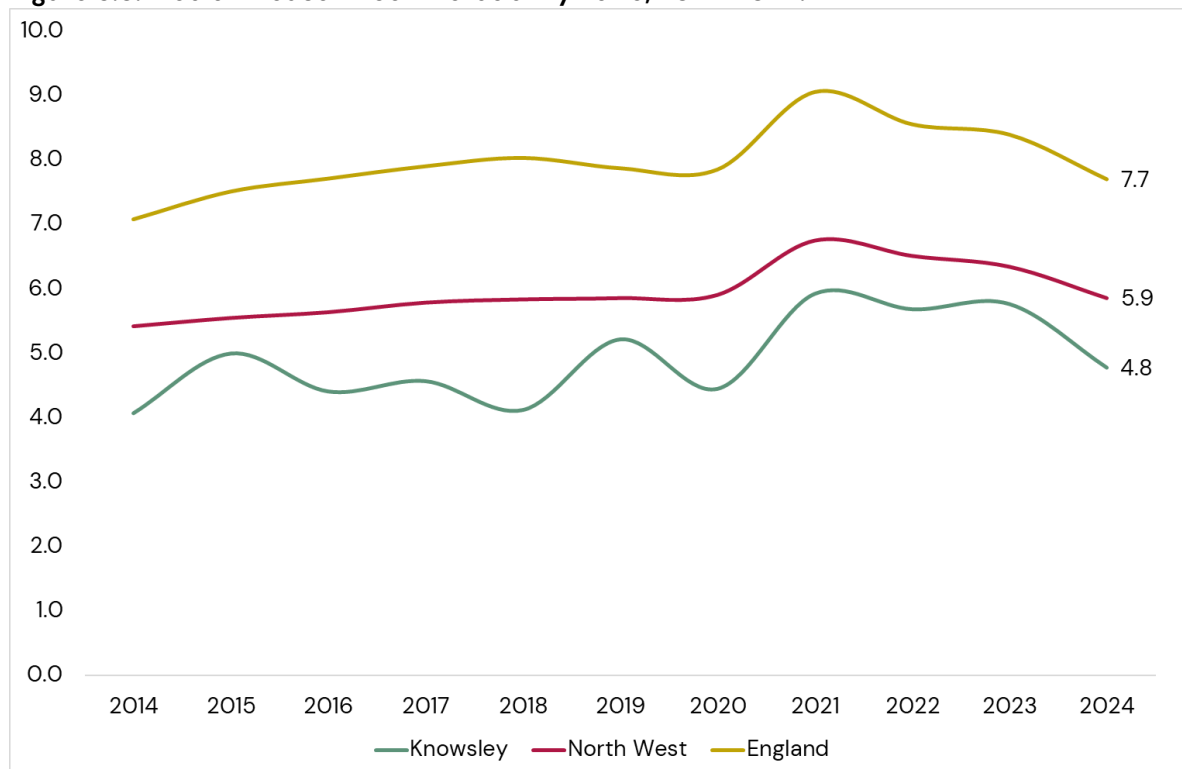
Table 5.17: Housing Tenure, 2021.

	Knowsley	North West	England
Owned	59.5%	62.3%	61.3%
Shared ownership	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%
Social rented	25.3%	17.6%	17.1%
Private rented	14.3%	19.2%	20.5%
Living rent free	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: 2021 Census.

Affordability Ratios

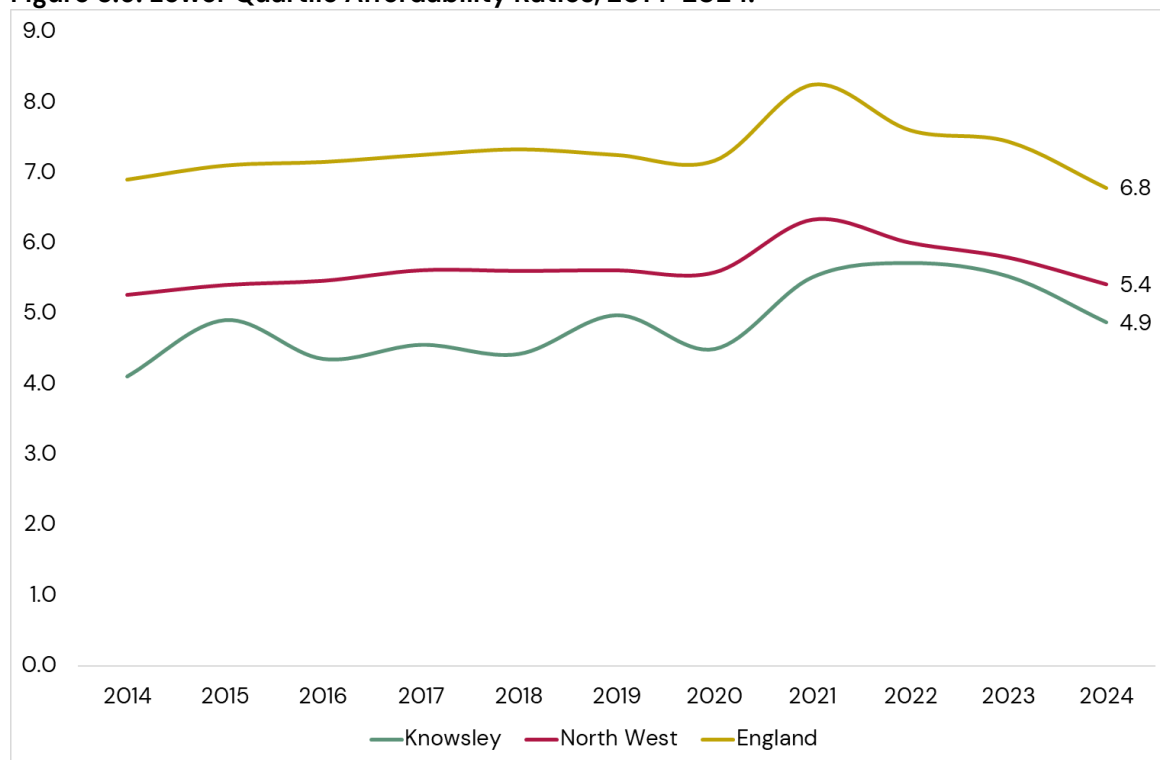
- 5.3.8. An affordability ratio is calculated by dividing the median house price paid in an area by the median workplace-based annual salary of the area. **Figure 5.8** presents the median affordability ratio in Knowsley along with regional and national comparators from 2014 to 2024.
- 5.3.9. In 2014 the affordability ratio in Knowsley was 4.1 and, despite recently declining over the past three years, the ratio was 4.9 as of 2024. The affordability ratio in Knowsley has been consistently lower than the regional and national figures over the ten year period.

Figure 5.8: Median House Price Affordability Ratio, 2014–2024.

Source: ONS, Affordability Ratios.

- 5.3.10. **Figure 5.9** presents the lower quartile affordability ratios in Knowsley, the North West and England between 2014 and 2024. In 2014, the lower quartile affordability ratio in Knowsley was 4.1, increasing to 4.9 in 2024. This ratio is below the regional and national figures for 2024.

Figure 5.9: Lower Quartile Affordability Ratios, 2014–2024.



Source: ONS, Affordability Ratios.

Accommodation Type

- 5.3.11. **Table 5.18** displays information on accommodation type from the 2021 Census. The proportion of households living in detached housing is lower in Whiston and Cronton and in Knowsley when compared to regional and national figures. Subsequently, a higher proportion of households live in semi-detached or terraced housing in the ward and across the borough.

Table 5.18: Accommodation Type, 2021.

	Whiston and Cronton	Knowsley	North West	England
Detached	12.0%	15.0%	19.0%	22.9%
Semi-detached	45.9%	43.1%	36.8%	31.5%
Terraced	32.2%	31.5%	28.1%	23.0%
In a purpose-built block of flats or tenement	6.0%	9.1%	12.5%	17.1%
Other	3.9%	1.2%	3.6%	5.6%

Source: 2021 Census.

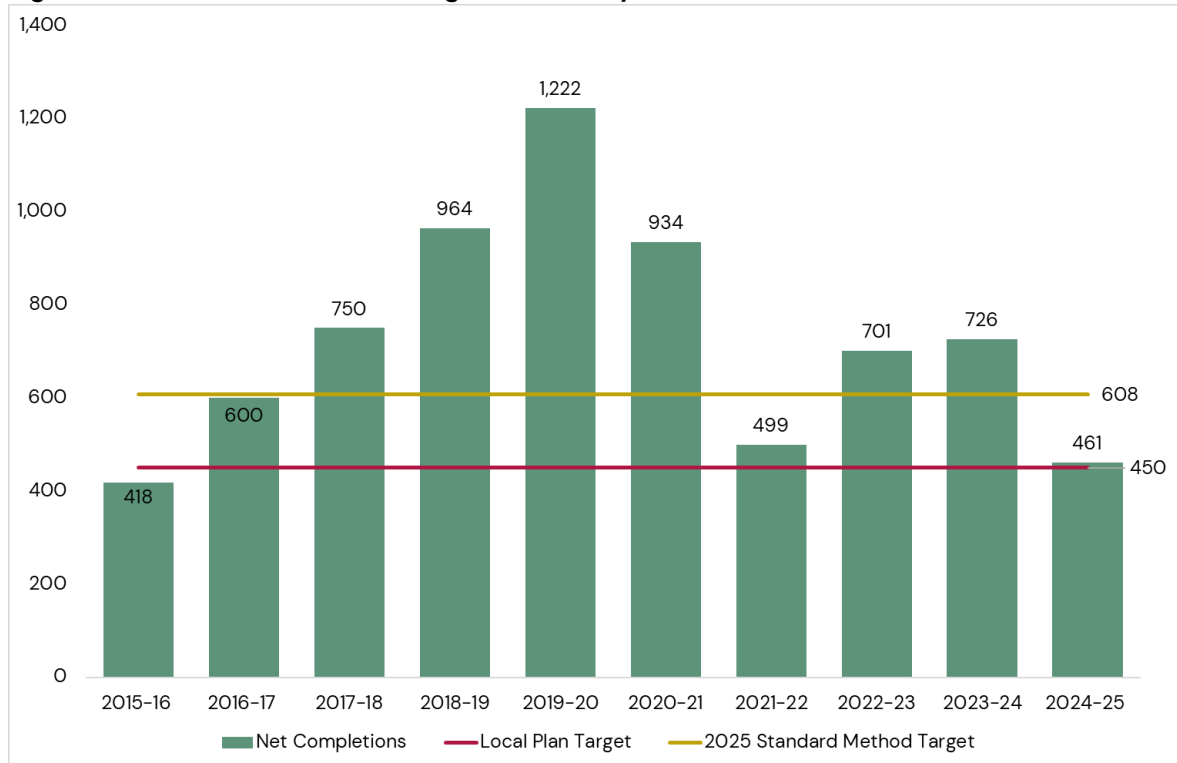
Housing Delivery

- 5.3.12. The Adopted Local Plan outlined a housing target of 450 dwellings per annum across the local plan period, however, the updated NPPF saw new targets implemented for Local Authorities and for Knowsley this target now sits at 608 dwellings per annum as of May 2025.

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- 5.3.13. **Figure 5.10** shows how housing delivery compares to the housing target within Knowsley. Across the ten year period, housing delivery has been strong, meeting or exceeding the target of 608 dwellings for 6 out of the 10 years analysed. However, two of the years in which housing delivery did not meet the 608 dwelling target have been in the past four years (2021-22 and 2024-25).

Figure 5.10: Net Additional Dwellings in Knowsley, 2015-16 – 2024-25.



Source: Live Table 122

Education Provision

Primary Education

- 5.3.14. Local Education Authorities (LEAs) have a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places within their area. The school that any particular child attends is a matter of parental choice and subject to the availability of places at the selected school. It is always subject to the overriding requirements of any published admission criteria that the school has, as well as the appeals procedure for individual pupils.
- 5.3.15. The Proposed Development falls within the Central East Primary Planning Area, which includes 8 schools. The closest primary school is St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School Serving the Community. This school is 0.45 miles from the Site and has a capacity of 210 students, with 190 on roll, leaving spare capacity of 20 places.
- 5.3.16. For the planning area as a whole, there are 2,345 primary school places, of which 2,034 are filled, meaning that there is spare capacity for 314 places. **Table 5.19** presents the capacity of the primary schools within the Central East Primary Planning Area.

Table 5.19: Capacity of Primary Schools

School	Distance	School capacity	Pupils on roll	Capacity
St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School Serving the Community	0.45 miles	210	190	20
Halsnead Primary School	0.75 miles	420	263	157
Whiston Willis Primary Academy	0.76 miles	420	335	85
Evelyn Community Primary School	1.76 miles	245	234	11
St Luke's Catholic Primary School	1 mile	210	195	15
St Mary and St Paul's CofE Primary School	1.20 miles	210	213	0
Prescot Primary School	1.57 miles	420	399	21
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	1.93 miles	210	205	5
Total		2,345	2,034	314

Source: Department for Education

Secondary Education

- 5.3.17. The Proposed Development falls within the Central Secondary Planning Area, which includes 3 schools. The closest secondary school is Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Academy. This school is 0.7 miles from the Site and has a capacity of 1,050 students, with 726 on roll, leaving spare capacity of 324 places.
- 5.3.18. For the planning area as a whole, there are 3,200 secondary school places, of which 2,692 are filled which means that there is spare capacity for 508 places. **Table 5.20** presents the capacity of the primary schools within the Central Secondary Planning Area.

Table 5.20: Capacity of Secondary Schools

School	Distance	School capacity	Pupils on roll	Capacity
Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Academy	0.7 miles	1,050	726	324
The Prescot School	2.06 miles	1,050	895	155
Lord Derby Academy	2.08 miles	1,100	1,071	29
Total		3,200	2,692	508

Source: Department for Education

Early Years Provision

- 5.3.19. It is not possible to review early years provision in the same way as primary and secondary provision and there is no publicly available information regarding capacity for early years provision, therefore, the current levels of capacity cannot be accurately presented and, as such, are not included. According to Get Information About Schools⁵, the closest early years provision relative to the Site is Rainhill Community Nursery which is 1.3 miles from the site.

⁵ Get information about schools is a government source which publishes data relating to all phases of education provision down to an individual school basis. Available at: [Get Information about Schools – GOV.UK](https://get-information-about-schools.gov.uk)

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Table 5.21: Early Years Provision within 3 miles of the Site

School	Distance
Rainhill Community Nursery	1.30 miles
Birchfield Nursery School	2.84 miles
Ditton Nursery School	2.98 miles

Source: Google Maps

Post-16 Provision

- 5.3.20. For post-16 capacity, the Proposed Development again falls within the Central Secondary planning area. Within this planning area there is no post-16 provision. However, typically students would travel further for post-16 education and are not necessarily limited to certain planning areas.
- 5.3.21. Within Knowsley, there is one sixth form facility. This facility forms part of a secondary school, All Saints Catholic High School. This school is located 9 miles from the site and currently has 97 sixth form places with 73 students on roll, leaving capacity of 24 post-16 places within Knowsley.
- 5.3.22. Further afield, the site is situated between the authorities of Liverpool and St Helens, both of which would have substantial provision for post-16 students. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that there are sufficient options for students in terms of post-16 education.

Healthcare Provision

- 5.3.23. There are 6 GP practices within a 3-mile radius of the Site. **Table 5.22** shows the GP practices alongside their distance from the Site, the number of full time equivalent (FTE) GPs, the number of patients on roll and the number of patients per GP. Across these three GP practices there are 48,756 patients and 27.5 GPs; this results in a GP-to-patient ratio of 1,774.
- 5.3.24. The British Medical Association⁶ states that, as of November 2025, the average number of patients per FTE GP stands at 2,228 across England. Therefore, the GP facilities in proximity to the Site have a substantially lower average patient to GP ratio than UK average.

Table 5.22: GP Services within 3 miles of the Site.

	Distance from Site	Number of Patients	Number of FTE GPs	GP-to-Patient Ratio	Accepting New Patients
Cedar Cross Medical Centre	0.9 miles	4,884	1.9	2,544	Yes
Longton Medical Centre	1 mile	9,202	6.2	1,487	Yes
Prescot Medical Centre	1.7 miles	7,730	6.4	1,213	Yes
Aston Healthcare Limited	1.9 miles	19,333	9.3	2,074	Yes
Roby Medical Centre	2.3 miles	5,221	2.7	1,958	Yes
Colby Medical Centre	2.6 miles	2,386	1.0	2,355	Yes
Total	-	48,756	27.5	1,774	-

Source: Find a GP, General Practice Workforce.

⁶ Pressures in general practice data analysis, British Medical Association, November 2025. Available at: <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/pressures/pressures-in-general-practice-data-analysis>.

Health Profile of Local Population

- 5.3.25. Overall, the health of Knowsley’s population is worse when compared to the North West and England. Life expectancy for males in Knowsley in 2023 is 76.8, which is lower than the figure for the North West and the figure across England. Life expectancy for females in Knowsley in 2023 is 79.5, similarly this is lower than regional and national figures.
- 5.3.26. The under 75 mortality rates from all causes in Knowsley (423.7 per 100,000 population for 2024) is higher than at the regional and national scales. The under 75 mortality rates from all cardiovascular diseases in Knowsley is 89.6 per 100,000 population in 2024, this is slightly lower than the regional average but higher than the national figure.
- 5.3.27. Knowsley’s suicide rate of 12.3 per 100,000 population is lower than the regional figure but again, is higher than the national average. Knowsley’s rate of Hospital admissions for intentional self-harm in 2023–24 (202.1 per 100,000 population) is much higher than the regional rate and the national rate.
- 5.3.28. Knowsley’s percentage of overweight or obese adults in 2023/24 was 71.1%, which is higher than both the regional and national averages. Meanwhile Knowsley’s percentage of physically active adults in 2023/24 (55.7%) is much lower than the regional figure and the national figure. Further detail can be found in **Table 5.23**.

Table 5.23: Health Profile for Knowsley, the North West and England.

Variable	Knowsley	North West	England	Year
Life expectancy at birth (male)	76.8	77.7	79.3	2023 (1 year range)
Life expectancy at birth (female)	79.5	81.7	83.2	2023 (1 year range)
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes	423.7	385.2	329.4	2024
Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases	89.6	90.1	74.3	2024
Suicide rate	12.3	13.6	10.9	2022–2024
Hospital admissions for intentional self-harm	202.1	126.2	117	2023/2024
% of overweight/obese adults	71.1%	66.7%	64.5%	2023/2024
% of physically active adults	55.7%	66.5%	67.4%	2023/2024

Source: Public Health England. Note: Figures are per 100,000 population.

Crime

- 5.3.29. According to data from LG Inform⁷, Knowsley saw a rate of 80.88 total recorded offences per 1,000 population in the 12 months ending 2025 Q2, which equates to a total of 13,149 crimes. This ranks Knowsley as the 20th highest out of 36 local authorities across the North West region.

⁷ LG Inform. Available at: [Crime and disorder in Knowsley, 2025 Q2 \(12 months ending\) | LG Inform](#) (Accessed: 08/01/2026).

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- 5.3.30. Victim based crime accounts for 75% of crimes within Knowsley, which equates to 9,884 victim based offences for the 12 months ending 2025 Q2. The most common offence was violence against the person – without injury, for which Knowsley recorded 2,610 offences in the time period.

Open Space

- 5.3.31. Regarding open spaces and recreation, there are 7 amenities within a five kilometre radius of the Site for the Proposed Development, all of which are fairly sizable and would provide the opportunity to undertake many forms of leisure and exercise activities. The closest recreational facility is Halsnead Park which is currently 1.4km away from the Site. Table 5.2.4 shows local Open Space near the Site as access currently stands.

Table 5.24 Open Space and Recreational Facilities near the Site.

Facility	Current Distance from Site
Big Water/Old Wood North	<0.2km
Faye's Park Playground	0.8km
Lickers Lane Playing Fields	1km
Tushingham's Lake	1.8km
Whitestone Millenium Green	1.8km
Whiston Woods	2.3km
Stadt Moers Park	3.2km

Source: Google Maps

- 5.3.32. Footpaths and amenities being provided as part of the Proposed Development will increase accessibility of local green open space and reduce walking distance times to the above open space and recreational facilities.
- 5.3.33. Local open space being provided as part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village will also be available to residents of the Proposed Development. Part of the overall garden village proposals (detailed within the Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning document (June 2017)) involve the creation of a new country park, covering approximately 43ha, on the former Cronton Colliery, and enhancement of pedestrian and cycling connection to the country park from the rest of the garden village.

5.4. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Construction

Employment

- 5.4.1. Economic Benefits will arise through the provision of temporary jobs during the construction phase at the Application site, which is estimated to be up to five years. Construction cost is estimated at approximately £44.5million over the build programme (at current prices) and has been estimated using the BCIS Online tool⁸ and is exclusive of external works, contingencies, supporting infrastructure fees, VAT, finance charges etc.
- 5.4.2. To estimate construction employment supported during the build phase, the total construction cost has been divided by the average turnover per construction employee in the North West of

⁸ Accessed: 29/11/2025.

£191,784 in 2025⁹. This gives 232 construction jobs in person years. To get annual employment on-site, this is then divided by the build timeframe of 5 years. This means that during the build phase, around 46 direct construction jobs could be supported on site per annum during the estimated 5-year build phase.

- 5.4.3. Construction has knock-on effects for other sectors, which leads to increased demand for building materials and equipment at the construction phase. This generates and sustains employment in other sectors. This is known as the 'multiplier effect'.
- 5.4.4. The July 2018 'Economic Footprint of House Building in England and Wales' report by the Home Builders Federation found that for every 1 job in housing construction, the scale of employment supported is equivalent to between 2.4 and 3.1 direct, indirect and induced jobs per new dwelling built. Taking an average of these figures, we can use a multiplier of 2.75 (i.e. for every 1 job in house building, a further 1.75 jobs are supported in the wider economy) to quantify these knock-on effects.
- 5.4.5. Therefore, as well as the 46 direct construction jobs, it is estimated that the construction of the Proposed Development could support up to 81 additional jobs in the wider economy.
- 5.4.6. In total, therefore, around 128 temporary jobs could be supported per annum during the build phase¹⁰.

Significance of Construction Employment Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor (employment in construction and other sectors of the economy) is assessed as being **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. Construction employment represents around 6% of total employment in Knowsley which is above the proportion in the North West and England, which highlights that the LPA has a relatively strong construction sector.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** given the generation of around 46 construction jobs per annum would represent a 1.2% increase in construction employment in Knowsley.
- The significance of the temporary effect of employment in the construction phase is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Economic Contribution

- 5.4.7. Another way of looking at the economic impact of the construction phase is to calculate the contribution a development makes to wealth creation, as measured by the increase in the value of goods and services generated within an area. This can be done by looking at the increase in gross value added (GVA), a common proxy for economic output.¹¹ Using ONS data, it is possible to calculate GVA per employee by sector at a regional level. In the North West as of 2023, construction GVA per employee is around £87,122 per annum. Total annual GVA per employee for all sectors in the region is estimated at £67,012.

⁹ 2025 Business Population Estimates.

¹⁰ Figures may not sum due to rounding.

¹¹ Gross Value Added is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy, minus the costs associated with providing those goods and services.

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- 5.4.8. Applying these GVA figures to the employment estimates outlined above, the Proposed Development could generate an additional £9.5million of GVA per annum (£4million from construction employment and £5.4million from multiplier jobs¹²) or £44.3million during the 5-year construction period (present value¹³).

Significance of Construction Economic Contribution Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor (economic output from the construction sector in Knowsley) is assessed as being **high**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. Economic output from the construction sector increased by 46.3% between 2013 and 2023. This was below the increases seen at a regional level (87.3%) and at a national level (72.5%).
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** given the generation of £9.5million in economic output per annum would increase construction GVA in Knowsley by 4.4% per annum.
- The significance of the temporary effect of economic contribution in the construction phase is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Disturbance to Neighbourhood Amenity

- 5.4.9. The sensitivity of the receptors (disturbance to neighbourhood amenity from construction activities) is assessed as **medium**, in line with criteria set out in **Table 5.1**, given that:

- The LPA saw no jobs growth between 2015 and 2024, compared to regional and national increases of 12.4% and 9.6% respectively.
- The claimant count at the LPA scale has consistently remained above the rate in the North West and England between November 2022 and November 2025.
- The LSOAs that the Proposed Development is located in (Knowsley O13C and Knowsley O17C) fall within the top 40% and 50% most deprived LSOAs in the country.
- The local health profile of Knowsley is worse, in most indicators, when compared to the regional and national figures.

- 5.4.10. The assessment of the potential impacts on construction disturbance on neighbouring villages is informed by other assessments undertaken and presented in this ES, including Landscape and Visual, Transport Assessment, Air Quality Assessment, and Noise Assessment. The residual effects identified as a result of the construction phase are used as the basis of this assessment. A summary of the key residual effects are as follows:

- Visual amenity during construction – Landscape and Visual Assessment outlines that there are expected to be significant adverse effects on views experienced by users of the paths around Big Water and along routes within Halsnead Park. These effects would be short-term and temporary in nature. Mitigation of some identified construction

¹² Figures may not sum due to rounding.

¹³ Where future benefits are calculated over a longer timeframe, they have been discounted to produce a present value. This is the discounted value of a stream of either future costs or benefits. A standard discount rate is used to convert all costs and benefits to present values. Using the Treasury's Green Book, the recommended discount rate is 3.5%.

effects would be achieved through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

- Transport effects – There are no significant effects expected in relation to transport during the construction phase.
- Air quality effects – Chapter 10 of this ES relates to Air Quality and concludes that potential dust effects during the construction phase are not considered to be permanent in nature and may only arise at particular times. Despite the identified dust risk, best practice mitigation measures are required to minimise or eliminate potential impacts. Provided effective measures are implemented, residual effects are assessed as Negligible and result in a 'not significant' effect.
- Noise effects – Assessment has confirmed that whilst the M62 is a source of air pollution, with some risk from dust during the construction phase, overall emissions were not considered significant, and would not present a constraint to development. As a result, there are no significant effects expected in relation to noise during the construction phase.

5.4.11. As outlined above, best practice construction measures will be implemented by way of a CEMP to minimise effects as far as possible. However, it is noted that following mitigation there is still potential for significant adverse effects relating to visual amenity during construction for users of the paths around Big Water and along routes within Halsnead Park. As such, accounting for all potential synergistic health and wellbeing effects during the construction phase, the magnitude of effect within this socio economic and health assessment is considered to be **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.2.

5.4.12. The potential temporary construction effect on construction disturbance at a local scale is considered to be **moderate adverse** which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Operation

Local Economy

5.4.13. It is estimated that the Proposed Development will provide homes for 212 economically active residents¹⁴. Data from the Annual Population Survey (July 2024–June 2025), published by the ONS show that around 96% of the economically active population in Knowsley are employed. Assuming this figure remains broadly the same, applying it to the population living in the Proposed Development, it could result in around 204 economically active residents in employment living there once the site is fully built and occupied. This is likely to be a mixture of people from outside the area, as well as existing residents who move from other parts of the local area.

5.4.14. If residents show a similar employment profile to the existing working age population of Knowsley, 41% (83) of the economically active residents in employment could be working in higher value occupations, which includes: managers, directors, senior officials, professional and associate professional & technical roles.

5.4.15. Additional household expenditure will be supported by the new dwellings. Whilst not all of this spend will be in the local area, it is reasonable to assume that a substantial proportion will be

¹⁴ Based on data from the 2021 Census, there are 1.12 economic active people per household in Knowsley.

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retained within Knowsley. The Proposed Development could generate annual household expenditure of approximately £5.3million¹⁵ for the local area once it is fully complete and occupied.

- 5.4.16. Assuming the new dwellings fall within Band D, once fully occupied the 190 proposed dwellings are estimated to generate around £0.5million in additional council tax on an annual basis¹⁶.

Significance of Operational Local Economy Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. The LSOAs that the Proposed Development are located within (Knowsley O13C and Knowsley O17C) fall within the top 40% and 50% most deprived LSOAs in the country respectively.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **high** based on the additional household expenditure which could be supported by the new dwellings, the additional council tax generated by the Proposed Development, and the potential increase in economically active residents who may move into the development.
- The significance of the operational effect on the economy is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Housing

- 5.4.17. As outlined in the baseline, the latest annual housing target in Knowsley is 608 dpa. The Proposed Development will deliver 190 residential dwellings over an estimated 5-year build phase. This is based on expected delivery of 40 dpa which accounts for 6.7% of the annual housing target in Knowsley.

Significance of Operational Housing Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1, as housing delivery has been above target for Knowsley for most years between 2015 and 2025, but was below for the latest period of 2024-25.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** given the contribution of the Proposed Development to housing supply in Knowsley is equivalent to 6.3% of the annual housing target.
- The significance of the temporary effect on housing is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Education provision – early years

- 5.4.18. Pupil yield data is available at a local authority level¹⁷ and provides data on the number of children per dwelling for each age group that can be expected to live within a new Development. For early years aged pupils the yield per dwelling is 0.08 pupils, and applying this figure to the 190 proposed dwellings results in a total of 15 early years pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

¹⁵ This is based on household spend by region for 2021-2022, produced by the ONS.

¹⁶ Based on Council Tax for a Band D dwelling in Knowsley of £2,371 for 2025/26.

¹⁷ Pupil yield from housing developments, Department for Education. Reporting year 2022.

Significance of Effect on Early Years provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the local area which may be able to take on additional pupils, and as noted in the Halsnead Garden Village SPD, additional early years/nursery provision will be provided as part of the wider development, either integrated within the primary school and/or through new or extended private facilities.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low** given the limited increase in the number of early years pupils and the fact that early years provision is accounted for within roof tax at £1,492 per plot.
- The significance of the effect on early years provision is considered to be **minor adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Education provision – primary

- 5.4.19. For primary school aged pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.26 pupils. Applying this figure to the 190 proposed dwellings results in a total of 49 primary school pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect on Primary School provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the relevant planning area, all of which have capacity for additional students, with a total capacity of 314 across the planning area.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, although there could be an estimated increase of 49 pupils, this increase would still leave substantial spare capacity within the planning area, and the fact that early years provision is accounted for within roof tax at £4,731 per plot..
- The significance of the effect on primary school provision is considered to be **minor adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Education provision – secondary

- 5.4.20. For secondary school aged pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.12 pupils. Applying this figure to the 190 proposed dwellings results in a total of 23 secondary school pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect on Secondary School provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the relevant planning area, all of which have capacity for additional students, with a total capacity of 508 across the planning area.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, the 23 pupils represents a limited increase in the number of secondary school pupils.
- The significance of the effect on secondary school provision is considered to be **minor adverse** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

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Education provision – post 16

- 5.4.21. For post-16 pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.04 pupils. Applying this figure to the 190 proposed dwellings results in a total of 8 post-16 pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect on Post-16 provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. The existing facility within the relevant planning area has capacity of 24 places.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, the increase of 8 pupils is considered a very limited increase.
- The significance of the permanent effect of on post-16 is considered to be **minor adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Healthcare provision

- 5.4.22. There would be an anticipated increase in population of 442¹⁸ people generated by the Proposed Development. This would result in an increase in the number of patients in the study area from 48,756 to 49,198 (0.9% increase). Assuming there would be no change in the number of available GPs as identified in the current baseline, it is estimated that this would result in a patient to GP ratio of 1,790. This remains well below the average ratio of 2,228 (as of September 2025) across England.

Significance of Operational Healthcare Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There is currently a low patient-to-GP ratio amongst existing provision within the surrounding area, this suggests there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the increase in residents from the Proposed Development.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low** given the Proposed Development will increase the number of patients by 0.9%.
- The significance of the temporary effect of employment in the construction phase is considered to be **minor adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Open space

- 5.4.23. The Proposed Development is set to deliver approximately 3.1ha of green infrastructure on Site, with the majority being publicly accessible. This has been designed to be easily accessible from the residential part of the Site and will provide pathways as well as open areas of grassland to promote recreational activities such as walking, jogging and walking dogs.

Significance of Operational Open Space Effect

¹⁸ Population generated is based on household size of 2.3 people per household for Knowsley as per the 2021 Census.

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **high**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are only a few publicly accessible open space facilities within the local area which are accessible from the Site.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** given the Proposed Development will deliver 3.1 ha of green space.
- The significance of the temporary effect of employment in the construction phase is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

5.5. Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects

Mitigation by Design

- 5.5.1. The Proposed Development is set to deliver new green infrastructure, totaling 3.1ha. The majority of this provision will be publicly accessible.

Additional Mitigation

- 5.5.2. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) could be secured by planning condition.
- 5.5.3. Developer contributions in association with the Proposed Development comprise the roof tax attached to the Garden Village Masterplan SPD, covering Education, Health, Green Infrastructure and Off-Site Highways. This will be a significant contribution at £12,142 per plot, equating to a total of up to £2,306,980 for the 190 dwellings proposed.
- 5.5.4. A further contribution of £70 per plot will also be made to Social Value monitoring by the Council's Social Value partner Fusion 21, equating to £13,300 for the Proposed Development.

Table 5.25: Mitigation

Ref	Measure to avoid, reduce or manage any adverse effects and/or to deliver beneficial effects	How measure would be secured		
		By Design	By S.106	By Condition
1	CEMP			X
2	Roof tax associated with Garden Village Masterplan SPD		X	
3	Social Value contribution		X	

Enhancements

- 5.5.5. No enhancement measures proposed.

Residual Effects

- 5.5.6. Overall, the Proposed Development is considered to provide significant beneficial effects during the construction phase in relation to employment and economic contribution. Once operational, significant beneficial effects are expected in relation to the economy and housing.

Table 5.26: Residual Significance of Effects (with Mitigation)

Environmental Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Impact Magnitude	Nature of Impact (Permanent/ Temporary)	Effect and Significance
CONSTRUCTION				
Employment	Medium	Medium	Temporary	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Economic Contribution	High	Medium	Temporary	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Disturbance to neighbourhood amenity	Medium	Medium	Temporary	Moderate Adverse (significant)
OPERATION				
Local Economy	Medium	High	Permanent	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Housing	Medium	Medium	Permanent	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Educational Capacity – Early Years	Low	Low	Permanent	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity – Primary Schools	Low	Low	Permanent	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity – Secondary Schools	Low	Low	Permanent	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity – Post 16	Low	Low	Permanent	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Healthcare Provision	Low	Low	Permanent	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Open Space	High	Medium	Permanent	Moderate Beneficial (significant)

5.6. Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

- 5.6.1. There are 16 cumulative schemes which have been shortlisted for consideration by the wider EIA (as discussed in Chapter 2), these are also listed in Table 5.27 below. With regard to socioeconomics, a review of the cumulative schemes has been undertaken.
- 5.6.2. Due to the fact that the assessment has considered impacts relating to the Knowsley LPA, it is proposed that the socioeconomic assessment of cumulative schemes excludes schemes which are outside of the LPA. In addition, due to the residential nature of the Proposed Development, those schemes which do not include the provision of dwellings have been excluded from the cumulative assessment due to a lack of overlap in relevant effects. Based on this approach, cumulative schemes 5, 6, 8, and 16 have been excluded from this cumulative assessment.
- 5.6.3. Cumulative schemes 1–7 are residential schemes which form part of the Sustainable Urban Extension – South of Whiston and Land South of M62 as allocated in the Local Plan. Due to the fact that the wider EIA approach is to assess the entire wider allocation where necessary, the approach taken by economics is to assess the total number of dwellings within the allocation. This would mean assessing the impact of building all 1,500 homes. In addition, cumulative schemes 9, 10 and 15 include provision of residential dwellings and do not form part of the allocation but are considered relevant for this assessment. Therefore, the total number of dwellings to be assessed is 2,331 homes, inclusive of the Proposed Development (1,500 from the allocation and 831 from the additional schemes).

Table 5.27: Cumulative schemes included in the assessment

Scheme Number	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Scoped in for socioeconomic assessment?
1	20/00417/FUL,FOX'S BANK, HALSNEAD GARDEN VILLAGE, LAND WEST OF FOX'S BANK LANE AND NORTH OF M62, WHISTON, KNOWSLEY, L35 3SS	Yes – Phase 2a	Residential development comprising the erection of 350 dwellings together with the construction of vehicular access off fox's bank lane, and supporting infrastructure.	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
2	20/00399/OUT / 23/02755/FUL / RM 23/02378/ REM ,LAND SOUTH OF LICKERS LANE AND SITE OF FORMER SAUNDER'S NURSERY, WINDY ARBOR ROAD, HALSNEAD GARDEN VILLAGE, WHISTON	Yes – Phase 1b/1c/2c	Outline application for Proposed Residential Development of up to 277 Dwellings and an Apartment Development of up to 100 units for over 50s and supporting infrastructure and associated works.	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
3	18/00283/HYB / RM 22/00213/REM,LAND NORTH OF M62 MOTORWAY OFF WINDY ARBOR ROAD (HALSNEAD) WHISTON KNOWSLEY L35 1RB	Yes – Phase 1a	Hybrid Application comprising full details for 123 dwellings and supporting infrastructure and works; outline application for 237 dwellings, car park and associated works	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
4	22/00600/FUL,LAND TO THE SOUTH OF LICKERS LANE, HALSNEAD GARDEN VILLAGE, WHISTON, KNOWSLEY	Yes – Phase 2c	Erection of 120 dwellings with 1 vehicular access off Lickers lane and other associated works.	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
5	22/00162/REM / 23/01949/REM / 24/00145/ REM ,FORMER SITE OF CRONTON COLLIERY CRONTON ROAD HALSNEAD GARDEN VILLAGE KNOWSLEY	Yes within Garden Village	Hybrid Application comprising: full application for 161,900 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and associated infrastructure and works; outline application for the development of up to 838,100 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and supporting infrastructure	No – The scheme is non residential and therefore effects are not expected to overlap
6	22/00587/FUL,LAND TO THE NORTH OF CRONTON ROAD AND SOUTH OF THE M62, CRONTON, KNOWSLEY	Yes within Garden Village	Erection of 1 no. commercial unit (312,000 sq ft use class b8) with ancillary offices and outbuildings together with access works, landscaping, service yard, car parking, servicing and other associated works	No – The scheme is non residential and therefore effects are not expected to overlap
7	23/01417/FUL,LAND AT WINDY ARBOR BROW / WINDY ARBOR ROAD WHISTON KNOWSLEY 20/00329/FUL S73 Application (23/01417/FUL)	Within South of Whiston allocation (SUE2) but outside the	Erection of a residential development of 43 dwellings	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development

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Scheme Number	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Scoped in for socioeconomic assessment?
		masterplan and phased development area		
8	23/O2782/FUL, SOVEREIGN INDUSTRIAL PARK WILSON ROAD HUYTON KNOWSLEY	No	Erection of 1.no retail unit (Use Class E(A) with External Display Area and Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements. Partial demolition, reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing employment building to create 2.no industrial / warehouse buildings with ancillary offices (Use Classes E(G)(III), B2 and B8) with servicing and car parking; retention and amendment of existing site accesses along with internal estate roads, 2no. substations, landscaping and associated works.	No – The scheme is non residential and therefore effects are not expected to overlap
9	15/00022/OUT / 20/00767/REM, PARCEL C AT PRESCOT CABLES SITE PRESCOT PARK WAY KNOWSLEY PRESCOT L34 1AH	No	Application for Approval of Reserved Matters Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 15/00022/OUT (Outline Application for mixed use development comprising up to 750 dwellings, and up to 929 sqm of commercial / industrial buildings (use classes B1/B2/B8). Approval sought for appearance, access, layout and landscaping for the erection of 53 dwellings	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
10	20/00789/FUL, LAND EAST OF PRESCOT PARK WAY PRESCOT CABLES PRESCOT L34 1AH	No	Erection of 28 no. dwellings (use class c3) together with access and associated works	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
11	SOUTH OF WHISTON/LAND NORTH OF THE M62 SUE, 'HALSNEAD PARK' (ALLOCATED WITHIN THE KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY)	Yes	Notional capacity: 1,503 dwellings plus 22.5ha employment and country park	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
12	19/00651/FUL, DISUSED RAILWAY LINE EXTENDING FROM M62 MOTORWAY EXTENDING NORTH THROUGH HALSNEAD PARK AND TO REAR OF CRONTON AVENUE, WHISTON, KNOWSLEY	Yes	Construction of Multi Use Path and Associated Groundworks	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and will provide new open space

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Scheme Number	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Scoped in for socioeconomic assessment?
13	20/00578/FUL, FORMER SITE OF CRONTON COLLIERY CRONTON ROAD CRONTON KNOWSLEY L35 1QR	Yes	Construction of a new country park comprising the creation of sculpted landscape, habitat/wetland creation, associated works and infrastructure. This planning application also comprises the erection of a single storey visitor centre including reception, education space and outdoor classroom and access into the Site.	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and will provide new open space
14	22/00195/KMBC1, FROM FOX'S BANK LANE FOLLOWING THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND SOUTH OF PENNY LANE TO OPPOSITE OAK LODGE	No	Construction of a multi user route for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians including a new equestrian, cyclist and pedestrian crossing on fox's bank lane, installation of 2 no. k-barriers and access gates, regrading of land, landscaping, boundary treatments, signage and other associated works to connect fox's bank lane at Halsnead park to the existing penny lane highway	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and will provide new open space
15	20/00767/REM, PARCEL C AT PRESCOT CABLES SITE PRESCOT PARK WAY KNOWSLEY PRESCOT L34 1AH	No	Application for approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission 15/00022/OUT; 53 dwellings	Yes – the scheme falls within Knowsley LPA and is likely to generate similar impacts to the Proposed Development
16	20/00576/HYB, LAND NORTH OF CABLES WAY ADJACENT TO CARR LANE AND CABLES WAY PRESCOT KNOWSLEY	No	Full planning permission for a new foodstore, employment development, access, landscaping and provision of associated infrastructure. Outline planning permission for a mixed-use development comprising a drive thru restaurant, drive thru coffee shop and public house together with associated parking and landscaping	No – The scheme includes public housing and commercial floorspace therefore effects are not expected to overlap

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- 5.6.4. Construction impacts have been excluded from the cumulative assessment as the methodologies used are not consistent and therefore impacts cannot be combined.
- 5.6.5. The cumulative operational impacts are presented in relation to household spend, increase in council tax, contribution to housing delivery in Knowsley, and the impact on education and healthcare provision.

Economy

- 5.6.6. The Proposed Development and cumulative schemes are estimated to generate the following impacts:
- An estimated £65.4million¹⁹ in household spend at the Proposed Development and cumulative schemes per annum.
 - An estimated £5.5million²⁰ in additional Council Tax revenue generated per annum, or £55.3million over 10-years at 2025/26 rates.

Significance of Operational Economy Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. The LSOAs that the Proposed Development are located within (Knowsley O13C and Knowsley O17C) fall within the top 40% and 50% most deprived LSOAs in the country respectively.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **high** given the considerable estimated increase in economically active residents generated by the Proposed Development and cumulative scheme, the additional household expenditure supported by the new dwellings, and additional council tax generated.
- The significance of the operational effect on the economy is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Housing

- 5.6.7. As outlined in the baseline, the latest annual housing target in Knowsley is 608 dpa. The Proposed Development and cumulative schemes will deliver around 2,331 residential dwellings over an estimated 18-year build phase. The build timeframe is sourced from the Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan SPD. This total equates to an average of 130 dpa being delivered on-site. This accounts for 18.3% of the annual housing target in Knowsley.
- 5.6.8. Significance of Operational Housing Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **medium**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1, as housing delivery has been above target for Knowsley for most years between 2015 and 2025, but was below for the latest period of 2024-25.

¹⁹ Based on the same methodology as outline above for the Proposed Development in isolation.

²⁰ Average band D Council Tax for 2025/26 in Knowsley is £2,371.

- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **high** given the significant contribution of the Proposed Development and cumulative scheme to housing supply in Knowsley equivalent to 18.3% of the annual target.
- The significance of the temporary effect on housing is considered to be **moderate beneficial** at the LPA scale which is **significant** in EIA terms.

Education provision

Early years

- 5.6.9. The application for Cumulative Scheme does not include any information on the number of pupils which may be generated by the development. Therefore, the same pupil yields used to assess the Proposed Development have been used to assess the cumulative effect. Applying the yield figure of 0.08 to the 2,331 dwellings results in a total of 186 early years pupils generated by the Proposed Development and cumulative scheme.

Significance of Effect on Early Years provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the local area that may be able to take on additional pupils, and as noted in the Halsnead Garden Village SPD, additional early years/nursery provision will be provided as part of the wider development, either integrated within the primary school and/or through new or extended private facilities.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** the increase of 186 early years children could result in an increase beyond the current level of capacity. However, the Halsnead Garden Village SPD outlines that financial contributions would be made in order to mitigate impacts where needed. These contributions would help to mitigate capacity issues generated by a large proportion of the cumulative dwellings by aiding the provision of new facilities.
- The significance of the temporary effect on early years provision is considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Primary

- 5.6.10. For primary school aged pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.26 pupils. Applying this figure to the 2,331 dwellings results in a total of 606 primary school pupils generated by the Proposed Development and cumulative schemes.

Significance of Effect on Primary School provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the relevant planning area, all of which have capacity for additional students, with a total capacity of 314 across the planning area.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium**, the estimated increase of 606 pupils would result in an increase beyond the current level of capacity. However, the Halsnead Garden Village SPD outlines that financial contributions would be made in order to mitigate impacts where needed. These contributions would help to mitigate capacity issues generated by a large proportion of the cumulative dwellings by aiding the provision

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of new facilities, including the development of a new 2.5-form entry primary school which will expand to 3-form entry

- The significance of the effect on primary school provision is considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Secondary

- 5.6.11. For secondary school aged pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.12 pupils. Applying this figure to the 2,331 proposed dwellings results in a total of 280 secondary school pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect on Secondary School provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There are existing facilities within the relevant planning area, all of which have capacity for additional students, with a total capacity of 508 across the planning area.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **low**, given that there is sufficient capacity for the additional students generated by the cumulative schemes.
- The significance of the temporary effect on secondary school provision is considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Post-16

- 5.6.12. For post-16 pupils, the yield per dwelling is 0.04 pupils. Applying this figure to the 2,331 proposed dwellings results in a total of 93 post-16 pupils generated by the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect on Post-16 provision

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. The existing facility within the relevant planning area has capacity of 24 places.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium**, the increase of 93 pupils would exceed capacity within Knowsley. However, as mentioned, the Halsnead Garden Village SPD outlines that financial contributions would be made in order to mitigate impacts where needed
- The significance of the permanent effect on post-16 provision is considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Healthcare provision

- 5.6.13. There would be an anticipated increase in population of 5,422²¹ people generated by the Proposed Development and the cumulative schemes. This would result in an increase in the number of patients in the study area from 48,756 to 54,178 (11.1% increase). Assuming there would be no change in the number of available GPs as identified in the current baseline, it is

²¹ Population generated is based on household size of 2.3 people per household for Knowsley as per the 2021 Census.

estimated that this would result in a patient to GP ratio of 1,972. This remains well below the average ratio of 2,228 (as of November 2025) across England.

Significance of Operational Healthcare Effect

- The sensitivity of the receptor is assessed as being **low**, in line with criteria set out in Table 5.1. There is currently a low patient-to-GP ratio amongst existing provision within the surrounding area, this suggests there is sufficient capacity to accommodate an increase in residents.
- The magnitude of effect is considered to be **medium** given the Proposed Development and cumulative scheme will increase the number of patients by 11.1%. Despite this increase the patient-to-GP ratio would remain below the national average.
- The significance of the permanent effect on healthcare provision is considered to be **minor to moderate adverse** at the LPA scale which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Open Space

- 5.6.14. There is open space proposed as part of the Proposed Development (approximately 2.9ha of green infrastructure on Site, with the majority being publicly accessible) as well as a number of the cumulative schemes including a country park. As such, on the basis of worst case, it is expected that the magnitude of change would be at least that identified for the Proposed Development in isolation. Overall, the significance of permanent cumulative effect on open space during the operational stage would remain as **moderate beneficial**, which is **significant**.

5.7. Summary

Introduction

- 5.7.1. This Chapter has assessed the socio-economic impacts arising from proposals that will deliver 190 dwellings.

Baseline Conditions

- 5.7.2. A baseline review of Knowsley's socio-economic context reveals the following:
- Between 2014 and 2024, Knowsley's population has grown faster than the rate seen across the North West and England. In this time, the highest percentage of the population growth in Knowsley was from people aged 65 and over. This trend is projected to continue between 2022 and 2042.
 - The LSOAs within which the Site falls, Knowsley 013C and Knowsley 017C, are within the top 40% and 50% most deprived LSOAs in England.
 - There was no employment growth in Knowsley between 2015 and 2024, which compares to growth at a regional and national scale of 12.4% and 9.6% respectively.
 - Economic output in Knowsley has increased at a slower rate than the regional average between 2013 and 2023, but at a faster rate than the national average.
 - The proportion of people aged 16–64 in Knowsley claiming benefits as of November 2025 is above the rates in the North West and England.

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- The affordability ratio data for Knowsley show that housing in the LPA is relatively more affordable than housing at a regional and national level.

Likely Significant Effects

Construction

5.7.3. The following impacts are assessed as having a significant beneficial effect during the construction phase:

- 128 temporary jobs could be supported on-site and in the wider economy per annum during the 5-year build phase.
- £9.5million in GVA per annum could be generated during the 5-year build phase.

Operation

5.7.4. The following impacts are assessed as having a significant beneficial effect during the operational phase:

- An estimated 204 economically active residents in employment living on-site, £5.3million in household spend generated per annum, and an estimated £0.5million of council tax revenue generated per annum.
- The delivery of 190 dwellings over five years gives an average delivery of 38 dpa. This equates to 6.3% of Knowsley annual housing target.

Mitigation and Enhancement

5.7.5. The Proposed Development is set to deliver new green infrastructure, totaling 3.1ha. The majority of this provision will be publicly accessible. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) could be secured by planning condition. Developer contributions in association with the Proposed Development comprise the roof tax attached to the Garden Village Masterplan SPD, covering Education, Health, Green Infrastructure and Off-Site Highways.

5.7.6. No enhancement measures proposed.

Conclusion

5.7.7. Overall, the Proposed Development is considered to provide significant beneficial effects during the construction phase in relation to employment and economic contribution.

5.7.8. Once operational, significant beneficial effects are expected in relation to the economy and housing, and open space.

5.7.9. While there is a significant adverse effect in relation to disturbance to neighbourhood amenity during the construction phase, it is temporary in nature and will be reversed once the scheme is operational, and can also be managed through the CEMP and other operational planning conditions if required.

5.7.10. Table 5.28 provides a summary of effects, mitigation and residual effects.

Table 5.28: Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Receptor / Receiving Environment	Description of Effect	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity Value	Magnitude of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Effects	Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual Effects
Construction								
Employment	Increase in construction employment during build period.	Temporary	Medium	Medium	District	Moderate beneficial (Significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Economic Output	Additional GVA generated during the build period.	Temporary	High	Medium	District	Moderate beneficial (Significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Disturbance to neighbourhood amenity	Construction disturbance	Temporary	Medium	Medium	Local	Moderate Adverse (significant)	N/A	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Operation								
Local Economy	Increase in economically active residents, council tax revenue, household spend.	Permanent	Medium	High	District	Moderate beneficial (Significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (Significant)

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Housing	Contribution of housing to local plan housing target.	Permanent	Medium	Medium	District	Moderate beneficial (Significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (Significant)
Educational Capacity – Early Years	Increase in demand for early years provision.	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity Primary Schools	Increase in demand for primary school provision.	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity – Secondary Schools	Increase in demand for secondary school provision.	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Educational Capacity – Post 16	Increase in demand for post-16 provision.	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
Healthcare Provision	Increase in demand for healthcare provision.	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

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Open Space	Provision of open space on-site.	Permanent	High	High	District	Major beneficial (significant)	N/A	Major Beneficial (significant)
Cumulative and In-Combination								
Economy	Increase in economically active residents, council tax revenue, household spend.	Permanent	Medium	High	District	Moderate beneficial (significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (significant)
Housing	Contribution of housing to local plan housing target.	Permanent	Medium	High	District	Moderate beneficial (significant)	N/A	Moderate beneficial (significant)
Educational Capacity – Early Years	Increase in demand for early years provision.	Permanent	Low	Medium	District	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	N/A	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)
Educational Capacity Primary Schools	Increase in demand for primary school provision.	Permanent	Low	Medium	District	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	N/A	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)
Educational Capacity – Secondary Schools	Increase in demand for secondary	Permanent	Low	Low	District	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	N/A	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

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	school provision.							
Educational Capacity – Post-16	Increase in demand for post-16 provision.	Permanent	Low	Medium	District	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	N/A	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)
Healthcare provision	Increase in demand for healthcare provision.	Permanent	Low	Medium	District	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)	N/A	Minor to moderate adverse (not significant)