

Social Value Strategy

Project:	Arnold Clark Knowsley	Project Ref:	TD6171
Site Address:	Vacant corner plot of land north of B5194 Knowsley Lane and west of Arley Drive.		
Prepared For:	Arnold Clark		
Issue Date:	12 th June 2025		
Revision:	A		

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Revisions

Report Introduction

Issue History:		
Revision	Issue Date	Notes
A	12 th June 2025	First Issue

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Report Objectives

Since the Social Value Act was introduced in 2012, the development sector is increasingly required to report on the social value of new development. In this instance, social value generally refers to improvements in the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area in which the development is taking place. The purpose of this report is to set out the known social value benefits that the proposed development will bring to Knowsley, in accordance with relevant local and national priorities, through construction and operational activities, with a specific focus on supporting the local economy through employment and training. The report is structured to meet this purpose as follows:

- Section 2 Planning context and policies which are relevant to social value
- Section 3 Social value benefits from construction activities
- Section 4 Social value benefits from operational activities
- Section 5 Summary

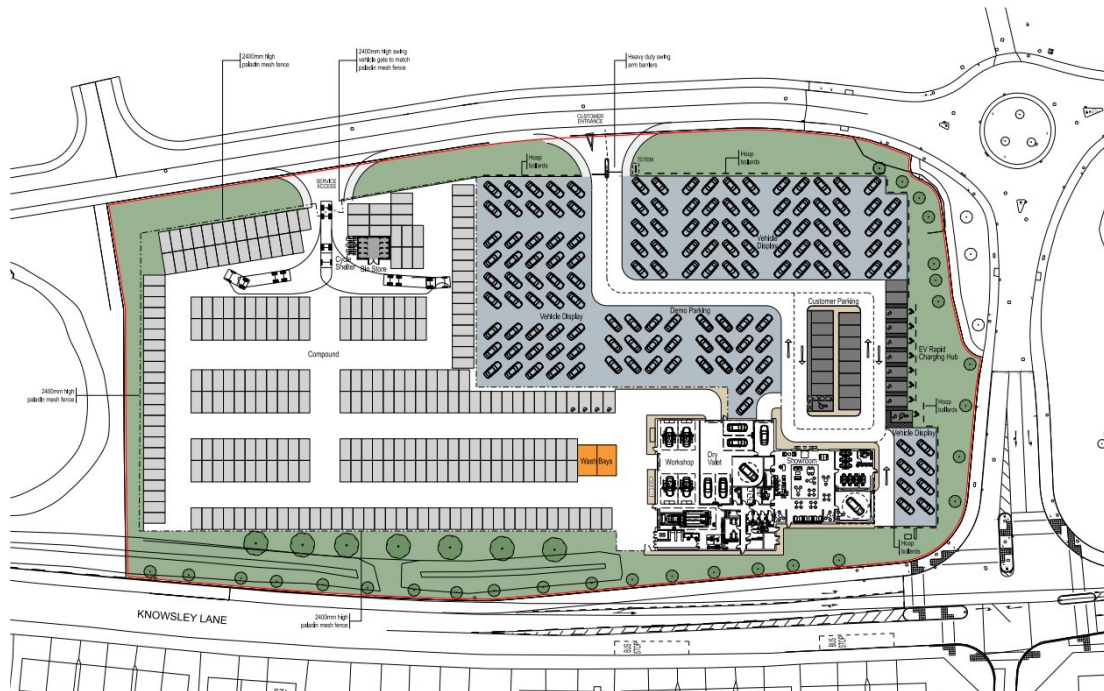
1.2 Proposed Development

The site is 1.92 hectares and it is currently a vacant site. The site sits to the south of the M57, close to junction 2 of the motorway. The site is located to the north of residential properties; these are located to the south of Knowsley Lane.

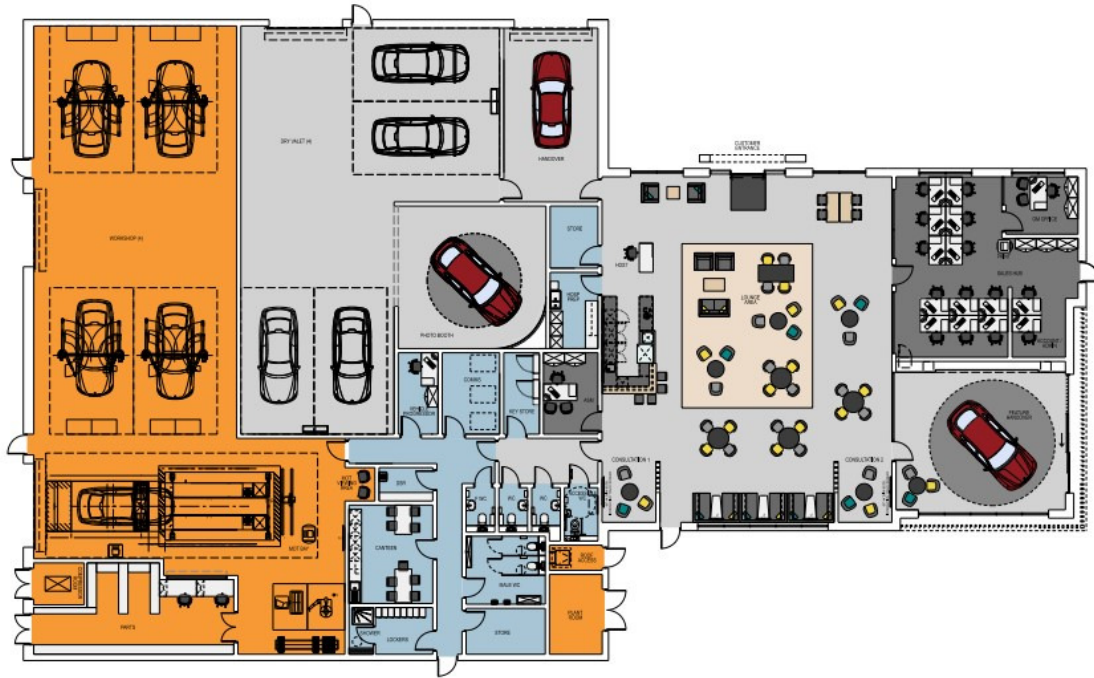
- 1.3 The proposed development is for a car dealership with external display space. The building would contain a customer café / consultation space and includes workshop / aftersales facilities (The building GIA is 1237 square metres).

1.4 Drawings

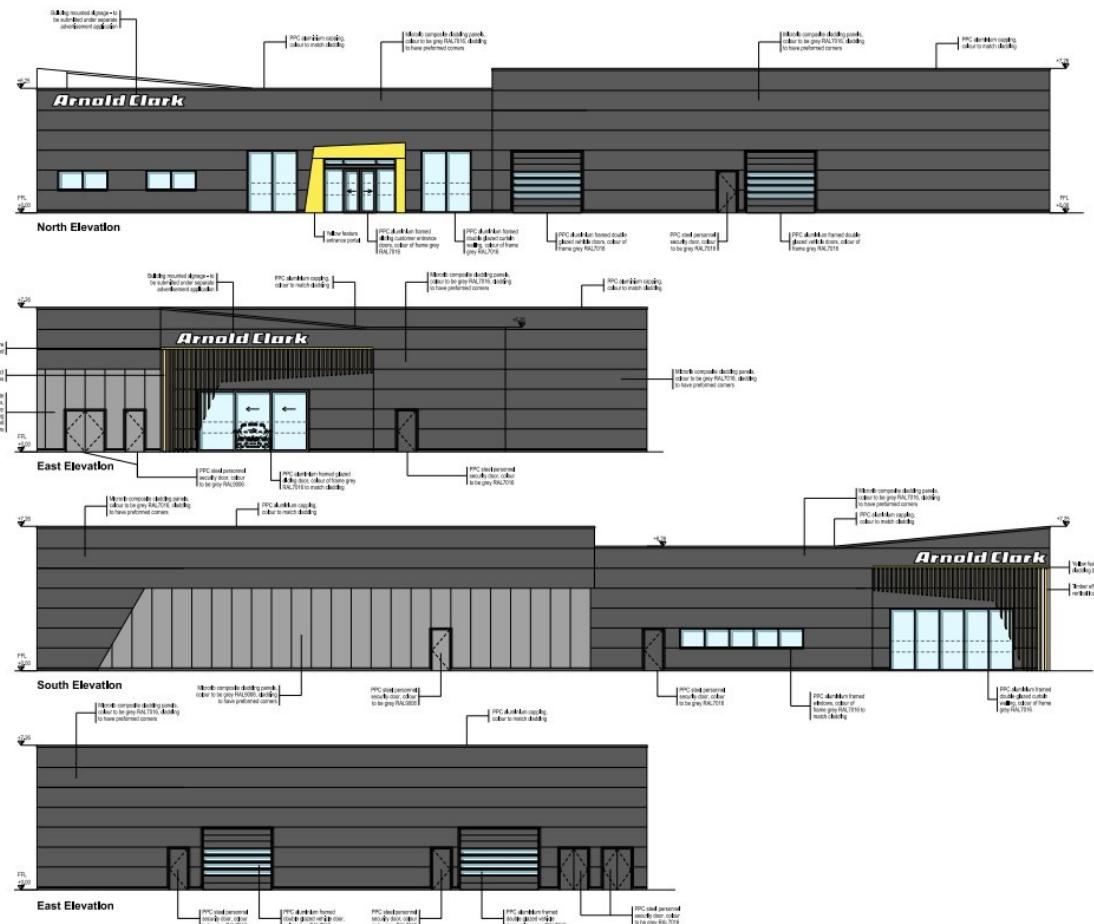
Please see below the proposed site plan, floor plan and elevations:



Site Plan



Floor Plan



Elevations

2.0 Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1** The development will be responsive to both national and local policy requirements. The specifics of such national and local policy are detailed below

2.2 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

The Act calls for all public sector commissioning to factor in economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes. It requires that all public bodies in England and Wales, including Local Authorities, to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area. The Act is focused on ensuring public spending leverages value in all three recognised domains or pillars of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental sustainability.

2.3 Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (January 2016)

The Knowsley Core Strategy details specific objectives to improve employment and skills in the borough. The specific policy requirements of Knowsley Council are summarised below:

- CS4: – Economy and Employment states that, given the high levels of socio-economic deprivation which exist in the borough, planning, site assembly and other available interventions will be used to:
 - Support sustainable economic growth and meet the development needs of established and emerging employment sectors, including the Liverpool City Region key economic sectors;
 - Provide sufficient land to meet employment development needs to 2028;
 - Enhance the quality and efficiency of land use within existing employment areas;
 - Improve accessibility to an appropriate range of jobs, for example by encouraging mixed use employment/residential schemes where appropriate and improving transport linkages between housing and employment areas;
 - Address skills and educational barriers to employment; and
 - Encourage recruitment targeted towards communities living in and around the development site.

2.4 Knowsley – Adding Social Value to Development: Employment and Skills (September 2018)

This supplementary planning document (SPD) is driven by the Council's aspiration to see additional social value benefits incorporated into relevant development opportunities. Social value is defined as the additional economic, social and environmental benefits that can be created as part of a development. By seeking to define social value commitments from major developments during the planning stage, the Council hopes to achieve added value benefits for the people of Knowsley, particularly in the area of employment and skills, to which the SPD particularly relates.

The SPD provides guidance on how developers in the Borough are to prepare and implement a Social Value Strategy. It outlines the process for creating Social Value Strategies and identifies the kind of social value outcomes which could be expected from new major development. Such strategies will commit to maximising the employment and training of local people during the construction phase and in the completed development, helping to develop the resident workforce skills, including a route to employment for local people.

In doing so, the commitments will also help to address a national shortage in construction skills so will directly support the needs of developers and their construction partners

3.0 Social Value from Construction Activities

- 3.1** At the current stage of the project, the construction contractor is unknown, and will be confirmed once planning permission is granted for the scheme. The contractor will be appointed following a traditional tender process.
- 3.2** As such, precise employment, training and apprenticeship benefits that will arise from the construction phase of development cannot be fully determined at this time.
- 3.3** However, contractors bidding for the construction works will be asked how their submission will provide relevant social value benefits for Knowsley. This is likely to include measures such as;
- Recruitment and training opportunities;
 - Apprenticeships offered to local residents;
 - Work placement opportunities for Knowsley residents;
 - Notifying Knowsley Council of relevant employment vacancies;
 - Integration of the local supply chain in providing materials and labour for the works; and
 - Educational initiatives to engage with local schools.

4.0 Social Value from Operational Activities

- 4.1 The current site does not provide any social value in terms of employment, and so no employment social value would be lost as a result of the development.
- 4.2 Arnold Clark have been operating as a family-run business for over 70 years, and the company is still fully-owned by the Clark family. The company is built on strong family values. They currently employ 11,600 people across 200 branches.
- 4.3 Arnold Clark's training programme has grown to become one of the most respected in the UK and demonstrates Arnold Clark's commitment to apprenticeships. Their GTC Training Ltd company provides high-quality training courses and education across a wide range of disciplines, such as Business Skills, Computer & IT, Health & Safety, Transport & Logistics and Automotive Technical. Arnold Clark recognise the importance of investing in the future workforce and their aim is to give learners the skills and experience they need to succeed in the automotive, transport and health and safety industries. With the approval of many prestigious bodies, such as SQA, IMI, RHA, ILM, FTA, City and Guilds, GTG has defined its position as one of the UK's most innovative, experienced and qualified training providers.
- 4.4 Arnold Clark also operate an equal opportunities policy for staff and are committed to investing in the local community. They are a member of the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion (ENEI) and also the Employers Initiative on Domestic Abuse.
- 4.5 As a result of the development, an additional 33 employment opportunities will be created. The approximate breakdown of the expected additional staff numbers of staff to be employed within each sector of the business is shown in Table 4.1 below (numbers are indicative at this stage).

Senior Management	Sales and Accounts	Aftersales	Parts	Workshop	Valeting
1	17	2	1	5	7

- 4.6 Operations at the site will also be reliant on a range of local companies to contribute to the dealerships supply chain. Arnold Clark will utilise local companies for operations such as food supplies for the customer cafe, a cleaning firm to service the showroom and ground maintenance staff to maintain the external areas and landscaping.
- 4.7 Arnold Clark have invested heavily in their charging infrastructure and currently have around 100 EV hubs with around 500 ultra-rapid chargers in the UK. The new site would provide eight new electric vehicle charging points and will become part of the Arnold Clark EV Charging Hub network. There will be the associated environmental benefits arising from the decarbonisation of private transportation.

5.0 Summary

- 5.1 The development of the site into commercial use will result in a number of long-term economic benefits, set out below.
- Significant economic benefits associated with construction and increased spending in the locality to support the vitality and viability of local services and facilities;
 - Benefits to Knowsley residents through existing and future employment, and on-the-job training opportunities;
 - Wider economic benefits through the employment of local businesses as part of Arnold Clark's supply chain;
 - Employment creation of 33 jobs;
 - The creation of apprenticeship positions that will train 16-18-year olds within the locality. This will benefit the wider community
- 5.2 Though the main contractor for the construction of the scheme has yet to be appointed, relevant contributions to social value in Knowsley will be requested as part of the tender submissions and utilised in the evaluation process
- 5.3 The above strategy therefore maximises the social value contributions that can reasonably be expected from the proposed development, during both construction and operational phases.