



# LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB



**KSS**

LIVERPOOL ACADEMY MASTERPLAN - DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 2025 - P04

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

# 1.1 INTRODUCTION

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) forms part of a planning application for the redevelopment of Liverpool Football Club (LFC) Academy facilities. It has been prepared on behalf of Liverpool Football Club, the Applicant.

The purpose of this statement is to assist Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council as the local planning authority and other interested parties to understand the context for the proposed development and to outline the design process undertaken in developing the proposals. It sets out the prevailing policy framework, how the design of the proposed development complies with this and identifies the material considerations to be taken into account in determining this application.

This statement is one of a suite of documents prepared by the design team in support of the planning application as detailed below:

- Lighting Impact Assessment
- Acoustic Impact Assessment
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment

### BRIEF REQUIREMENTS

LFC's brief is to improve the Academy through a phased development that allows the site to continue to attract, retain and develop the best talent whilst bringing facilities in line with other leading clubs. The following elements were key requirements:

- New full-size indoor pitch to provide an all-year training space
- Upgraded show pitch to meet UEFA standards
- Refurbishment of the main Academy building with a focus on support and education spaces

### PROPOSAL OUTLINE

The proposed development aims to improve and extend the LFC Academy facilities through refurbishment and extension of the existing academy building and the provision of a new indoor pitch. The improvements will be the first major works to the facility since it was built in 1998, and will provide the younger players with access to top class facilities as they progress through the sport. Having never had access to a full-sized indoor pitch, the proposal will allow the players to benefit from training on a full-sized pitch all year round, and not be interrupted by inclement weather. The redevelopment aims to bring LFC's Academy facilities in line with top flight clubs across Europe and maintain their Category 1 Status.

The artificial indoor pitch will be built on the site of the existing Academy show pitch. The show pitch will then be relocated to the site of the existing artificial, alongside an improved 494-seat spectator stand. There will also be improvements to parking and landscape around the site.

### DESIGN TEAM

This statement has been prepared by KSS Design Group (KSS) with technical design, research and information provided by the design team as detailed below:

- KSS Design Group: Architects
- Ryan and May: Planning Consultants
- Planit: Landscape Architects
- Urban Green:
- Mott MacDonald: Transport Consultants
- OBi Sports: Pitch Consultants
- Curtins: Structural Engineers
- Hilson Moran: MEP

# 1.3 INTRODUCTION

## PRE-APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A public consultation on the proposed development was held on the 17th November 2025 at Park Brow School in Kirkby. It was attended by KSS, Turley, Ryan and May, and LFC.

Invitations were issued to over 1200 households in the L33 postcode. Attendees on the day displayed a keen interest in the proposals and the majority of comments received were positive.

A minor concern was voiced by a nearby resident who felt the indoor pitch structure would be very tall compared to the houses on Simonswood Lane. The neighbour viewed the section drawing depicting this relationship and was happy that the screening would obscure the pitch. No other notable comments were received.



**Liverpool FC (LFC) is bringing forward plans to redevelop the current Academy site in Kirkby.**

The expansion and refurbishment of the Academy will be the first major works to the building since it was completed in 1998. Following improvements to other aspects of the LFC's infrastructure, the Academy's redevelopment will provide the younger players with access to top class facilities as they progress through the sport.

The redevelopment aims to bring LFC's Academy facilities in line with top flight clubs across Europe to better our talent attraction.



Photograph of the current indoor artificial pitch

Share your views:

contact@lfcacademyconsultation.co.uk

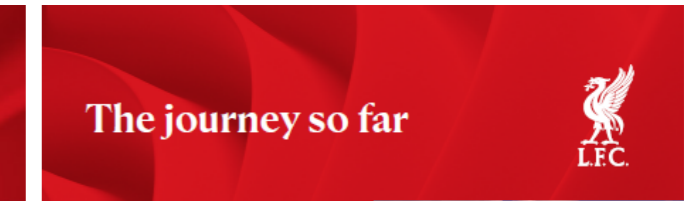
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**The Academy has been permanently based in Kirkby, east of Simonswood Lane and south of Moss Lane, since 1998.**



Photograph of existing grass show-pitch and spectator stand

A hybrid planning application was approved by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council in 2017, which sought to create one training campus for LFC (including works to improve the existing Academy campus), and enhance community recreational facilities through the improvements to the Eddie McArdle playing fields. The proposals brought LFC's first team and Academy football training operations and facilities together in one location.

Measures included in the full planning consent element of the application were external alterations to the main Academy building, a new 499-seat spectator stand for the existing outdoor show pitch (south of the existing Academy building), and a new building to cover the training pitch lying immediately to the north of the existing Academy building.



Photograph of existing Academy building

Since then, significant improvements have been made across the Academy's facilities to provide LFC's young players with the best possible opportunities all year round.

LFC has invested in the Academy following the 2017 planning permission and is reviewing its plans to ensure that it is able to offer the highest standard of facilities to emerging talent. The current proposals are more ambitious, reflecting LFC's commitment to the next generation of players.

Share your views:

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