

Sustainability Action Plan



Wirral is well placed to be the greenest and most sustainable borough in the Liverpool City Region.

Through collaboration that 'joins-up' local and city scale thinking and action - we will be better placed to deliver transformational change across the Left Bank.

This is a plan to accelerate action and bring about an immediate and transformational scale of change across all aspects of sustainability - a Sustainability Action Plan.

sustainability

suh·stay·nuh·bi·luh·tee

*meeting our own needs
without compromising the ability
of future generations to meet
their own needs.*

action

ak·shn

*a thing done,
an act.*

plan

plan

*a detailed programme
of action.*

This Action Plan is exactly that: a Plan that takes forward our Vision Statement (2010), builds on work to date, sets out specific actions and deliverables - making real change on the ground. No more pledges or 'to-do' list for the future - Action now is what's required.

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AMBITION

Wirral is best placed to be the greenest and most sustainable borough in the Liverpool City Region.

Wirral Waters is an incredible opportunity for regeneration.

The ambition to deliver a sustainability city extension exemplar has been embedded in thinking and actions from the start through our Sustainability Strategy.

Delivery is underway - creating climate resilient, healthy places and a sustainable city extension exemplar at the heart of the Left Bank Growth Point.

In July 2019, Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Change Emergency.

Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 has reaffirmed that transformation of an extraordinary scale is needed.

This is challenging, but it's not impossible. Wirral Waters has a role to play in leading sustainable regeneration and creating a more resilient Liverpool City Region.

This Wirral Waters Sustainability Action Plan sets out delivery to date, collaborations and proposals that are underway, and actions for moving forward.

It is shared as an invitation for dialogue.

We are collaborating with local communities, interest groups and government. Working in partnership, we are delivering recognisable change on the ground - at the local neighbourhood scale.

With delivery underway - we are looking at accelerating bigger thinking and bigger moves at the city scale, and how collectively we can all play a role in delivering transformational change across the Left Bank.

We will update this Action Plan every twelve months. This is to ensure we focus on delivery in the 'here and now' as stepping stones to big picture transformational change.

FOREWORD

Image courtesy of Ed Hawkins and the University of Reading
www.showyourstripes.info

Richard Mawdsley

Peel L&P's Director of Development
for Wirral Waters

Wirral Waters has sought to be a sustainable exemplar from day one. These sustainability commitments, which we have already been delivering on, are good for people, the local area, the economy and the environment.

Delivery of a sustainable place involves a long-term view and 'big picture' thinking with genuine collaboration between the public, private, 3rd sector and community groups.

As such, this is a collective plan of action, not pledges, and we all have a role to play. Collectively, our focus is on delivering these achievable steps so that significant change can be achieved.

Our intention is for this plan to evolve as Wirral Waters is regenerated, ensuring that sustainability and the environment continue to be embedded into each part of the development with the aim that Wirral Waters can fulfill its potential as one of the most sustainable regeneration projects in the UK.

John Challen

Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)
Pennaeth y Ganolfan Eco / Head of Eco Centre

The Centre For Alternative Technology (CAT) supports the this Sustainability Action Plan as a key element of the Wirral Waters and Left Bank regeneration. CAT's mission is to inspire, inform and enable humanity to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency. As part of this CAT recognises that partnerships and imaginative showcasing will be vital tools in driving the speed of change that is needed. This project will be a focus for practical sustainability action across the breadth of themes which are at the heart of CAT's mission - and also at the heart of the Left Bank.

CAT believes the Sustainability Action Hub is well placed to provide essential awareness training based on its Zero Carbon Britain (ZCB) Project. The ZCB Project outlines how the UK can reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by powering down energy demand in buildings, transport and industry, powering up clean energy supplies from renewables, and transforming what we eat and how we use land. We are also keen to explore shared skills training around sustainable construction and retrofit.

We look forward to continuing the collaboration and delivering positive change.

Peter Owen

Chair of COOL Wirral Partnership

The COOL Wirral Partnership welcomes the ambitious and wide-reaching Wirral Waters Sustainability Action Plan. Our COOL2 Wirral Strategy challenges organisations to prepare and publish their Locally Determined Contributions to tackling the climate emergency and we are pleased to receive the Action Plan as PEEL L&P's commitment.

The ultimate delivery of the Action Plan will require a collaborative approach by many organisations, and the COOL Wirral Partnership will continue to play its part in this as one of the COOL2 Strategy's key early steps.

Councillor Tony Jones

Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee,
Wirral Council

We want the regeneration of Birkenhead and the surrounding areas to become an exemplar of sustainable development and net zero climate resilience. Wirral should be a beacon for others to follow on the journey to 21st century sustainable living.

To make this happen we need to think differently about everything we do in regeneration; buildings and energy infrastructure, provision for active travel and public transport, resilient drainage systems, and so much more.

Wirral Waters is one of the single largest development opportunities on the Wirral, and we welcome Peel L&P's comprehensive plan to accelerate action and bring about immediate and transformational change across all aspects of sustainability. We look forward to working with them to ensure implementation over the coming months and years.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

In 2019, Wirral Council declared a Climate Emergency. In the subsequent time - changes to living, working and travel patterns have been triggered and are evolving as we all work out how best to live with COVID 19.

COP 26 has reaffirmed that transformation of an extraordinary scale is needed and there is a 'code red' need to accelerate the delivery of climate resilient, sustainable places, lifestyles, communities and economies.

The Wirral Peninsula is a rich tapestry of neighbourhoods, villages, parklands, coastlines and waterways - it is well placed to be the greenest and most sustainable borough in the Liverpool City Region.

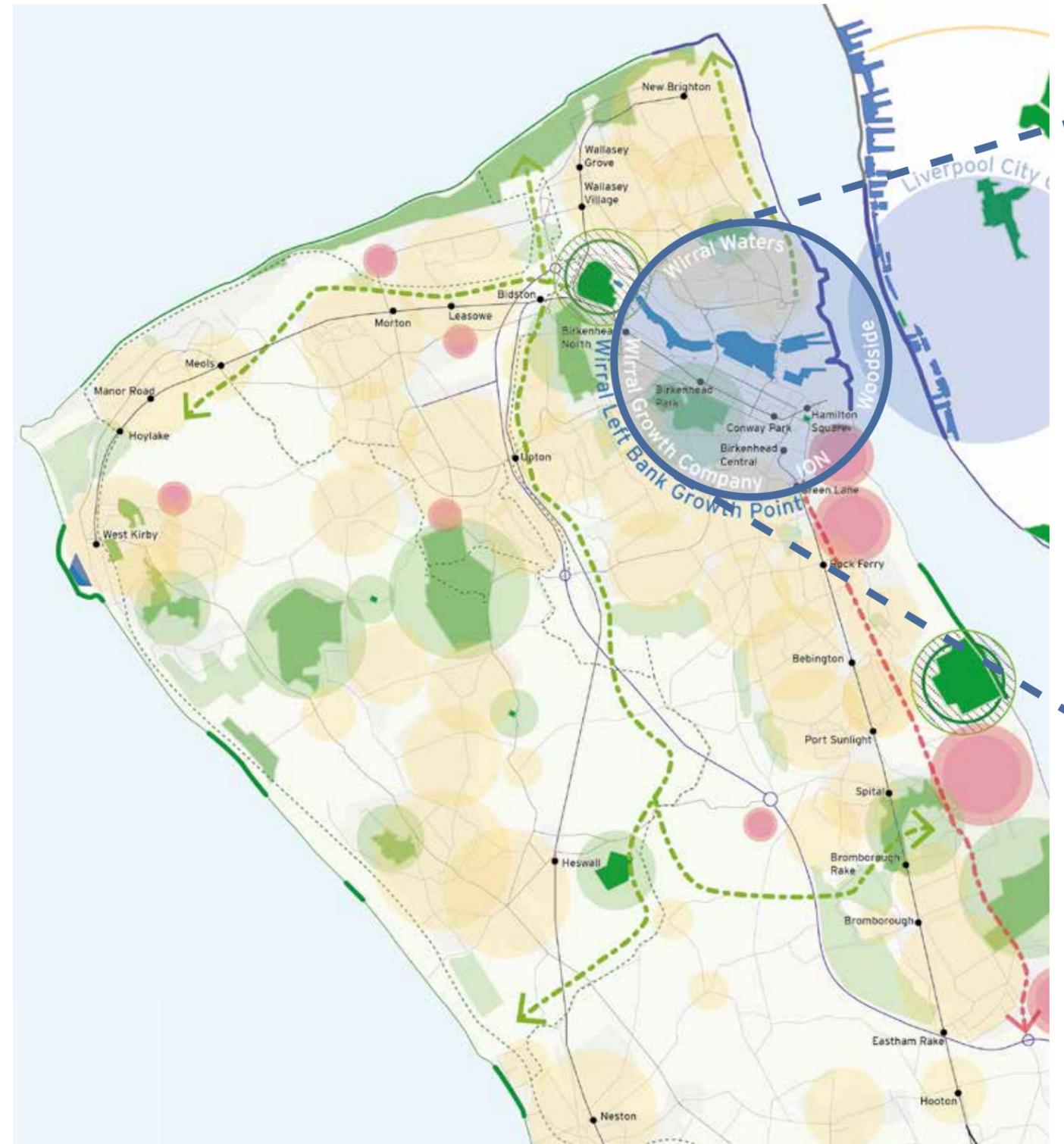
The Left Bank is the place where the Wirral Peninsula meets the River Mersey 'City Reaches' - where significant growth and investment is bringing about the transformation of underused waterfronts and hidden places.

The Left Bank Growth Point is a partnership initiated by Peel L&P in June 2019 to bring together plans and actions on the River Mersey's Left Bank.

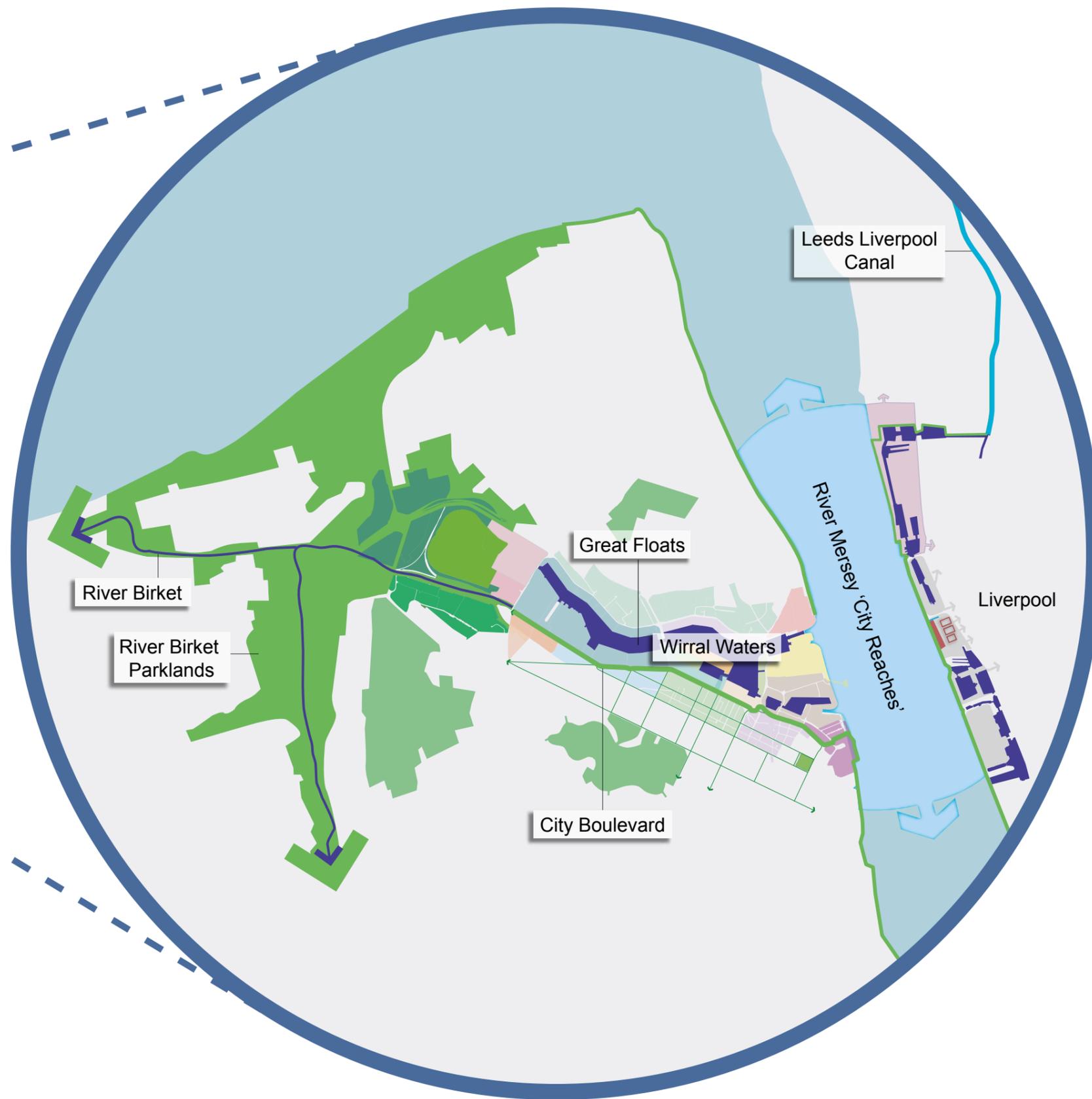
Wirral Waters is at the heart of the Left Bank Growth Point and the ambition is to deliver a sustainability city extension exemplar - a collective of city neighbourhoods and urban villages at the water's edge.

It's all about a unique opportunity for Wirral Waters and the Left Bank to deliver low carbon, climate resilient, low traffic, inclusive and adaptive, compact, healthy, 15-minute walkable sustainable neighbourhoods and communities - through joined-up 'big picture' thinking, collaboration and action.

Working in this way, the Wirral Peninsula is well placed to be the greenest and most sustainable borough in the Liverpool City Region.



Wirral Peninsula, the Left Bank Growth Point and Wirral Waters



Wirral Waters is being progressed as resilient city neighbourhoods. Investment is focused at East Float, West Float and Bidston.

East Float is being delivered as a tapestry of urban villages with connecting green threads.

West Float is a green industries park.

A new City Boulevard connects Bidston to the River Mersey 'City Reaches'.

This east-west greenway connects the River Birket Parklands and Left Bank Growth Point and provides a 'connecting seam' bringing existing and new communities together.

The River Birket Parklands proposals create a recreational and habitat parkland link connecting Bidston Moss to Bidston Moss to the Wirral Peninsula's best know assets - its coastlines, parkland estates and countryside pathways.

This tapestry of new 15-minute low carbon city neighbourhoods, urban villages and city greenways enables Wirral Waters and the Left Bank Growth Point to deliver sustainable, inclusive, shared growth and renewal.

'Levelling Up' is needed locally as well as nationally.

Wirral Waters - City Neighbourhoods centred on the Great Floats and connected by City Boulevard

A PLACE OF FIRSTS AND INNOVATION

THE LEFT BANK

The Left Bank of the River Mersey is world renowned as a place of firsts pioneers and innovators. It has been a powerhouse of social, economic, engineering and cultural 'ways of doing' to be exported across the world.

- 1847** Birkenhead Park opens as the first publicly funded park in Britain
- 1860** Europe's first street tram system opens in Birkenhead.
- 1860** The Great Floats are formed from the natural tidal inlet of the Wallasey Pool - forming East Float and West Float
- 1870** Thomas Brassey - innovative railway pioneer based at Canada Works, West Float. By the time of his death he had built one in every twenty miles of railway in the world.
- 1887** The Resurgam - one of the first mechanically powered submarines - is trialed in East Float.
- 1933** The first Mersey Tunnel opens as the world's longest underwater
- 1962** The world's first passenger hovercraft runs from Leasowe to Rhyl.
- 1899** Lord Leverhulme creates Port Sunlight, one of the world's most pioneering City Garden Villages - with health and wellbeing and access to the 'Great Outdoors' at its heart.

WIRRAL WATERS

Wirral Waters is a place of sustainability firsts, pioneering and innovation - building upon the legacy of the Left Bank. A great deal has been delivered to date, there is much more to do.

Firsts to Date

- Making a start with the planting of 1,500+ new trees
- Neighbourhood-wide use of Modern Methods of Construction in the Liverpool City Region
- Civilised Streetscape in the Liverpool City Region
- Cycle Maintenance Station in the Left Bank
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) in the Adopted Highway in Wirral
- New Office Building with Rainwater Harvesting in Wirral
- City Trees planted in SuDS Tree Soil Structures in Wirral
- eCargo Bikes Demonstration Project in the Left Bank
- 'Pre- Wired' Streets for LCR Digital Spine and EV Charging
- UK first 'partnering' with Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) to deliver an 'urban campus' for sustainability

Firsts on the Way

- Use of green finance to support the new homes at Northbank, East Float including Lloyds Bank Green Loan to support the Peel L&P and Urban Splash JV, and funding partner Pensions Insurance Group (PIC) investment into the Wirral Waters One project
- UK Maritime Knowledge Hub located in an Enterprise Zone and Freeport - researching maritime decarbonisation
- Egerton Village - the first Net Zero Embodied Carbon building in Wirral
- Net Zero Carbon StreetCar Pilot
- 'Cycle Street' in the Liverpool City Region
- 'Dutch Style Cycling Roundabout' in the North West
- 'Cycle Friendly Employer Accreditation' at the neighbourhood scale in the UK
- District Heat Network in the Left Bank



WIRRAL WATERS MASTERPLAN

The ambition is to create a sustainable city extension exemplar through collaboration with local communities and 'joined up' working with local, Liverpool City Region and UK partners.

A SUSTAINABILITY EXEMPLAR IN THE MAKING...

Led by Peel L&P, Wirral Waters is one of the largest and most sustainable projects in the UK. It brings new opportunities for living, working, learning and visiting - all at the water's edge.

At East Float, the first stages of investment across the Northbank and Four Bridges neighbourhoods are 'walking the walk' - delivering a place of firsts, pioneering and innovation and setting new sustainability benchmarks.

1. Legacy - Partnership with Changing Streams to reduce the use of plastics in construction.
2. Urban Splash Peel - Neighbourhood-wide use of Modern Methods of Construction.
3. Maritime Knowledge Hub (including R&D looking at decarbonising the maritime sector, and a base for the Four Bridges Cycle Hub).
4. Four Bridges Energy Centre and MicroGrid - with ability to power StreetCar, EV Charging Network and public realm.
5. Wirral Met College Construction Campus - BREEAM Excellent Building with CHP and Modern Methods of Construction Courses. Partner in eCargo Bike Pilot.
6. Civilised Street for Active Travel and Public Transit.
7. City cooling and air quality improvements with street trees as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme in Adopted Highway.
8. Mass Transit and StreetCar route 'futureproofed'.
9. Cycle Maintenance Station and Cycle Parking.
10. Hythe - BREEAM Excellent Offices with PV Roof Array, Rainwater Harvesting, eCargo Bike Drop Off Point, and Cycle Storage.
11. Egerton Village - Net Zero Embodied Carbon Building.
12. Streetscape and Dock Pathways futureproofed for LCA CA Digital Spine, EV Charging Networks and District Heating Network.
13. Managed Car Parking provision and support for walking, cycling and public transit - including Ultra Light Rail.
14. Four Bridges - candidate for first Cycle Friendly Employers Accreditation (Gold Standard) at the Neighbourhood scale in the UK.





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A LUSH CITY WATERFRONT WITH ROOM TO BREATHE

Wirral Waters - Aerial view across East Float showing Four Bridges (foreground) and Northbank.

Over £220m of investment will be delivered by 2024/5 - representing only 5% of what Wirral Waters can provide.

Early investment is delivering climate resilient, healthy places.

PEEL GROUP - LEADING ON SUSTAINABILITY

The ambition is for Wirral Waters to be a sustainable city extension exemplar.

This ambition has been embedded in thinking, proposals, actions and delivery from the start. The starting point for Wirral Waters was setting out 10 Goals to deliver the sustainable communities agenda. The Goals and supporting principles for delivery, are published in our Wirral Waters Vision Statement (2010).



Peel is leading in sustainable place-making and delivery across the Northwest and the UK.

Climate resilient, adaptive, healthy and inclusive investment is good for places, people and prosperity.

Many investors are now seeking to focus investment in sustainable projects and places and are recognising Peel's leadership, innovation and track record in delivery to date across the Group - including energy, environment, and placemaking.

Our five year Sustainability Plan, launched in 2019.

Peel L&P is the first property company to achieve Net Zero Carbon status using the UK Green Building Council's 2019 definition for buildings in the UK. In total, 17 of Peel L&P's properties have now reached Net Zero Carbon status with the recent addition of buildings at MediaCity.

Each Peel L&P project:

- has a Sustainability Plan.
- has sustainability measures as an integral part of each projects Business Plan.
- follows a Sustainability Checker that is reported upon at each Board meeting.
- is assessed through a Climate Change Resilience Model.

Additional information is available on Peel's website at peellandp.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/

The United Nation's (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, were launched in 2015 and underpin our ambition to embed sustainability into placemaking activities being delivered by the Peel Group.

Peel support the principles of the UN SDGs and have started to look at how we can play our part in contributing to them.

We have prioritised the four that are most relevant to our business activities and recognise that none could be achieved without working in partnership with our stakeholders including Wirral Council, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and our private investors and partners.

Our strategic approach to delivering the UN's SDGs is set out in the Wirral Waters Sustainability Plan (2021).



EXAMPLES OF PEEL SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATIONS AND DELIVERY



Wind Farms

Peel Energy have generated over 180MW of wind energy from wind farms at Scout Moore, Frodsham. The Seaforth Dock Turbines are a recognisable feature visible from the River Mersey 'City Reaches'.



Protos

This energy and resource hub close to Ellesmere Port includes the UK's first plastic-to-hydrogen facility, a 50MW windfarm, a 21.5MW biomass plant, a 49MW energy from waste plant in construction.



MediaCityUK - Peel L&P piloted the UK's first BREEAM Sustainable Communities project with the Building Research Establishment (BRE). MediaCity UK has the highest cluster of net zero carbon buildings in the UK. Peel played a key role in bringing the Metrolink tram/light rail network to Salford Quays and MediaCityUK.



Liverpool District Heat Network - The Mersey Heat Energy Service Company (ESCO) is delivering a low carbon district heat network for up to 9,000 homes and 4 million sq ft of commercial space at our Liverpool Waters development.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WIRRAL WATERS

Peel has delivered many firsts in sustainability, infrastructure and placemaking.

This has been achieved through a pioneering and innovative 'big picture' mindset.

This 'know-how' and action based delivery focus at Wirral Waters is delivering new sustainability benchmarks for the Left Bank and Liverpool City Region.

'Big Picture' sustainability opportunities being progressed through 'knowledge transfer' and delivery experience include:

- StreetCar - Ultra Light Rail.
- Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges Energy Centre, MicroGrid and District Heat Network.
- Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Enterprises.
- 'Tailor-made' healthy living activities and inclusive, shared people based placemaking and placekeeping.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Wirral Waters is delivering a 'step change' in sustainable places, lifestyles and benchmarks for the Left Bank and Liverpool City Region.

This is being achieved through a 'whole place' approach - delivering individual projects and local actions in a 'joined-up' way with city scale projects and actions.

Progress at Wirral Waters - at the local and neighbourhood scale is underway. We have many collaborations up and running, funding bids submitted and funding secured, projects on the ground, sustainable places being created, and positive benefits being felt by existing communities and 'new arrivals'.

To do more, city scale changes are also needed to tackle the 'top ten' sustainability challenges we are all facing.

OUR TOP TEN CHALLENGES TO BE TACKLED TO DELIVER A SUSTAINABLE CITY EXTENSION EXEMPLAR

1. Disconnect between local, neighbourhood and city scale actions.
2. Movement reliant upon fossil fuels and private vehicles - places planned for the car.
3. Fragmented pathway networks for walking and cycling - the loss of 'walkable neighbourhoods'.
4. Loss of tree canopy, greenways, habitats and wildlife.
5. Underused green pockets and sense of ownership by local communities.
6. Food supplies - food miles, quality, water consumption, pesticides, plastics...
7. Health and wellbeing, low life expectancy and increasing levels of obesity, diabetes and mental health challenges.
8. Waste and disposal - 'throw-away' and 'use once' economies, plastics...
9. Construction methods and waste and skills and 'know how' in sustainable construction.
10. Reliance upon fossil fuels and high levels of energy consumption.

This Sustainability Action Plan progresses the UN Sustainability Goals and the Wirral Waters Vision Statement Goals into 5 Themes delivered through 10 Step Change Action Areas.

Moving forward, the Plan is to accelerate change by joining-up activities - with all interested parties collaborating in their own way.

The approach is to enable all projects - at all city scales - building, street, neighbourhood and city - to be mutually reinforcing through coordinated actions, initiatives and investments.

The following pages provide a snapshot of delivery to date and proposals for next 12 months across the 10 Step Change Action Areas.

This Sustainability Action Plan sets out our:

- 10 Step Change Action Areas - actions that we are on with working at the Wirral Waters and local communities and neighbourhoods scale.
- Left Bank Big Moves - our proposed approach to accelerating wider change across the Left Bank Growth Point that needs 'joined-up' thinking and actions for 'big change' ambitions to be realised.
- Next Steps and Programme.

**5 SHARED THEMES
10 STEP CHANGE ACTION AREAS**





1. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION HUB

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Create a Sustainability Action Hub as a shared 'basecamp' for collaboration.
- Create indoor and outdoor facilities – positioned as a 'lynch-pin' connecting Wirral Waters, surrounding neighbourhoods and Bidston Moss.
- Refurbish and extend the vacant NorthWest Ship Repairers building at West Float to deliver the Sustainability Action Hub - as set out in the Towns Deal for Birkenhead.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Need for a shared focal point in a central location as a place for existing and new communities to meet, share, inspire, learn and act.
- Need for a place to innovate, trial and demonstrate practical, deliverable solutions – and then 'upscale'.
- Joining up actions between different partners and scales of activity - local, city region and UK.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)
- Energy Projects Plus
- UTS Foundation
- Grow Wellbeing
- Lett Us Grow and FarmUrban
- ReciproCity
- Wirral Met College (WMC)
- Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)
- University of Liverpool (UoL)
- Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority (MRWA).

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

A location has been selected and agreed with Partners for the Hub. The vacant North West Ship Repairers building at MEA Park, West Float is an ideal candidate for converting, retrofitting and extending in stages.

We have brought together a 'collective' of like-minded partners who are working with us to progress proposals and make Sustainability Action Hub happen.

Initial funding has been secured through the Birkenhead Town Deal - with the Sustainability Action Hub as one of eight projects benefiting from this Government funding.

Progress includes:

- ✓ agreement with LettUs Grow to shortlist Wirral Waters as a location for the 'Drop and Grow - Farm in a Box' - working with FarmUrban.
- ✓ exploring operational models for a Food Hall Collective - including a site visit and session with the Unicorn Food Cooperative in Chorlton, Manchester.



PROGRESS IN HAND...

Proposals for the Hub have been developed to Feasibility Stage. We are now exploring proposals in more detail and how to deliver the Hub in stages - starting with conversion and retrofitting of the existing building.

Later stages may be then be delivered as a sequence of extensions - as further funding becomes available.

Additional funding applications are being developed - to supplement the award from the Governments Town Deal for Birkenhead.

Proposals are being progressed with collaborators through Working Groups relating to key themes:

- **Energy and Resources**
- **Connectivity**
- **Greening the City**
- **Food, Health and Wellbeing**
- **Circular Economy.**



1. Aerial View of the (now vacant) Northwestern Ship Repairers Building and Plot - the Sustainability Action Hub proposal will refurbish, retrofit and extend the existing building in stages as a 'demonstration project'.
2. View of the (now vacant) Northwestern Ship Repairers Building from the south showing the outdoor space available for growing, outdoor classrooms, workshops and events.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

1A. WW Sustainability Action Hub (SAH) – establish an Action Hub at West Float as the ‘basecamp’ for collaborating, meeting, sharing, supporting, inspiring and learning.

The Hub includes:

INDOOR

- i. Reception and Hospitality – arrival/meeting space and supporting infrastructure: WC’s, showers, ...
- ii. Workspaces/Offices – a range of sizes together with shared workspace/stations.
- iii. Meeting/Conference Venue.
- iv. Workshops for light construction/fabrication and accommodate construction classes/demonstrations.
- v. Refectory/Food Hall – to support events and accommodate food prep and cookery classes/demonstrations and Healthy Living actions.
- vi. Studios – to support events and accommodate health/wellbeing classes/demonstrations – including training, yoga, and Healthy Living actions.
- vii. Creche – improvising accessibility for parents with young families.

OUTDOOR (including Bidston Moss and Rivers Streets)

- viii. Construction Skills Training Bays and MMC Demonstrator Park.
- ix. Green Hands Team BaseCamp.
- x. Growing Sheds, Plots/Polytunnels and Beehives.
- xi. Tree Nursery, Holding Beds and Wildflower Seed Beds.
- xii. ‘Outpost Demonstration Projects’ – working on nearby sites across Hamilton Park, Wirral Waters and surrounds as ‘EXPO’ sites.

1B. Sustainability Skills Starter School: work with Partners to develop/deliver practical, hands-on activities and training workshops – growing skills and raising awareness of SAH, ways to get involved further, and pathways to additional HE and FE skills and training.

1C. Local Communities Outreach and Engagement: work with existing and new residential and business communities join up activities and share knowledge, resources and know-how across Wirral Waters, surrounding neighbourhoods, the Liverpool City Region and UK.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

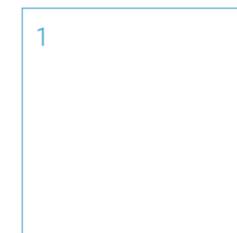
- **December 2021 - Establish Working Groups**
- **May 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs**
- **August 2022 - Initial Site Clearance Complete**
- **August 2022 - Complete Procurement Stages**
- **December 2022 - Commence On-Site Works**
- **September 2023 - Stage I Build Complete**
- **September 2023 - Activities Up and Running.**

- **August 2022 - Set out Activities and Training Options**
- **September 2022 - ‘Pop Up’ Training and Engagement Commences**
- **September 2023 - Full Training and Engagement Commences.**

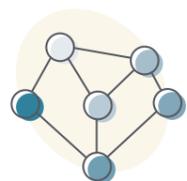


KEY

- 1. HUB - Main Building
- 2. HUB - Main Yard
- 3. HUB - Main Entrance
- 4. Reception and Main Hall
- 5. Shared and Individual Workspace
- 6. Reuse Hub and Shop
- 7. Green Roof - PVs and Beehives
- 8. Outdoor Gym
- 9. Growing - Raised Beds
- 10. Growing - Aeroponics and Hydroponics
- 11. Outdoor Classroom and Garden Sheds
- 12. Energy and Construction Workshop
- 13. Events Park
- 14. EV and eCycle Charging
- 15. Working Woodlands
- 16. Wetlands and SUDs
- 17. Cycleway - to Birkenhead Station
- 18. Cycleway - to Bidston Moss
- 19. Future Phase
- 20. Car Parking



1. Artists Impression - Aerial View of the Sustainability Action Hub from the Northwest.



2. SMART MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Connect Wirral Waters and Left Bank Growth Point to existing Merseyrail and Mersey Ferry stations using an off carriageway, low/zero carbon Ultra-Light Rail Pilot.
- Deliver Cycle and Car Share Clubs – including ECargo Delivery Cycles and Charging Hubs (EV and eBike) within new developments.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Last Mile / First Mile / Only Mile connectivity from Merseyrail Station and Ferries.
- Carbon footprint of existing car-based travel patterns.
- Potential carbon footprint of future visitor economy travel patterns.
- Getting people out of cars and using public transit, walking and cycling.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Department for Transport (DfT)
- Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society
- Cycle and Car Share/Club and Charge Point Operators
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Merseytravel.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

The Tower Road Streetscape Works have been delivered (Four Bridges) and Dock the Road Cycleway (Northbank) have set new sustainability and quality benchmarks.

Both streetscapes are 'future-proofed' by 'setting aside' an off carriageway route for trams and associated stops on the east side of Tower Road and southside of Dock Road. The routes are set out as 'meanwhile' wildflower meadows.

We have worked with Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society to complete proposals for extending the StreetCar to Tower Road as part of a 'Green Tourism' plan, including providing low carbon power from our Wirral Waters Microgrids.

We have collaborated to secure 'pilot funding' from the eCargo Bike Grant Fund (Department for Transport and Energy Saving Trust). Wirral Waters is home to two of the eCargo Delivery Pilot partners who will operate the first eCargo Cycles - Wirral Met College and Reciprocity.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *step change in forward planning by 'future proofing' street designs for trams and Green Tourism and StreetCar.*
- ✓ *'paved the way' for eCargo bikes by being active in eCargo Delivery Pilot and delivering eCargo Bike Parking and Drop Off/Pick Up spaces in the Tower Road Streetscape works.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

We have collaborated with Partners to complete a Public Transit Options Feasibility Study for the Left Bank. The Study identifies a number of tram based solutions as the ultimate public transit system needed to deliver sustainable connectivity.

The next step is to work with Partners to deliver a first stage 'ultra-light rail' pilot delivering last mile connectivity linking Wirral Waters to Merseyrail and Ferry Stations - supported by bus and active travel services.

A 'joined-up' approach to Cycle and Car Sharing Clubs across Northbank, Four Bridges and Vittoria Studios is being developed with prospective delivery partners.

EV Charging ducts are being delivered as part of the streetscape and public realm works. The next steps are to install EV and eCycle Charging Points as demand becomes 'live' as new residents, workers, students and visitors start to arrive in larger numbers.



1. The Tower Road Streetscape Works are 'future proofed' along the side - with 'meanwhile meadows' set aside for a future StreetCar Line.
2. Wirral Waters is being designed in collaboration with the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society to accommodate StreetCar as a future low/zero carbon way to get visitors 'from A to B' in a unique and memorable way.
3. Wirral Waters is pioneering the use of eCargo Bikes - with streetscapes providing drop off/pick up points outside offices and Wirral Met College and Reciprocity piloting eCargo Bikes as part of the DFT/ESF Pilot.

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NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

2A. Ultra-Light Rail Pilot: deliver a 21st Century, low cost, zero carbon, scalable, sustainable, off carriageway 'feeder' system connecting Wirral Waters with existing Merseyrail (Hamilton Square and Birkenhead North) and Ferry (Seacombe and Woodside) services.

Initial delivery stages include:

- i. **Ferry Line:** connecting Hamilton Square/Woodside Ferry with Wirral Waters (Four Bridges).
- ii. **Northbank:** connecting Four Bridges with Northbank and Seacombe Ferry.
- iii. **Vittoria Studios and 'Maker Mile':** connecting Four Bridges with Vittoria Studios, MEA Park (West Float) and Bidston Dock and Bidston Moss.
- iv. **Taylor Street Connect:** to connect with Conway Park Station, Birkenhead Town Centre and Birkenhead Park.

2B. Cycle and Car Share/Hire Clubs: work with businesses and community-based enterprises to deliver EV and ECycle Share and Hire Clubs for new residents, workers and visitors – including locations at:

- i. **Four Bridges** - a shared facility at Maritime Knowledge Hub (Hydraulic Tower).
- ii. **Northbank** - a shared facility for Legacy, Urban Splash/Peel JV, East Float Quays and Belong residents.
- iii. **Vittoria Studios** - a shared facility for Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park.
- iv. **ECargo Cycles** – pilot ECargo Delivery Cycles with Wirral Met College, Reciprocity and other Partners.

2C. EV and ECycle Charging Points: work with commercial operators to establish EV and ECycle Charging Points – including locations at:

- i. **Four Bridges** – at Tower Quays Offices, Egerton Village, Hythe and Maritime Knowledge Hub.
- ii. **Northbank** – at Legacy, Urban Splash/Peel JV, East Float Quays and Belong.
- iii. **Vittoria Studios** – at Vittoria Studios, together with Hamilton Park to the south.
- iv. **MEA Park, West Float** – at Sustainability Action Hub.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **January 2022 - Commence Funding Scoping**
- **July 2022 - Submit Planning Application**
- **September 2022 - Complete Delivery and Funding Strategy**
- **September 2023 - Commence Advance Enabling Works**
- **November 2024 - Open StreetCar Ferry Line.**

- **March 2022 - Commence ECargo Cycle Pilot**
- **September 2022 - Confirm Delivery Partners for Cycle and Car Clubs**
- **March 2023 - Open Northbank and Four Bridges Pilot Car Share/Hire Club**
- **September 2024 - Open Vittoria Studios Car Share/Hire Club.**

- **September 2022 - Confirm Delivery Partners for EV and ECycle Charge Points**
- **March 2023 - Open Northbank and Four Bridges Pilot Car Share/Hire Club**
- **September 2024 - Open Vittoria Studios Pilot Car Share/Hire Club.**



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1. Ultra-Light Trams provide a smart public transit option as a 'feeder' system into the Merseyrail network to overcome 'last mile' connectivity challenges at Wirral Waters.
2. Cycle and Car Share Clubs are being explored across Wirral Waters at Northbank, Four Bridges, Vittoria Studios and the Sustainability Action Hub.
3. We are working with the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society to extend the StreetCar to Wirral Waters as a 'Green Tourism' cultural and visitor economy initiative. The opportunity is to also extend the 'Lines' to Conway Park and Birkenhead Park.



3. ACTIVE GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Create 15 Minute Active Travel, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods - connected by a tapestry of Living Streets.
- Deliver high quality pathways and cycleways connecting key public transport hubs with new places to live, work, study, and visit.
- Enable new residents, workers, students, and visitors to choose active travel from the start.
- Deliver Cycle Hubs to meet, hire, charge, fix, store, shower/change, and refuel.
- Deliver improved waymarking, air quality, shelter and shade.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Connect fragmented pathways and cycleways together.
- Removing barriers to 'Active Travel' including:
 - Cost (Cycles and kit).
 - Safety and Confidence Training.
 - Waymarking.
 - Easy Access to storage, charging, and maintenance stations.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- Cycling UK
- Cycling Projects
- Wirral Met College
- Cycle Hub Operators.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

We've launched our Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan.

The completed pathways at Dock Road (Northbank) and Tower Road (Four Bridges) have set new benchmarks in design quality, placemaking and prioritising walking, cycling and micromobility. They form the first stages of the 'Wirral Waters Circular' around the 'Great Floats' and Bidston.

The pathways provide safe, attractive, easily understood connections - with street lighting, clearly defined access points into new homes and workplaces, and tree planting to improve air quality and provide shelter from the wind and city cooling in the summer.

The first Cycle Maintenance Station for Wirral has been installed at Tower Road. It is being well received and gives encouragement to deliver more. Cycling UK have held Pop-Up 'Doctor Bike' Maintenance Workshops at the Maintenance Station.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *delivered new pathways along Dock Road and Tower Road, setting new benchmarks in design quality and user experiences - as the first steps of 'joined-up' plan.*
- ✓ *collaborated and built a consensus with delivery partners and launched the Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan - with a commitment to review and update every six months.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

We are collaborating with Partners to deliver the next 'wave' of active travel connections - enabled by ensuring active travel pathways are embedded in all funding bids. The priority is connecting to Parks and local shops to encourage 'local spend'.

Our first Cycle Hub is being developed at Four Bridges.

Welcome Packs are in-hand for new residents at Northbank and workers at Four Bridges.

We are developing innovative approaches to making it easier and more attractive to walk and cycle - including ideas for Wirral's first 'Cycle Streets' (as part of the Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park) and 'Dutch Style Roundabout' as part of the Northbank and Scott's Quay proposals.



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1. Dock Road Streetscape Works have delivered a safe, attractive, more sheltered tree lined pathway for walking, cycling and micromobility. A 'meanwhile meadow' safeguards the future route of the StreetCar.
2. Tower Road Streetscape Works have created a choice of routes for cyclists and have significantly reduced traffic dominance, noise and speeds. Arrival points at new buildings include prominent cycle stores and eCargo Bike delivery stands.
3. The first Cycle Maintenance Station in the Left Bank has been delivered at Tower Road.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

3A. Active Green and Blue Pathways: create 15 Minute Neighbourhoods with a tapestry of safe, attractive pathways for walking and cycling - and innovative cycle crossing points. Proposals are set out in Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan including:

Proposals are set out in our Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan, including:

- i. **The Wirral Waters Circular:** connecting Wirral Waters neighbourhoods and wider routes, including 'City Boulevard' - the strategic east-west greenway along the southside of West Float and East Float.
- ii. **North Connections:** connecting north to Seacombe Village, Central Park, Seacombe Ferry and Riverside Promenades - including a 'Dutch Style Cycling Roundabout at Northbank and Scotts Quay.
- iii. **South Connections:** connecting south to Birkenhead Park, shops, schools and health services, the Town Centre and Rail Stations - including a 'Cycle Street' along Livingstone Street.
- iv. **River Birkett Parklands Connections:** connecting west to Bidston Moss, Peninsula wide pathways and River Birkett Parklands.

3B. Wirral Waters 'Hike and Bike' Programme - support/encourage new arrivals to walk and cycle. Work with Partners to deliver programmes including:

- Welcome Packs - residents, businesses, students.
- Managed access to bikes and kit, adapted bikes and confidence/wayfinding building rides.

3C. Wirral Waters Cycle Hubs: work with local cycle groups and community ventures to create cycle hubs for residents, workers, students and visitors providing:

- Cycle friendly vibes.
- Food + drink (healthy) and WC's.
- Water Refills (Plastic Free).
- Managed access to cycle tools and pumps.
- Opportunities for retail and workshops (commercial and/or community).
- Showers and Changing Facilities (at Workplaces/Colleges).

Position Hubs where public transit stops and cycleway arrival points overlap, beginning with:

- i. **Four Bridges,** Tower Road (Egerton Village and/or the Maritime Knowledge Hub).
- ii. **West Float,** - Sustainability Action Hub (SAH - serving MEA Park also).

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **April 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs for Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park 'Cycle Streets' - for delivery by September 2023**
- **May 2022 - Commence delivery of Beaufort Road Greenway (West Float)**
- **June 2022 - Continue to work with Partners to complete designs for 'Dutch Style Roundabout' at Northbank and Scotts Quay - for delivery by September 2024.**

- **July 2022 - Launch Welcome Packs**
- **September 2022 - Launch Bike Rides and support.**

- **December 2021 - Hythe Office Completes - including Cycle Facilities**
- **July 2022 - Launch Cycle Hub at Four Bridges**
- **March 2023 - Launch Cycle Hub at West Float.**



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1. We are promoting Wirral's first 'Dutch Style Roundabout' as part of the 15 Minute Neighbourhood and Active Travel approach to Northbank and Scott's Quay.
2. We are promoting Wirral's first 'Cycle Street' as part of the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods approach to Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park.
3. & 4. New Cycle Hubs as places to meet, recharge and use as 'staging posts' for rides are being progressed at Four Bridges and the Sustainability Action Hub. The approach is local community based enterprises, focusing on skills development and job creation.



4: RESILIENT CITY GREENING AND REWILDING

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Create a rich tapestry of greenways and blueways to connect places, parks and people together.
- Deliver a step-change in resilience, adaptation and air quality through a city scale greening and SuDs projects.
- Deliver large-scale urban tree planting to improve air quality, health and well-being.
- Reimagine underused green links along the River Birket and River Fender Corridors.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Ever increasing 'urban heating' and rainfall run-off rates.
- Fragmented and ecological habitats and corridors under pressure.
- Large swathes of vacant, underused and neglected land.
- Importing trees – and consequent CO2 footprint, seed security, and local provenance drawbacks.
- Ever increasing carbon footprint of the travel patterns of Wirrals Visitor Economy and 'trips to the beach' and countryside.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Mersey Forest
- Forestry Commission and Forestry England
- Wirral Met College
- Living Christmas Trees
- Wirral EcoSchools.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

The 'first move' at Wirral Waters was to the planting of over 1,600 new trees at West Float and across Birkenhead, Seacombe and Wallasey. Working with the Mersey Forest, the Forestry Commission, BEIS North West and Wirral Council - this is the largest urban tree planting project to date across the Left Bank.

Over 400 trees have been planted as part of the Tower Road Streetscape, Dock Road Streetscape, College Square and Northbank Green Pocket Park projects.

The first streetscape Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS) in the Adopted Highway in Wirral has been adopted as part of the Tower Road Streetscape Project. The 'SUDS' scheme has piloted the use of large scale water holding tree planting trenches and rainwater gardens - delivering much needed city cooling.

We have collaborated with the Councils Local Plan Team to embed our city greening ideas - the 'Green Grid', 'Working Woodlands' and the River Birket Parklands into the Local Plan.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *the largest tree planting project across the Left Bank to date - with over 1,600 new trees across local neighbourhoods and 400 trees at Wirral Waters.*
- ✓ *urban rewilding - with parks and greenways delivering native tree and understorey planting, wetland grasses and planting in rainwater gardens, Wirral's first highways SUDs project, and 'meanwhile meadows' along the 'futureproofed' StreetCar routes.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

The 'next wave' of city greening and rewilding projects is in-hand. Planning Permission has been secured and detailed design completed for the Beaufort Road Project - a city greening project along the southside of West Float - connecting East Float and Bidston Moss together.

The Greenway includes native trees and grasslands, wetlands scrapes and swales and a cycleway. This is the first stage of the wider River Birket Parklands Project.

The Beaufort Road project delivers the western part of City Boulevard - the strategic east-west landscape corridor along the southern side of West Float and East Float. The eastern part is being delivered as part of the Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park project.



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1. The 'Setting the Scene for Growth' (SSFG) delivered over 1,600 trees across the Left Bank - the largest urban tree planting project to date across the Left Bank.
2. Wirral Waters is using a 'Wirral Peninsula landscape planting palette' of native trees, grasslands and meadows across Pocket Parks, green streets and verges and rainwater gardens.
3. Tower Road, Dock Road and Wirral Waters Pocket Parks have delivered over 400 trees, Wirral's first highways SUDs scheme - including rainwater gardens.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

- 4A. City Greening:** continue to deliver increased biodiversity, tree planting and SuDS across Wirral Waters through large-scale city greening and management including:
- Green Streets:** deliver additional street trees, wildlife habitats and SUDs on key streets including:
- i. Tower Road and Birkenhead Road.
 - ii. Duke Street and Livingstone Street.
 - iii. City Boulevard - Corporation Road, Beaufort Road and Wallasey Bridge Road.
- Working Woodlands:** bringing vacant/derelict/underused sites back into productive 'meanwhile' use through:
- Site boundary planting.
 - Urban growing/allotments.
 - Wildflower meadows and seed harvesting.
- Green Grid (Hamilton Park and Conway Park):** deliver additional tree planting and SUDS across the Laird Town Plan Grid – secured through the Hamilton Park project.

- 4B. City Rewilding:** significantly increase wetland and riverbank biodiversity through large-scale aquatic and riparian habitat creation including:
- River and Dock Edges:** native wetland/aquatic habitats including:
- i. Northbank and Four Bridges Boardwalks (East Float).
 - ii. West Float.
 - iii. Alfred, Egerton and Morpeth Dock Edges (working with Canals and Rivers Trust).
- River Birket Parklands:** create a regional visitor/recreational destination and environmental haven by transforming the underused parts of the River Birket and River Fender Corridors into a 'living wetlands' wildlife haven – with Bidston Moss and Dock as a leisure-led the 'lynch-pin'.

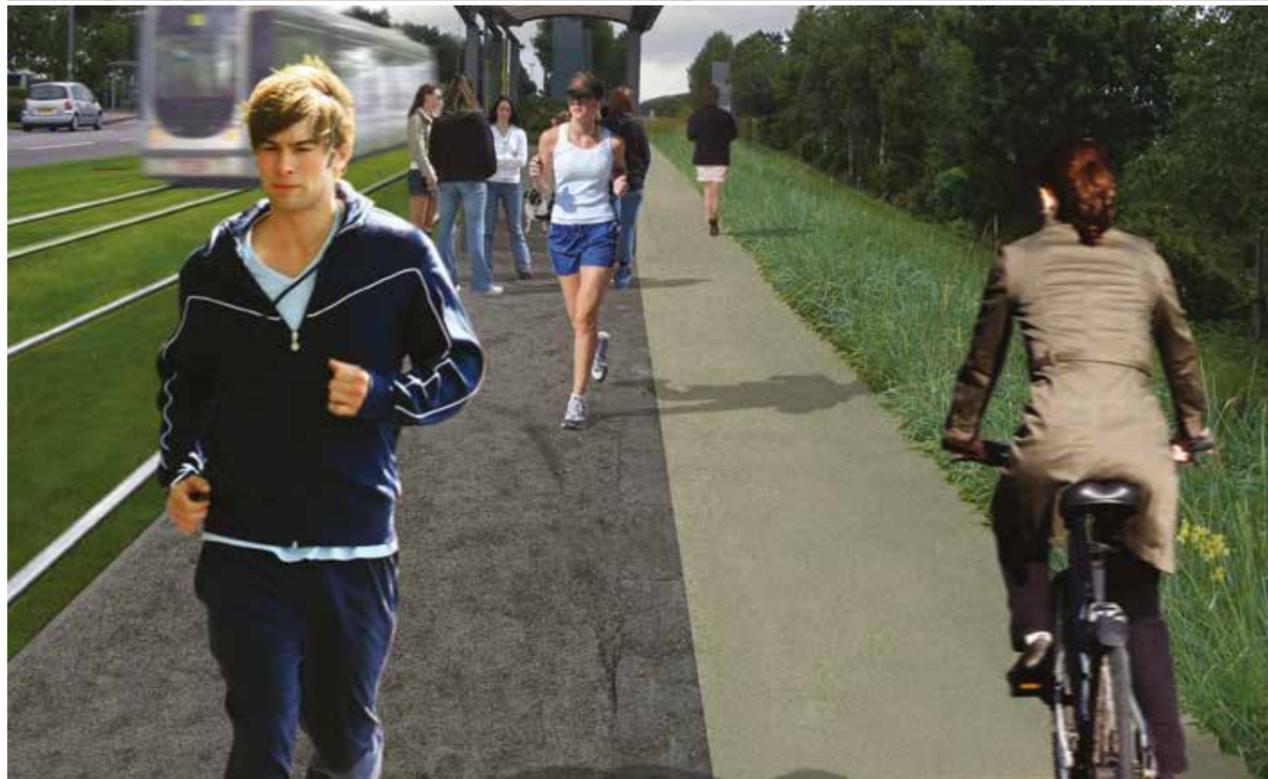
- 4C. Tree Lines: Seed Bank and Tree Nursery:** work with Partners to deliver a 'production line' to grow and manage trees from seed to pot to site. Explore with local nurseries how to 'scale up' the capacity of local groups to operate a tree nursery.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **April 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs for City Boulevard as part of Vittoria Studios - for delivery by September 2023**
- **May 2022 - Commence delivery of Beaufort Road Greenway - forming City Boulevard as part of West Float.**

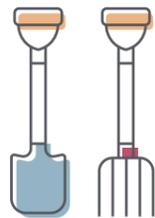
- **April 2022 - Complete Dock Edge Planting Plans - for delivery by September 2023**
- **September 2022 - Launch River Birket Parklands Prospectus with Partners.**

- **September 2023 - Launch Tree Nursery as part of Sustainability Action Hub.**



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1. Large scale tree planting across Wirral Waters and the surrounding neighbourhoods has started the coordinated city greening and rewilding of the Left Bank and River Birket Parkland
2. City Boulevard is being delivered as a strategic east-west greenway across the southside of West Float and East Float .
3. Bidston Moss is a key 'lynch pin' connecting Wirral Waters and the Left Bank to the wider Wirral Peninsula. Proposals are being developed with Partners to reimagine Bidston Moss as a recreational hub and gateway into the River Birket Parklands to reduce pressure on more sensitive wildlife habitats.



5: LOCAL POP UP POCKET PARKS AND GREEN HAND TEAMS

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Innovative, inclusive pocket parks as focal points for healthy living - managed by local communities.
- Innovative and inclusive approaches to street and park management – including skills and training, and local enterprise and community involvement.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Bringing existing and new communities together.
- Enabling community groups to take ownership of new parks and lead on events/ activities and management.
- Placekeeping – raising the bar landscape and public realm management.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Wirral Council (Parks and Rangers)
- Local Residents Groups and 'Green Hands' Teams
- Wirral Met College.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

We've delivered two pocket parks - the first at College Square at Wirral Met College and just recently Northbank Green as part of the new homes at Northbank.

Both deliver a step change in sustainable park design including:

- remediation of historic redundant sites to create dockside parks.
- reclamation of materials from site clearance and demolition, including 'urban mining' by recycling aggregates and hardcore for reuse in foundations.
- 'nature based' sustainable drainage systems, including native planting, swales, rainwater gardens.
- upcycling of 'salvaged materials' including dock furniture and timbers, coping stones, railtracks and stone setts.

Progress includes:

✓ *setting new benchmarks in the sustainability and design quality of urban 'pocket parks' including the delivery of Northbank Green and College Square.*

✓ *exploring operational models for 'place-keeping' - managing new parks and city greening including looking at how new residents may work with existing communities to take ownership of day to day management in collaboration with contractors.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

The 'next wave' of 'pocket parks' is in-hand, including Festival Square and Duke Street Square as part of the Legacy Project - the delivery of 500 new homes at the most western part of Northbank.

With the scale and rate of delivery of new 'pocket parks', streetscapes and city greening gaining momentum - we are accelerating actions on 'placekeeping'.

We are working with Partners to see how innovative approaches to 'placekeeping' - managing new green parts of the Left Bank - may be delivered through 'Green Hand Teams' of volunteers and environment, residents and business groups having a more 'hands-on' role working with landscape contractors, Wirral Met College and Partners.



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1. Northbank Green has just been completed and is the first of two new 'pocket parks' being delivered at Northbank. Work is in-hand exploring how local residents may take the lead in the day-to-day management and events planning.

2. College Square was completed in 2016 as the heart of the Wirral Met College Wirral Waters Campus. Construction students were involved in the construction and play a role in managing the Square.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

5A. POP UP POCKET PARKS – create new Pocket Parks and re-imagine existing underused greenspaces to deliver local places to meet, play, exercise and relax. Innovate – creating Parks in advance of other works to attract people, deliver recognisable change on the ground and make places ‘investment ready’.

Pocket Parks to include:

- i. College Square, Wirral Met College.
- ii. Northbank Green, Northbank.
- iii. Festival Square, Northbank

5B. Green Hand Teams – explore delivery of ‘Green Hand Teams’ as Community Enterprises to bring together existing environmental groups and new residents and businesses to maintain and manage new trees and planting and ‘meanwhile landscapes’ including:

- i. Determine if a partnering arrangement is possible to enable Green Hand Teams to play a role in landscape management of new parks and greenways by partnering with Wirral Council, landscape contractors, Wirral Met College and other Partners.
- ii. Delivering a ‘basecamp’ for Greenhand Teams as part of Sustainability Action Hub to provide a centre of operations - for activities, events, training and equipment.

5C. Skills and Training Programme - work with Partners to develop/deliver a Skills and Training Programme (Landscape Management, Horticulture, Arboriculture), setting out Pathways from engagement at the grassroots/self-help level through to FE to HE – working with Wirral Met College and the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT).

5D. Parks Trust and Green Income Streams – determine the feasibility of a Park Trust structure (EG Milton Keynes Parks Trust (Charity)) as an innovative, pioneering, inclusive approach to community involvement and ‘ownership’ of Pop Up Parks and Greenways and Blueways.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **April 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs for Festival Square, Northbank - for delivery by September 2023.**
- **September 2022 - Complete Delivery Plan for Green Hands Teams approach with Wirral Met College and Partners - including Skills and Training Opportunities.**
- **November 2022 - Complete Feasibility Work for Parks Trust approach for appropriate parts of newly created landscapes and public realm - including Northbank Green and Festival Square.**



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1. Ilchester Park Festival as part of the SSFG Project enabled local residents to take ownership of a neglected greenspace. The project provided a 'demonstration project' of how 'starting with the park' may bring existing and new residents together as a shared meeting point.
2. Sustainability Action Hub collaborators are working with us to explore how local growers may share skills and 'know how' in growing and looking after new parks and greenways.
- 3 The Wirral Waters Team is investing time and resources to foster relationships with existing community projects, groups and networks - including 'volunteer days' helping out at local projects..



6: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Create a place to develop skills in growing, healthy eating and cooking.
- Deliver food growing projects, promoting healthy diets and nutrition - from growing boxes and bags to allotments and shared community gardens.
- Explore a collaborative approach to food growing - linking local stores, food banks and restaurants, including Wirral Peninsula farmers and community growers.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Environmental impact of food production – carbon footprint, habitat loss, water consumption, pesticides and fertilisers.
- Cookery skills 'know how', access to and affordability of quality, local grown food - and associated health issues and food waste.
- Disconnect between farmers/growers on the Peninsula and urban population.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Lett Us Grow and Farm Urban
- Grow Wellbeing CIC
- Wirral Environment Network
- Wirral Met College
- Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) (Sustainable Living Courses)
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

The Sustainability Action Hub is positioned as the 'motherhip' for providing a wider range of healthy eating and lifestyle choices. Progress has been made in exploring the feasibility of urban farming, collective enterprises, providing easier access to healthy eating classes, and hydroponics and vertical farming to deliver higher quality produce using less carbon and pesticides. We are collaborating with LettUs Grow and Farm Urban - exploring how to upscale urban farming by growing food at the Hub - connecting to wider producers across the Peninsula - and delivering locally grown food with less food miles.

LettUs Grow was founded in Bristol in 2015 by University of Bristol alumni Charlie Guy, Jack Farmer and Ben Crowther. Over the years, they have developed technology to create vertical farms that can bring resilience to food supply networks - key to the future of sustainable city farming. Their first product, a small aeroponic grow-at-home kit, has now transformed into a 40ft 'Drop and Grow' container farm housing powerful aeroponic growing technology.

Farm Urban creates systems that allow people and the planet to thrive together in balance. They are a pioneering social enterprise; a group of people focused innovators, disrupting food and education systems and changing behaviours. Using vertical farming technology, they grow clean, green, food in cities and deliver education programmes to help others around the world do the same.

Progress includes:

- ✓ agreement with LettUs Grow to shortlist Wirral Waters as a location for the 'Drop and Grow - Farm in a Box' - working with Farm Urban.
- ✓ exploring operational models for a Food Hall Collective - including a site visit and session with the Unicorn Food Cooperative in Chorlton, Manchester.



PROGRESS IN HAND...

Underused sites across the Left Bank present a unique opportunity to reimagine how healthy produce may be grown for local communities by local community enterprises - networked into larger scale growers across the Wirral Peninsula.

Our approach is to pioneer innovative approaches at the Hub - through a collaborative and collective based approach. Produce may be grown in structures above the ground, and by local residents and businesses 'on the doorstep' - with accessible and inclusive support in the form of tools and practical 'hands-on' teaching sessions.

As new food and drink venues are opening at Wirral Waters - the opportunity is to link growers to chefs and create a local supply chain, linked with Wirral Met College and training Partners.

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1. & 2. We have partnered with LettUs Grow and Farm Urban as the Northwest city farm Drop & Grow pilot - exploring how aeroponics and vertical farming may be trialled and 'upscaled' to make a significant contribution to low carbon and chemical free food production.

Images courtesy of LettUs Grow.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

6A. Urban Garden City: Peninsula Pilot – explore innovative city growing and collaboration opportunities across existing and new residential communities - Sustainability Action Hub and the 'Basecamp'.

Work with food growing and healthy eating Partners to deliver:

- i. **City Growing:** collaborate with innovators to grow produce using pilot Permaculture, Vertical Farming and Hydroponics projects.
- ii. **City Garden Patches** – create a network of city garden patches turning vacant sites into gardens/allotments as 'meanwhile' use – networked to/supported by more experienced growers coordinated through Sustainability Action Hub. Provide opportunities to upscale at larger sites – such as Bidston Moss.
- iii. **Demonstrator Kitchen/Refectory** – deliver a Kitchen/Refectory within Sustainability Action Hub and run demonstrations/courses for healthy meal planning, prep and cooking – including the environmental benefits of meat alternatives.
- iv. **Food Hall Collective:** collaborate to deliver a Food Hall at Sustainability Action Hub as a venue for dining and food produce sales. Explore working with local growers to 'pool' produce to collectively provide sufficient produce to local restaurants, food outlets and 'click and collect' boxes for local residents.
- v. **Peninsula Produce Lines** – explore ways to better connect Wirral Farmers, local growers, local restaurants, food outlets and local communities together – reducing food miles.

6B. Food Box Starter Kits and 'Gardening Bank': establish a resource of planting trays, growing bags, window boxes and small gardening tools as 'starter kits' to allow all residents to have access to the basic items needed. Run as a 'Gardening Bank' – with residents able to 'pool' equipment.

6C. Skills and Training Programme: work with Partners to develop/deliver a Skills and Training Programme (Horticulture and Growing, Food, Catering, Hospitality), setting out Pathways from engagement at the grassroots/self-help level through to FE to HE – working with Wirral Met College, local food producers, suppliers and restaurants.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **September 2022 - Complete Concept Statement and Delivery Plan for Urban Garden City pilot with Partners**
- **September 2023 - Launch Urban Garden City pilot as part of Sustainability Action Hub.**

- **September 2022 - Complete Delivery Plan for Horticulture and Growing approach with Wirral Met College and Partners - including Skills and Training Opportunities.**



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1. We are working with Partners to develop innovative ways to grow high quality, healthy local produce at the Sustainability Action Hub - as part of a collaboration with existing growers and the wider local food produce network across the Wirral Peninsula.
2. FarmUrban have joined the collective to deliver vertical farming projects across Wirral Waters and the Left Bank - including skills development and training, and the delivery of fresh produce boxes. *Images courtesy of Farm Urban.*
3. Sustainability Action Hub includes a Local Grocers Store. The approach of a community based enterprise as the operator is being explored.
4. With high quality local produce more readily available - we are working with collaborators to look at how food planning and healthy cooking classes may be delivered at the Sustainability Action Hub.



7: HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- A 'joined-up', sustained and programmed approach to creating Healthy Places – research-led, monitoring informed and tailored intervention based.
- Create active, healthy places and neighbourhoods.
- Focus on accessible and affordable 'outdoors gyms' activities.
- Deliver green Infrastructure to address the health impacts of climate change –heat islands, air quality...

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Health Inequalities across Left Bank Growth Point and the wider Wirral Peninsula.
- Increasing costs to NHS of poor health and wellbeing.
- Barriers to accessing fitness and training facilities and classes.
- Carbon footprint of residents travelling to recreational destinations within the LCR and beyond.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- UTS Foundation
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Grow Wellbeing CIC
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

Health and wellbeing is one of the most significant and structural challenges facing the Left Bank. Wirral Waters is creating healthy, inclusive neighbourhoods.

'Pocket Parks' and 'Outdoor Loops and Gyms' are being delivered and funding is being secured to deliver more. Dementia Friendly Neighbourhoods are being created - working with Belong Villages at Northbank. Welcome Packs are in-hand setting out leisure and recreational routes that are 'on the doorstep' or within easy walking and cycling distance.

Ideas for urban adventuring and outdoor play in the 'heart of the city' are being developed at Bidston. We are working with UTS Foundation and Partners - exploring how Wirral Waters, the Hub, Bidston Moss and the River Birkett Parklands may deliver a more structured and sustained 'joined up' recreational destination 'on the doorstep' - that is more immediate, accessible, inclusive and much less reliant on car trips.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *delivery of Dock Road and Duke Street pathways as the first stages of the Northbank 'Green Loop' - a car free 2.4km orbital loop with outdoor gyms 'on the doorstep'.*
- ✓ *exploring with the UTS Foundation how to shape health and wellbeing interventions that are 'tailor-made' for the specific needs of existing and new Left Bank communities.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

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'Pocket Parks' and 'Outdoor Loops and Gyms' are being delivered and funding is being secured to deliver more. Dementia Friendly Neighbourhoods are being created - working with Belong Villages at Northbank. Welcome Packs are in-hand setting out leisure and recreational routes that are 'on the doorstep' or within easy walking and cycling distance.

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1. The first stages of the 'Northbank Green Loop' are in place and in use - as part of the Dock Road and Duke Street Streetscape Works.

2. New approaches to delivering inclusive, adaptive and accessible healthy living and wellbeing interventions are being explored with the UTS Foundation.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

7A. Active, Healthy, Inclusive Neighbourhoods – embed active lifestyles into liveable streets, greenspaces and the water’s edges by making walking and cycling the first choice for getting from A to B and the ‘great outdoors’ as the first choice for recreation, play and exercise.

Work with existing health and wellbeing Partners to:

- i. **Health Living Club:** deliver a Healthy Living Venue at Sustainability Action Hub - proving support on diet, nutrition, training, well-being using the refectory/studios for consultations, classes, training, events and outreach work.
- ii. **Dementia Friendly and Adaptive, Inclusive Places:** increase activity across all groups – inc. later living/dementia and mobility impaired. Create include, dementia friendly neighbourhoods.
- iii. **Green Loops and Outdoor Gyms** – create a wider choice of safe, waymarked recreational ‘Loops’ of varying distances at Wirral Waters. Link to wider recreational destinations including Bidston Moss and the River Birkett Parklands, Birkenhead Park, Central Park and the riverside Promenades. Include ‘outdoor gyms on the doorstep’.
- iv. **Welcome Packs and Activity Programmes:** deliver a Welcome Pack/Programme providing immediate, easy term access to activities/facilities for residents, employees and students. Encourage and support outdoor activities through a programme of visible, accessible and inclusive events.

7B. Tailored Fitted Health Programme: explore innovative health intervention models, looking at longer term, holistic approaches. Understand the specific health and lifestyle issues of Birkenhead, Seacombe and Wallasey. Progress a tailor-made, place based programme of activities and interventions – delivered, assessed and recalibrated over a 5+ year programme working with UTS Foundation and Partners.

7C. Pioneer Urban Adventuring and Outdoor Play: deliver activities and events around adventure sports and ‘being in the great outdoors’ with access to nature. Use adventure to reach wider audiences, including hard to reach/inspire groups.

7D. Skills and Training Programme: work with Partners to deliver a Skills and Training Programme (Sports and Health + Nutrition), setting out Pathways from engagement at the grassroots/self-help level through to FE and HE – led by UTS Foundation, Wirral Met College and Liverpool John Moores University.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **April 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs for City Boulevard as part of Vittoria Studios - for delivery by September 2023**
- **May 2022 - Commence delivery of Beaufort Road Greenway - forming City Boulevard as part of West Float.**

- **August 2022 - Complete Project Statement, Funding and Delivery Plan for Tailored Fitted Health Programme working with Partners - for delivery during September 2023.**

- **June 2022 - Complete Concept Statement and Delivery Plan - for delivery during 2023.**

- **October 2022 - Complete Delivery Plan for Sports and Health + Nutrition approach with UTS Foundation and Partners - including Skills and Training Opportunities.**



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1. Pop Up Outside Gyms using 'Pocket Parks' and 'Meanwhile Landscapes' - including classes structured around increasing 'prescription' of outdoor exercise for mental health and long-COVID recovery.
2. Inclusive, accessible and adaptive classes based around the lifestyles of local people - including evenings and beginner classes 'on the doorstep'.
3. Higher profile and more challenging classes available to build confidence and resilience.
4. Higher intensity and tailored training programmes available for residents, workers and friends groups.
5. Pioneering adventure and outdoor play - along new greenways and the River Birket Parklands - with Bidston Moss as a 'basecamp'.



8: UPCYCLING YARDS AND SUPPLY LINES

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Work with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority to set in place innovative ways of working – based on the lifecycle of key waste materials/sources – construction, furniture and fixtures, e-waste, etc.
- Remove barriers that are discouraging residents and businesses to reclaim/reuse materials and businesses/residents to source pre-loved/used materials and items – based on 'supply lines'.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Levels of 'waste' being produced, transported and incinerated.
- Extent of waste types being produced and opportunities for recycling: Plastic, Metal, Glass, Paper, Organic, E-Waste.
- Materials separation and recycling 'Know how'.
- The embedded use of Single Use Plastics (including in construction).

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA)
- Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) (Sustainable Living Courses)
- ReciproCity
- Changing Streams.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

Circular economies are pivotal to delivering sustainable communities and tackling the climate crisis. The challenge is how to bring proven approaches, projects and collaborators together and create the ideal conditions for all to 'upscale' and 'network'.

The approach is to create an upcycling and circular economy cluster at the Sustainability Action Hub - working in partnership with Merseyside Waste and Recycling Authority. (MRWA). We have explored the approach with MRWA and this has informed the siting of the Hub adjacent to the existing Bidston Waste Reception Centre. Reciprocity are a key collaborator and are expanding their operations at West Float.

A great deal of site reclamation has been completed. We are salvaging reusable materials including those with embedded carbon to be processed and stored at our 'Salvage Yard' at West Float. Materials including street furniture and coping stones have been reused at Northbank Green and College Square 'pocket parks'.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *working with ReciproCity to upscale their activities at West Float as a key 'anchor' to encourage and attract others like minded businesses to co-locate at the Hub.*
- ✓ *the Wirral Waters 'Salvage Yard' at West Float is 'up and running' - with materials being salvaged and reused from reclamation works at Northbank, West Float and Four Bridges.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

Wirral Waters is one of the largest regeneration projects in the UK. It presents a unique opportunity for an innovative and coordinated approach to the management of carbon and material resources - due to land ownership and delivery structure.

The approach is to enable circular economies, recycling and upcycling, and the management and recovery of embodied carbon to lead the way.

Progressing initial ideas for an Upcycling Park Collective at the Hub - working with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority and Partners is the next big step.

The Wirral Waters Salvage Yard is being 'upscaled' as a 'resource bank' for contractors. We are working to connect Reciprocity and other upcycling Partners with new residents and businesses as they start to move into, occupy and 'fit out' their new homes and premises.



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1. We are 'urban mining' and recovering materials for reuse as sites are reclaimed. A key focus is materials with embodied carbon (materials and historic production and transport to site) and aggregates for reuse in site works.
2. & 3. Reciprocity are expanding their operations at West Float and are a key collaborator in the Sustainability Action Hub.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

8A. UpCycle Park Collective: work with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and partners to deliver an upcycling cluster at Bidston/West Float – with Sustainability Action Hub as the ‘mothership’. Foster a network of businesses and not-for-profit groups to pool furniture, clothing, building materials, electrical equipment, toys, cycles, etc that may be upcycled/reused by existing and new residential and business communities.

8B. Wirral Waters Salvage Yard and Supply Lines Project: upscale the existing salvage yard at West Float. Materials from site clearance works are being placed at West Float as an alternative to sending to landfill. Materials are being reused in new parks and streetscapes. Explore innovative ways to network and redistribute salvage materials between larger contractors, smaller contractors, self-builders and community groups.

8C. Changing Streams and Plastic Free Community Status – work with Changing Streams to reduce the amount of plastic used in construction projects and supply chains across Wirral Waters and the Left Bank. Work with Surfers against Sewage (SAS) (Wirral Peninsula Group)) using the SAS Community Toolkit to provide positive support for SME’s, businesses, residents and visitors to change behaviours/switch to pragmatic alternatives.

8D. ‘Welcome Packs’: deliver Welcome Packs to all new arrivals. Set out the opportunities of the UpCycling Yards and Shops to encourage new residents and businesses to purchase upcycled and salvaged materials, fixtures and fittings, etc.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **June 2022 - Complete Project Statement, Funding and Delivery Plan for UpCycle Park Collective working with MRWA, Reciprocity and Partners.**
- **August 2022 - Launch Pilot Supply Lines Project including Legacy and Maritime Knowledge Hub projects.**
- **August 2022 - Launch Changing Streams Project Plan for Legacy.**
- **December 2022 - Secure (SAS) Plastic Free Community Status for Wirral Waters.**
- **August 2022 - Launch ‘Welcome Packs’ for new arrivals - beginning with new East Float residents and new businesses at Hythe.**



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1. Sustainability Action Hub brings together collaborators involved in recycling and upcycling - enabling enterprises to upscale and innovate.
2. & 3. We have joined with the University of Liverpool and Changing Streams in piloting an approach to reduce plastics in the construction sector - using the 500 home Legacy Foundation housing project at Northbank as a 'test-case'. The learning and knowledge will be shared and transferred to other projects.
4. We are collaborating with Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of by enabling recycling and upcycling collaborations to link effectively with the Sustainability Action Hub.



9: SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION SKILLS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- A shared venue with outdoor space to demonstrate, test, share and learn about sustainable construction- accessible to all from self-builders to large contractors.
- Exploring new build together with retrofitting and upcycling.
- Support networks providing practical 'hands on know how' as pathways to FE/HE courses in the design / construction sector.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- Delivering sustainable construction in an area of acute market failure.
- Barriers to skills and training - including the costs of courses, travel and accommodation, tools and materials - and time away from work.
- Access to short, practical 'hands on' workshops and training courses.
- Lack of facilities to Sustainable Construction, in particular - outdoors.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) (Sustainable Living Courses)
- Energy Projects Plus
- Wirral Met College
- Liverpool John Moores University
- University of Liverpool.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

The Wirral Met College Construction Campus at Four Bridges is the first building completed at Wirral Waters. The RIBA Award winning building is 'an essay in sustainable construction' and has achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating. College students have been involved through all design and construction stages - and the Campus is now being extended to provide additional courses in Modern Methods of Construction.

Hythe is delivering BREEAM excellent workspace - with PV arrays, rainwater harvesting and gardens, and cycle facilities. The building will be complete in December. The Tower Road Streetscape Project has set new sustainability benchmarks for civil and landscape construction - including sustainable urban drainage, rainwater gardens, tree trench planting and upcycled streetscape materials.

Progress has been made in securing funding for the EXPO Village project at Vittoria Studios/Hamilton Park and the Sustainability Action Hub.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *all projects to date have set new benchmarks in sustainability, design quality and establishing learning pathways by involving Wirral Met College students in 'live' projects.*
- ✓ *we have brought together local, regional and international partners to collaborate on best ways to deliver sustainable construction in an area of acute market failure, using demonstration projects including live Wirral Waters projects, Sustainability Action Hub, and EXPO Village.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

Wirral Waters buildings, pocket parks and streetscape exemplars are delivering a 'step change' in sustainability benchmarks and skills development for the Left Bank. The opportunity is to set further benchmarks and develop wider collaborations.

Egerton Village, a food and cultural venue, is the next project at Four Bridges. We are working with Liverpool John Moores University - Low Carbon Innovatory Lab to deliver Egerton Village as the first Net Zero Carbon project - in terms of embedded carbon - in Wirral.

The Sustainable Construction Demonstrator Park at West Float and EXPO Village at Vittoria Studios/ Hamilton Park will focus on developing the 'know how' and upskilling builders and contractors in sustainable materials and construction techniques - including retrofitting and MMC.



1. Four Bridges is a cluster of sustainability exemplar 'demonstration projects' including Tower Road Streetscape, Wirral Met College and Hythe.
2. Wirral Met College students have been involved in practical 'hands on' experience in all projects - together with guidance on career pathways. The Wirral Waters Campus provides traditional construction courses and is being expanded to provide new courses in Modern Methods of Construction.

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NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

9A. Sustainable Construction Demonstrator Park: deliver and operate a Demonstrator Park – as part of Sustainability Action Hub. Co-locate with the Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) Centre of Excellence at MEA Park, West Float. Demonstrate how sustainable buildings, infrastructure and streetscapes may be delivered at Wirral Waters and across the Left Bank.

For the Sustainable Construction Demonstrator Park, the focus is:

- Alternative/Modern Methods of Construction – as part of a national network of MMC Centres, each with a specific focus.
- Retrofitting - ways to improve the environmental performance of existing residential and employment buildings - tailored to local building typologies.
- Live trials and applied research projects – including existing homes and workplaces.
- Street scale demonstration projects – looking at ‘whole place’ interventions (building/plot/street) may deliver a step change across the large areas of existing residential/employment neighbourhoods.
- Residential short stay courses – including collaborations with Liverpool John Moores University and Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT).
- Integrated with construction training courses at Wirral Met College.
- Practical short courses with ‘hands on’ practical training for self-builders.

9B. EXPO Village: Demonstrator Projects and Trials: deliver EXPO Village as part of Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park - as a test-bed for MMC, retrofitting and sustainable construction. Include the opportunity to build demonstrator houses as ‘live’ trials projects.

9C. Sustainable Construction Skills Network: establish a collective of practitioners to provide training and upskilling through ‘hands on’ courses and events/open days. Provide access to support and mentoring using digital platforms and forums.

9D. Skills and Training Programme: work with Partners to deliver a Construction Skills and Training Programme, setting out Pathways from engagement at the grassroots/self-help level through to FE to HE.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **July 2022 - Complete Concept Statement and Delivery Plan for Demonstration Park with Partners**
- **November 2023 - Launch Demonstrator Park pilot as part of Sustainability Action Hub.**

- **August 2022 - Complete RIBA Stage II Designs for EXPO Village as part of Vittoria Studios - for delivery by September 2024.**

- **September 2022 - Complete Delivery Plan for Construction Skills Networks and Training with Wirral Met College and Partners.**



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Wirral Waters



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1. Egerton Village - we are working with Liverpool John Moores University - Low Carbon Innovatory Lab to deliver Egerton Village as the first Net Zero Carbon project - in terms of embedded carbon - in Wirral
2. EXPO Village at Vittoria Studios and Hamilton Park will prototype and test new housing typologies and sustainable construction as a Demonstration Project. Knowledge will be transferred across Wirral Waters and the Left Bank - including skills and training programmes.
3. We are collaborating with local, regional and international partners including Wirral Met College, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Liverpool and the Centre for Alternative Technoloy (CAT). The programme is to deliver skills and training programmes and outline career pathways in sustainable construction based around 'live' demonstration projects - expanding upon the start made at the Urban Splash Peel project at Northbank, East Float.



10: ENERGY: LOW AND ZERO CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

OUR PROPOSITIONS: LET'S...

- Deliver buildings with innovative and exemplar energy fabrics, infrastructure and sustainability performances.
- Deliver Low and Zero Carbon Energy Centres and Microgrids - supported by on-site Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) generation at Wirral Waters.
- Retain and repurpose existing buildings that are flexible, adaptable and viable.
- Develop the skills base around retrofitting and building conversions - including retrofitting demonstration projects of existing buildings at Wirral Waters.
- Work with Government and Partners to explore District Heat Networks at Wirral Waters - with the potential to link with Hamilton Park.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME:

- The scale of existing inefficient residential and employment buildings requiring coordinated action to address high levels of energy use is significant.
- Barriers to addressing fuel poverty - with limited opportunities for coordinated local/on site energy generation and retrofitting.
- Co-ordinated working across projects and partners is to deliver more 'joined-up' low and zero carbon energy infrastructure.

IN COLLABORATION WITH...

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- Local Energy North West Hub
- Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) (Sustainable Living Courses)
- Low Carbon Eco Innovatory
- Wirral Met College
- Energy Projects Plus
- Peel NRE and Ener-Vate.

ACTIONS COMPLETED TO DATE...

We are retaining and re-purposing the Dock Gatehouse and Spillers Silo House at Northbank. They will be 'demonstration' projects for sustainable construction - including retrofitting and on site generation using LZCs. The Hydraulic Tower is being re-purposed as the Maritime Knowledge Hub - providing a Listed Building 'demonstration' project.

At West Float, the Northwestern Ship Repairers building is being re-purposed as the Sustainability Action Hub. This is delivering a 'basecamp' for delivering skills and training in on-site energy generation (LZCs), insulation and retrofitting.

A Feasibility Study for District Heating Network (DHN) for Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges has been completed - 'futureproofed' to be able to connect with Hamilton Park.

We are exploring the delivery of an Energy Centre and Microgrid at Four Bridges - co-ordinated with the existing Combined Heat and Power (CHP) at Wirral Met College. Streetscape works have 'safeguarded' service routes for future energy and charging networks and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's 'Digital Spine' project.

Progress includes:

- ✓ *re-purposing the Northwestern Ship Repairers Building (as the Sustainability Action Hub) and Spillers Silo House - as retrofitting and on site energy 'demonstration projects'.*
- ✓ *progressing Feasibility Studies for a District Heat Network (DHN) serving Vittoria Studios and Four Bridge, and 'futureproofed' to connect with the Left Bank.*
- ✓ *progressing a Feasibility Study for an Energy Centre and Microgrid for Four Bridges - centred on the Maritime Knowledge Hub.*



PROGRESS IN HAND...

Wirral Waters and the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) have committed to a strategic collaboration - and this is being based at the Sustainability Central Hub.

We are progressing with detailed design, technical and deliverability studies for an Energy Centre, Microgrid and District Heating Network (DHN) serving Four Bridges and Vittoria Studios - collaborating with Wirral Met College.

We are 'future proofing' the DHN to be able to connect with Hamilton Park and the Left Bank.

The Microgrid includes Electric Charging Hubs - serving Electric Vehicles, eCycles, eCargo Bikes and micromobility.

A 'joined-up' approach to retrofitting is focused on the Sustainability Action Hub being a 'demonstration' project for retrofitting and on site renewables.

We are collaborating with Wirral Council Housing Officers to coordinate skills and training courses with housing retrofitting programmes across the Left Bank.

The ability to deliver StreetCar as a low / zero carbon 'Green Tourism' feeder service is being explored with Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society and a number of UK innovation funders.



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1. The Hydraulic Tower is being re-purposed as part of the Maritime Knowledge Hub - with the potential to be at the heart of a low carbon Microgrid and District Heat Network across Four Bridges and Vittoria Studios.
2. & 3. The Northwestern Ship Repairers Building and the Spillers Silo House are being re-purposed as retrofitting and on site energy 'demonstration' projects.
4. Through a 'Dig Once' approach - streetscapes and public realm projects are being 'futureproofed' for energy and charging networks and the LCR CA 'Digital Spine'.

NEXT STEP ACTIONS: to progress work to date, key Projects and Actions are:

10A. Energy Innovation Projects – deliver innovative energy projects using a range of technologies including:

- i. Energy Centres and MicroGrid Pilot:** explore the feasibility of Energy Centres with Microgrids supported with Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) site-based technologies at:
 - o Four Bridges and Vittoria Studios
 - o Bidston Dock and West Float
- ii. District Heating Network Pilot:** explore the feasibility and delivery of a District Heating Network (DHN) at Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges – including connectivity with Hamilton Park and the wider Left Bank.
- iii. Zero Carbon Public Transit Connectivity:** progress the StreetCar Ultra-Light Rail Pilot, including provision of power from Energy Centres and Microgrids along the lines.
- iv. Wired Futureproofed Streets:** continue to deliver advance ducting in public realm works to provide for Liverpool City Region Digital Spine, and the installation of cycle and vehicle charging.
- v. Meanwhile Energy Plots:** explore the feasibility of PV Arrays across vacant sites - able to 'lift and shift' around Wirral Waters as sites are developed.

10B. Fabric First - Energy Efficiency Exemplars: follow a 'Fabric First' approach for new buildings and structures at Wirral Waters. Work with Partners to identify potential funding sources/financial incentives to address viability issues and deliver exemplar projects.

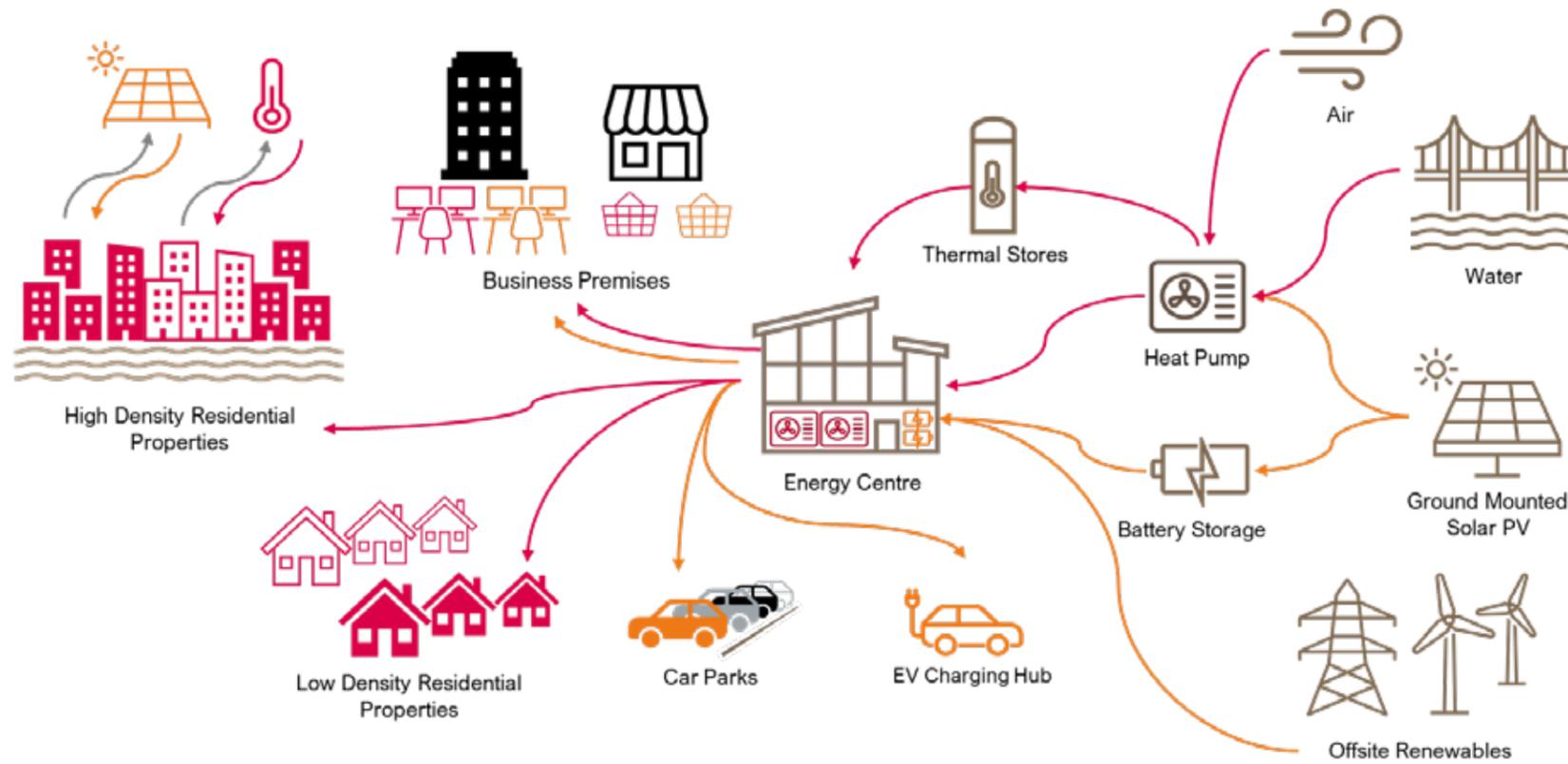
10C. Skills and Business Start Up Opportunities: work with Wirral Met College, Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) and Energy Projects Plus to upskill local contractors and workforce to deliver low carbon energy technologies, building condition surveys, Modern Methods of Construction and retrofitting existing homes/employment buildings.

TIMESCALES: key dates in a nutshell are:

- **July 2022 - Complete Advanced Feasibility Study for Energy Centre, MicroGrid and District Heat Network at Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges - for delivery of initial stages during 2023**
- **November 2024 - Launch Zero Carbon Energy Supply for StreetCar Ferry Line**
- **On-going delivery of future proofed streets and public realm.**

- **September 2024 - Delivery of Fabric First Demonstration Projects at Vittoria Studios and EXPo Village.**

- **September 2022 - Complete Delivery Plan for Low Carbon Energy and Retrofitting Networks and Training with Wirral Met College and Partners.**



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1. Peel NRE are supporting Wirral Waters in developing Energy Centre, Microgrid and District Heat Network proposals - shaped by delivery and operation of networks at Liverpool and Glasgow.
2. Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT): AJ Student Prize 2021 - MArch Sustainable Architecture Students. CAT will be looking at 'hands on' sustainable construction courses at Sustainability Central Hub - including on site energy and retrofitting.
3. & 4. Collaborating with Wirral Met College to deliver skills and training in on-site energy and retrofitting. The College has delivered award winning energy hubs - which have been included in proposals to power StreetCar as a UK low carbon Green Tourism pilot.

LEFT BANK - BIG MOVE OPPORTUNITIES

We believe Wirral has the potential to be the most sustainable borough in the Liverpool City Region - with Wirral Waters and the Left Bank as UK exemplars.

This Sustainability Action Plan is shared to accelerate dialogue about how actions being delivered across Wirral Waters may be joined up with the wider Left Bank Growth Point to deliver inclusive, sustainable growth. Peel are more than willing to continue supporting those Partners who have a lead role to play in delivering wider actions.

By 'bringing it all together' - a Left Bank 'Big Picture' Sustainability Action Plan is best placed to accelerate the immediate and transformation scale of change and investment needed.

The 'joined-up' and 'big picture' approach has been embedded in Wirral Waters thinking from the start - with ideas on how to deliver inclusive growth and regeneration set out as 'Partnership Neighbourhoods' in our Vision Statement (2010). These ideas have now been taken forward into the Wirral Local Plan.

We are now in 'delivery mode' and our ideas for a 'joined-up' and 'big picture' approach are shared here as spatial Frameworks relating to our 5 Shared Themes and associated 10 Step Change Action Areas. Each explores our proposed actions as 'bigger moves' at the 'Left Bank' city scale.

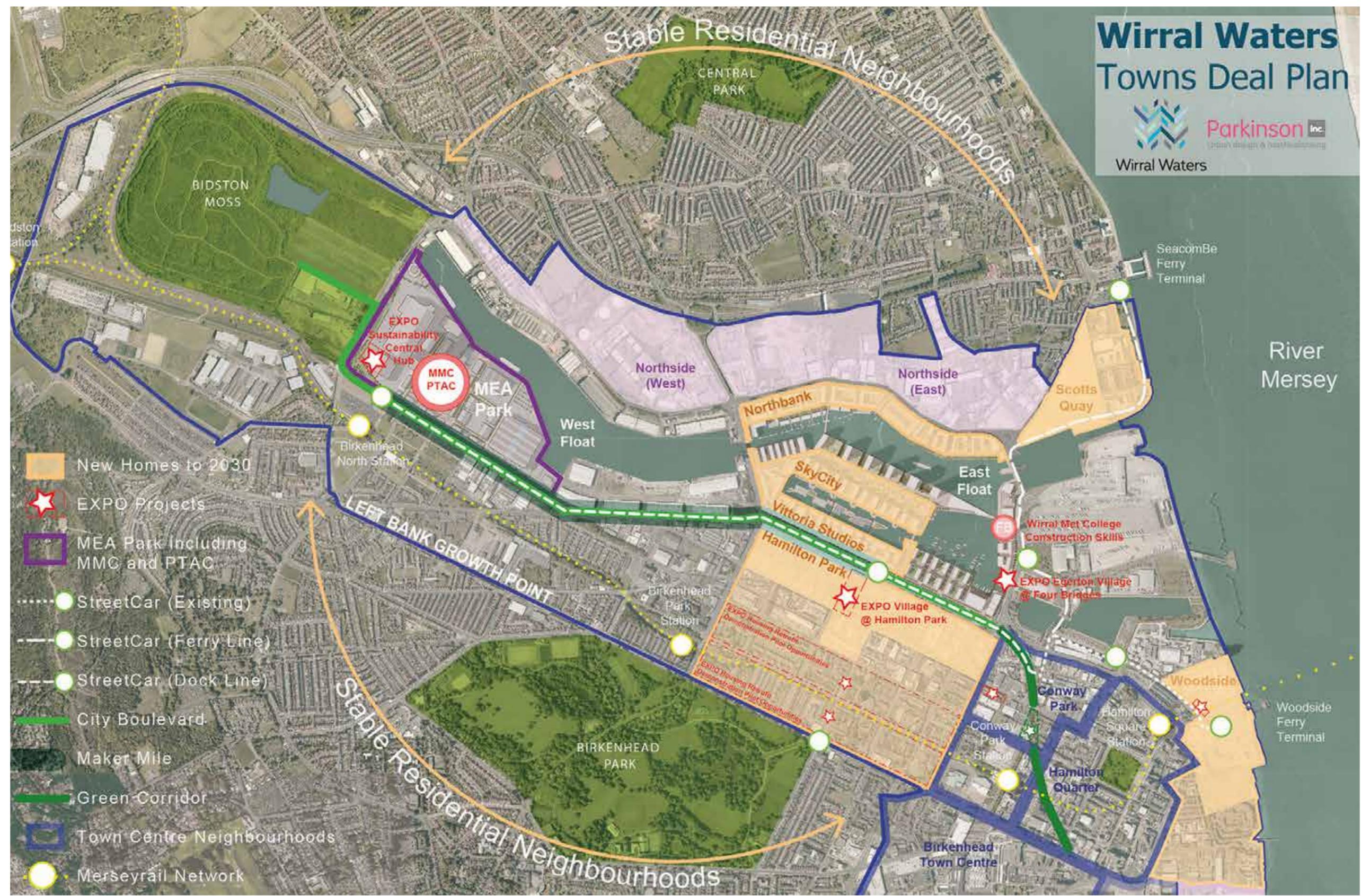
OUR 5 THEMES AND ASSOCIATED 10 STEP CHANGE ACTION AREAS

- 1. Energy and Resources**
 - Sustainability Central Hub
 - Energy Innovations
- 2. Connectivity**
 - Smart Movement and Connectivity
 - Active Greenways and Blueways
- 3. Greening the City**
 - Resilient Greening and Rewilding
 - Local Pop Up Parks and Green Hands Teams
- 4. Food, Health and Wellbeing**
 - Food for Thought
 - Healthy Body, Healthy Mind
- 5. Circular Economy**
 - Upcycling Yards and Supply Lines
 - Sustainable Construction Skills and Demonstration Projects



Wirral Waters Sustainability Action Plan - Our 5 Themes and 10 Step Change Action Areas

Wirral Waters Towns Deal Plan



Bringing it All Together - a Left Bank 'Big Picture' Sustainability Plan

LEFT BANK OPPORTUNITIES - ENERGY AND RESOURCES

AT WIRRAL WATERS...

The ambition is to create exemplar low and zero carbon neighbourhoods across the Left Bank - connected to the Liverpool City Regions 'Digital Spine' providing access to ultra-fast broadband.

Energy projects are being delivered as low carbon, flexible microgrid networks with a range of energy sources that may be upscaled as future development is delivered and flexible enough to respond to changing technologies and lifestyle demands.

Projects and initiatives to date and in-hand include:

- Wirral Met College Wirral Waters Campus includes a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) energy source.
- The Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges District Heating Network (DHN) is at an advanced Feasibility Stage - balanced with a 'Fabric First' approach to buildings.
- Dig Once Streetscapes: streets, squares, parks and public realm works are being future proofed by including clear service runs and ducting for the LCR CA 'Digital Spine', DHNs, and electric charging points.
- Battery and Heat Sump Storage facilities have been delivered at West Float and Wirral Met College.
- Exploring and deliver opportunities for on site generation at the neighbourhood scale using Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) technologies such as PV panels, wind turbines, heat source pumps, etc.
- We are collaborating with Wirral Council to enable a wider Left Bank DHN to connect in the future.

LOOKING ACROSS THE LEFT BANK...

The opportunity is to deliver a SMART GRIDS for each neighbourhood - tailored to the specific uses, load requirements and phasing of each place.

At the 'Left Bank' scale, this provides opportunities to:

- progress the Sustainability Action Hub as a 'basecamp' for sustainable energy innovations, enterprises, training and demonstrations for the Left Bank as a whole/
- recognise the need for widescale retrofitting of homes and employment buildings, including green economy enterprise opportunities and associated skills and jobs.
- investing in electrical supply offsite networks to enable the sourcing of low and zero carbon electrical supplies from an ever increasingly decarbonised National Grid.
- explore and deliver District Heat Networks (DHNs) connected with the Vittoria Studios and Four Bridges DHN.(12 Quays Campus). More are in development.

To 'start the conversation' - our approach and projects are illustrated in the Energy and Resources Sustainability Framework



LEFT BANK OPPORTUNITIES - CONNECTIVITY

AT WIRRAL WATERS...

The ambition is to create 15 Minute Walkable Neighbourhoods where public transit, cycling and walking are the natural choices for everyday local journeys, free from congested roads and pollution.

Connectivity projects are being delivered in a 'joined-up' network way as 'enabling infrastructure' delivered in advance of new homes, work and learning spaces.

Projects and initiatives to date and in-hand include.

- On with the delivery of significant cycleway connections in a 'joined-up' way - including Tower Road, Dock Road, Duke Street, Beaufort Road and Wallasey Bridge Road.
- Launch of the Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan - with a commitment to update every six months.
- Progressing detailed design and being 'planning application ready' for the StreetCar 'Ferry Line' linking Woodside and Hamilton Square to the Maritime Knowledge Hub at Four Bridges, in close proximity to Eureka!Mersey.
- Funding bids for the StreetCar 'Ferry Line' including dialogue with the Coastal Communities Fund and discussions with Innovate UK to power StreetCar from Wirral Waters Energy Centres to deliver the UK's first low / zero carbon tram.

LOOKING ACROSS THE LEFT BANK...

The opportunity is to deliver a 'best in class' low /zero carbon mass public transit service as the platform for a network of 'Living Streets' enabling door to door journeys without the need for cars.

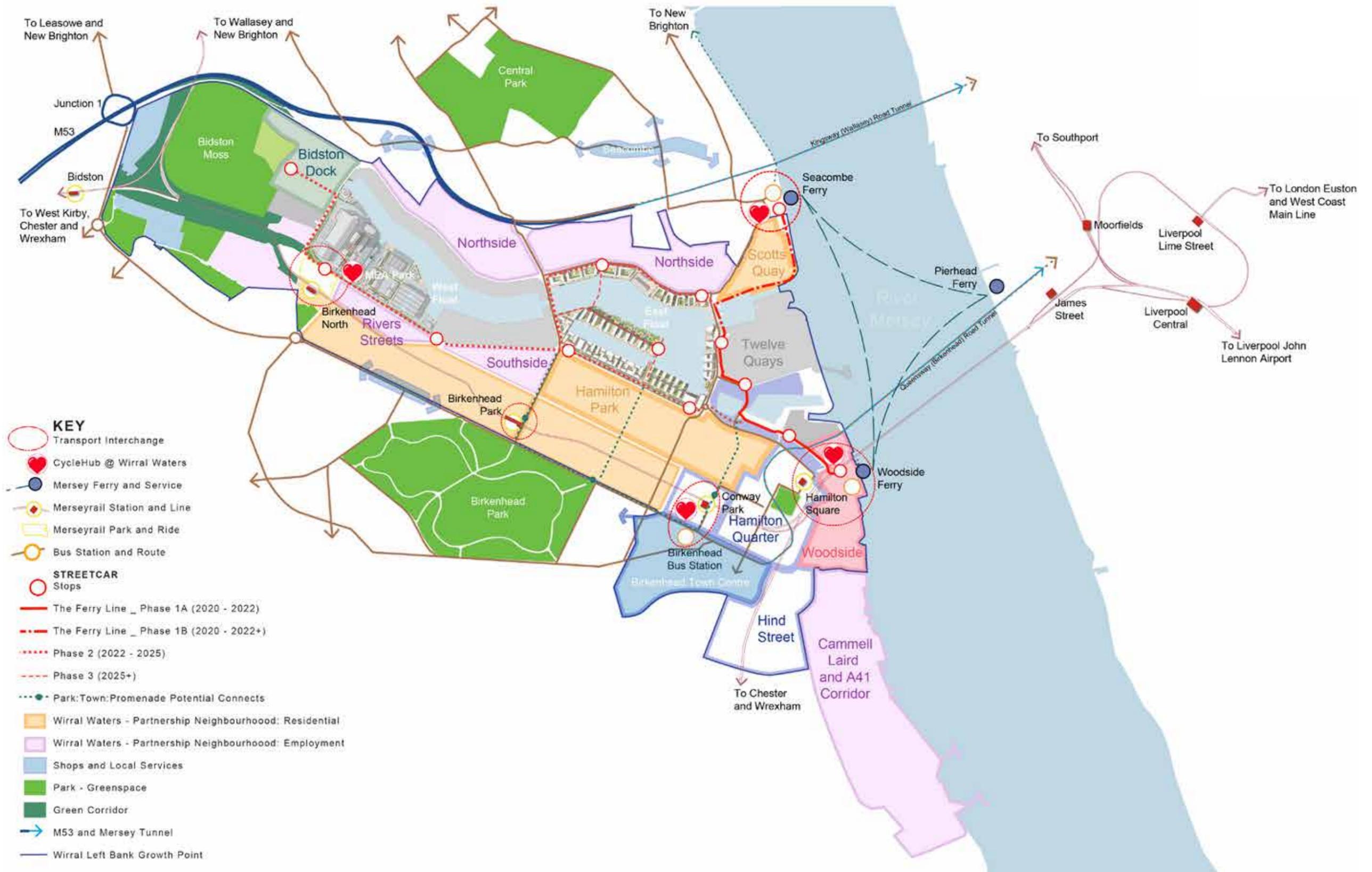
At the 'Left Bank' scale, this provides opportunities to:

- make best use of the latent capacity in the Merseyrail network and Ferries.
- deliver a mass public transit service to those places needing last mile connectivity to the Merseyrail stations.
- deliver 'Living Streets' as safe, attractive routes for 'active travel' - walking, cycling and micromobility.
- explore and deliver StreetCar as a low carbon green tourism connect - linking key arrival points and destinations including Four Brides, Vittoria Studios, West Float and Bidston, Eureka! Mersey and Seacombe, Hamilton Square and Woodside - and Birkenhead Park.

To 'start the conversation' - our approach and projects are illustrated in the Connectivity Sustainability Framework - supported by our Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan.



Wirral Waters Active Travel Action Plan launched in June 2021



LEFT BANK OPPORTUNITIES - GREENING THE CITY

AT WIRRAL WATERS...

The ambition is to deliver transformational change by rewilding the 'River Birket Corridor' from Leasowe to the River Mersey Waterfront.

The coordinating idea is recognising that the Great Floats and docks have been formed by 'damming' the River Birket - and the underlying river corridor is hidden and is ideal as a candidate for rewilding through large scale native tree planting and waterside planting.

Projects and initiatives to date and in-hand include:

- Green Streets and Riverside Pathways have been delivered including the Tower Road, Dock Road, Duke Street Streetscape Projects.
- 1600+ trees planted to date across Wirral Waters and the Left Bank Growth Point.
- Pocket Parks created including College Square at Wirral Met College Construction Campus (Four Bridges) and Northbank Green (Northbank).
- Proposals developed for reanimating Bidston Moss as part of Sustainability Action Hub, working with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, Mersey Forest and the Forestry Commission.
- Beaufort Road and Wallasey Bridge Road projects are 'delivery ready' - having been designed, secured planning permission and funding approvals. They form the western part of the City Boulevard connection to Bidston Moss and the River Birket Corridor.

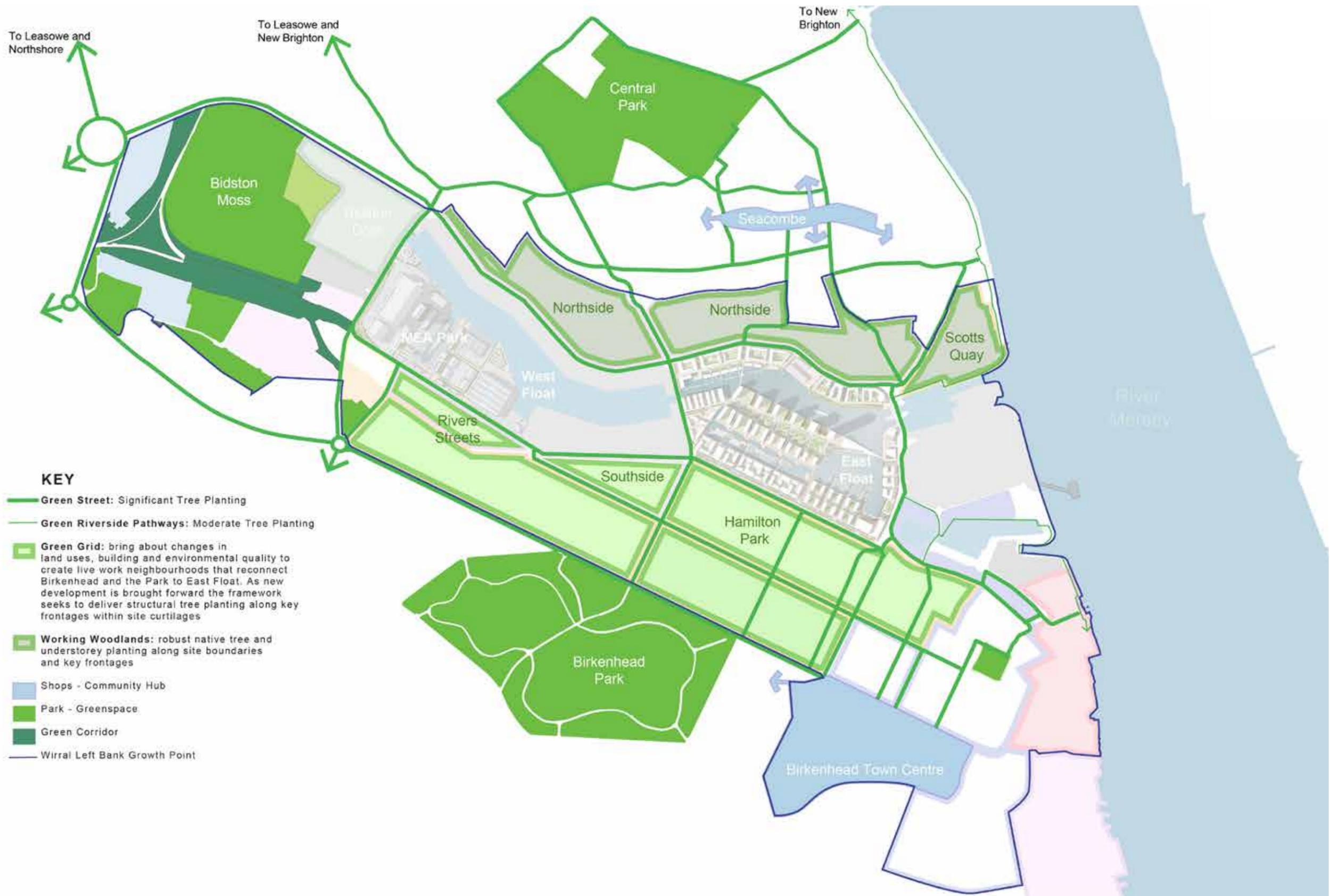
LOOKING ACROSS THE LEFT BANK...

The opportunity is to deliver large scale coordinated green and blue infrastructure across the Northside and Hamilton Park neighbourhoods.

At the 'Left Bank' scale, this provides opportunities to:

- strengthen the 1,600+ street trees planted to date as part of the 'Setting the Scene for Growth' (SSFG) programme.
- take a 'joined-up' approach to large scale tree planting on vacant and underused sites in many ownerships enclosing Wirral Waters.
- make a real shift in the poor environmental and visual condition of many streets, which is impacting on investor confidence, reinforces negative perceptions, and discourages people from walking and cycling.
- Green Grids - deliver more street trees across the Gridiron of the Hamilton Park to connect Wirral Waters with Birkenhead Park and Town Centre.
- Working Woodlands - work with land owners and businesses to plant site boundaries, margins and underused plots. Connect Wirral Waters with Central Park and Seacombe and Liscard Village Centres.
- River Birket Parkland - progress proposals to create a recreational and ecological corridor connecting the Left Bank Growth Point to the wider Wirral Peninsula.

To 'start the conversation' - our approach and projects are illustrated in the Greening the City Sustainability Framework



LEFT BANK OPPORTUNITIES - FOOD, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AT WIRRAL WATERS...

The ambition is to deliver healthy places with lush waterside settings - with access to a choice of outdoor parks and activities.

New 'pocket parks' are being delivered at Wirral Waters. Connecting these 'new additions' into the existing greenspace network will provide 'missing jigsaw pieces and connect existing and new communities together.

Projects and initiatives to date and in-hand include:

- Pocket Parks - new 'pocket parks' are being delivered reconnecting people with the waters edge at Four Bridges, Northbank and Vittoria Studios around East Float. They provide valuable places for relaxing, access to nature and recreation.
- City Boulevard - a new strategic east - west greenway is being delivered as part of Vittoria Studios. This connects with the Beaufort Road greenway along the southside of West Float as the 'missing piece' in the Wirral Peninsula recreational and cycleway network - a connect between Bidston Moss and the River Mersey waterfront.
- Dock edge pathways reconnecting communities with the dockside and waters edge at the Great Floats.
- Sustainability Action Hub includes food, health and wellbeing activities - developed with partners and based at Bidston Moss and Dock - with outreach work across the Left Bank Growth Point.

LOOKING ACROSS THE LEFT BANK...

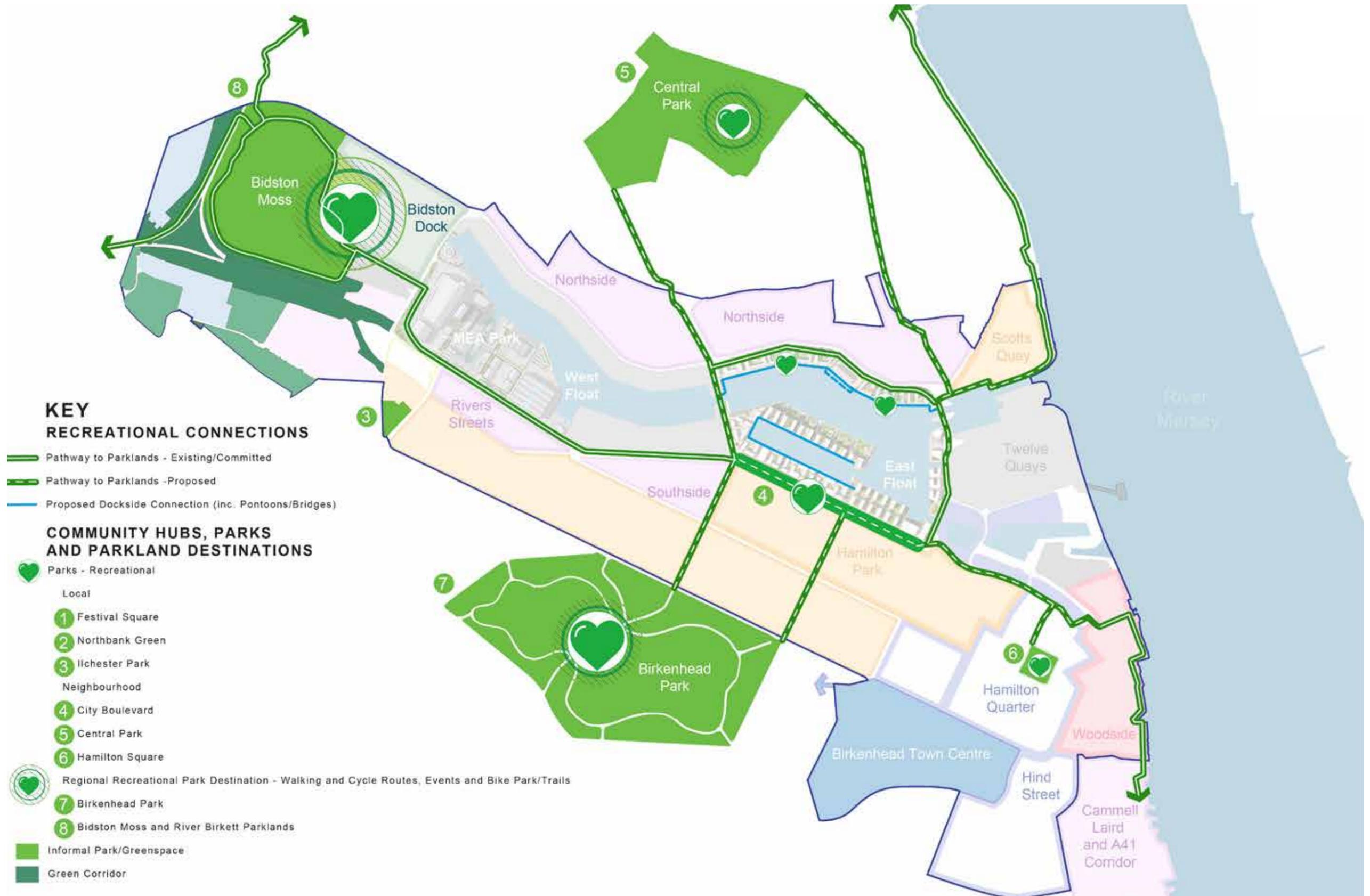
The opportunity is to deliver affordable access to the recreational parklands and destinations across North and East Wirral. At present, access is heavily reliant upon private car trips. Sustainable growth needs to better enable access to recreational destinations using public transit, walking, cycling and micromobility.

The proposal is to deliver new parklands and recreational destinations to complement existing city parks.

At the 'Left Bank' scale, this provides opportunities to:

- ensure greens streets and corridors allow for outdoor activities and both active and passive recreation.
- reconnect and reanimate Bidston Moss as a recreational and food growing resource- as part of the Sustainability Action Hub.
- establish Bidston Moss as the 'lynch pin' in the River Birket Parklands - where Wirral recreational pathways meet the Left Bank.
- deliver City Boulevard as a strategic east -west recreational parkland connecting Bidston Moss to the River Mersey waterfront.
- Pathways to Parklands - develop a family of recreational loops linking homes and workplaces to parks and the River Birket and River Mersey waterfront recreational loops.

To 'start the conversation' - our approach and projects are illustrated in the Food, Health and Wellbeing Sustainability Framework



LEFT BANK OPPORTUNITIES - ENERGY AND RESOURCES

AT WIRRAL WATERS...

The ambition is to deliver a resource recovery, recycling and upcycling exemplar to significantly reduce levels of waste being sent to end disposal and stimulate a Circular Economy.

Discussions with MRWA, Changing Streams and Reciprocity are well underway. Approaches to construction materials management and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) are being explored at MEA Park, West Float.

Projects and initiatives to date and in-hand include:

- Modern Methods of Construction: a Centre of Excellence is being delivered as part of the Modular Development Centre at West Float. A key driver of MMC is the reduction of waste and use of sustainable materials.
- Upcycling and Salvage Yards: the Wirral Waters Salvage Yard is up and running at West Float. We are working with the MRWA to explore how this may be expanded and activities coordinated with the adjacent MRWA Bidston site.
- 'Supply Lines Projects' - we are exploring how local 'Supply Lines' projects may be set up within each neighbourhood to manage surplus materials - beginning with Northbank and Vittoria Studios. This includes working with Changing Streams CIC who are looking at how to reduce plastics in the construction sector.

LOOKING ACROSS THE LEFT BANK...

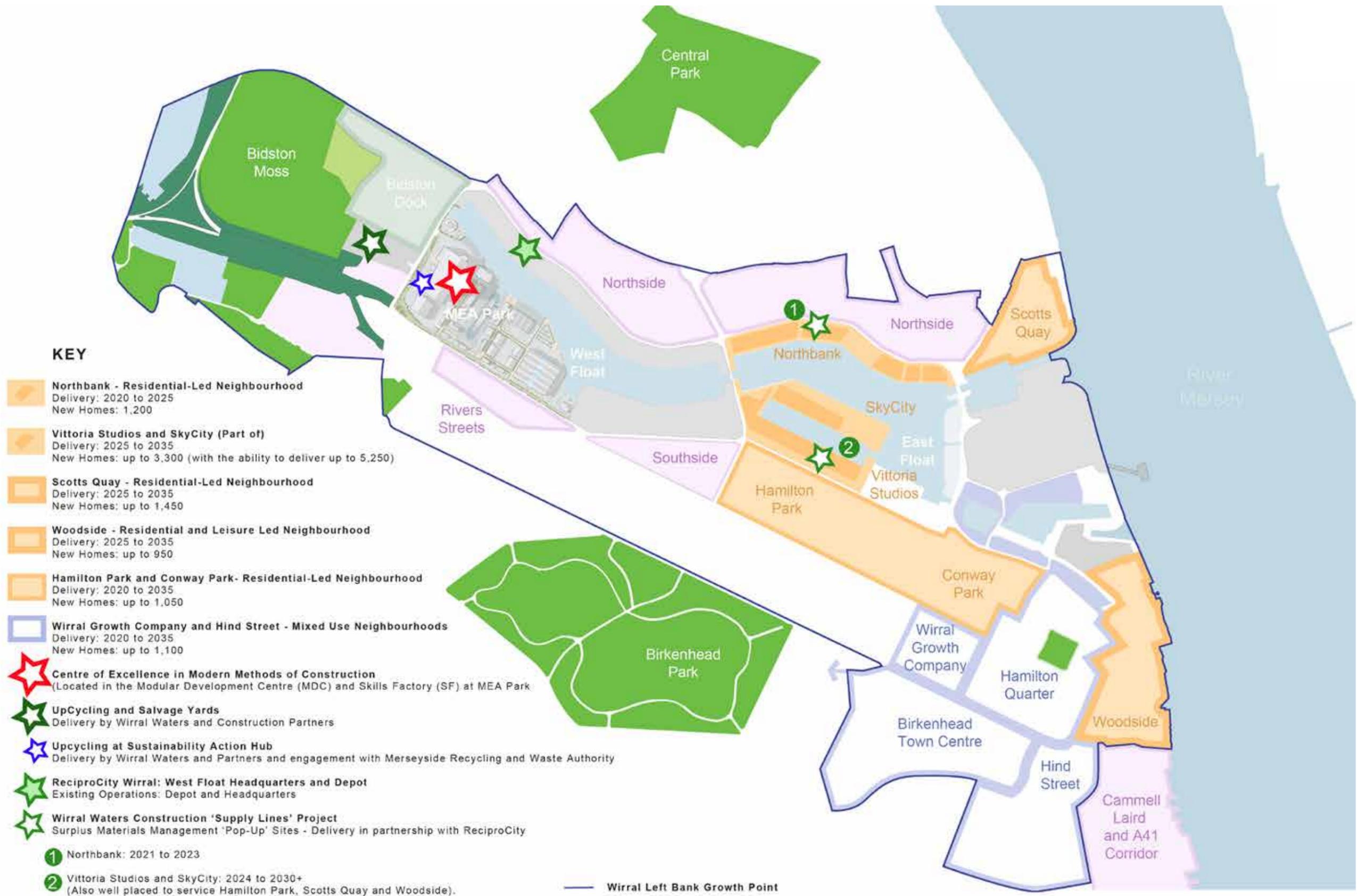
The opportunity is to work with joint venture partners, contractors, circular economy enterprises, MRWA and Government agencies to shape a long term resource management and investment programme.

The proposal is to significantly increase the rates of recovery and reuse of materials and goods, and reduce reliance upon plastics.

At the 'Left Bank' scale, this provides opportunities to:

- work with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) to consider how resources and waste management and recovery is to be delivered - given the scale of growth across the Left Bank set out in the Wirral Local Plan.
- develop innovative approaches the management of streetscapes, greenways and greenspaces, and the public realm - including placekeeping, litter collection and management and the segregation of waste/resources in street bins in the adopted highway and parks.

To 'start the conversation' - our approach and projects are illustrated in the Circular Economy Sustainability Framework



MOVING FORWARD - ACTIONS AND DELIVERY

PROGRESS TO DATE

A great deal of progress has been made to date. There is still a great deal to do. Our next steps for moving forward are set out below.

WIRRAL WATERS 10 STEP CHANGE ACTION AREAS

Great progress is being made in delivering the key actions set out in this Action Plan.

The focus to date has been on connectivity, active travel and pop up pocket parks. As momentum gathers pace - we are starting to look at larger scale projects across all 10 Action Areas.

The first neighbourhoods being delivered are at Northbank and Four Bridges. The next stages being brought forward include Vittoria Studios, West Float and Bidston Dock.

The Sustainability Action Hub is a key 'touchpoint' for partners and the existing communities of Birkenhead, Seacombe and Wallasey.

As we share ideas and engage, our collective of collaborators and contacts with existing communities is growing

LEFT BANK - SUSTAINABILITY 'BIG MOVES'

From the beginning of Wirral Waters, the 'whole place' approach has been adopted - looking 'beyond the red line' to engage with the surrounding residential communities of Seacombe, Wallasey and Birkenhead. Sustainable, inclusive growth is the agenda and we have invested time and resources engaging with a wide range of people, groups and communities over the years.

Sustainability has been embedded from the start.

The 5 Sustainability Frameworks looking across the Left Bank carry forward the ideas, proposals and actions set out in the initial Wirral Waters Vision Statement (2010).

Many of these proposals have been included in the emerging Wirral Local Plan - at last reinforcing the Wirral Waters Vision Statement.

We are active in playing a role in supporting the delivery of these Left Bank sustainability 'Bigger Moves' through our continued involvement and support of the Wirral Cool 2 Partnership.

This Action Plan is our 'Locally Determined Contribution' to the Partnership setting out how we will contribute to achieving the targets set out in the Wirral Climate Change Action Plan.

DELIVERY - COLLABORATION, FUNDING AND PROGRAMME

We can do more through collaboration - please get in touch if you would like to discuss any of the ideas, proposals and actions set out in this Action Plan.

To date, we have adopted a 'cocktail' approach to funding. For the right projects that are properly worked up and with the right outputs, funding will be available via the private and public sectors.

The majority of funding being levered into Wirral Waters is via Peel L&P and their private sector partners. This is often 'kick-started' and accelerated by the funding tools on offer from Government - whether central Government Departments or the LCR Combined Authority.

There is an alphabet soup of funding acronyms that have been levered into Wirral Waters to assist delivery: SIF, HIF, WWIF, TIF, LIF, ESIF, NPIF, SUD, ERDF, SSFG, STEP, CCF, UTCF etc.

We will continue to respond to funding opportunities as they arise - working with partners and local communities and interest groups.

Institutional Investor partners are increasingly focusing on projects and places that are 'sustainable' providing positive impacts in Social Value and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance). Wirral Waters scores highly on both accounts.

Our Delivery Programme is set out across the page.

DELIVERY PROGRAMME (TO BE UPDATED EVERY 12 MONTHS)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025+
1. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION HUB						
1A. WW Sustainability Action Hub (SAH)	
1B. Sustainability Skills Starter School		
1C. Local Communities Outreach and Engagement		
2. SMART MOVEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY						
2A. Ultra-Light Rail Pilot
2B. Cycle and Car Share/Hire Clubs		
2C. EV and ECycle Charging Points		
3. ACTIVE GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS						
3A. Active Green and Blue Pathways
3B. Wirral Waters 'Hike and Bike' Programme	
3C. Wirral Waters Cycle Hubs	
4. RESILIENT CITY GREENING AND REWILDING						
4A. City Greening
4B. City Rewilding
4C. Tree Lines: Seed Bank and Tree Nursery		
5. POP UP PARKS AND GREENHAND TEAMS						
5A. POP UP POCKET PARKS
5B. Green Hand Teams		
5C. Skills and Training Programme		
5D. Parks Trust and Green Income Streams		
6. FOOD FOR THOUGHT						
6A. Urban Garden City: Peninsula Pilot		
6B. Food Box Starter Kits and 'Gardening Bank'		
6C. Skills and Training Programme		
7. HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND						
7A. Active, Healthy, Inclusive Neighbourhoods
7B. Tailored Fitted Health Programme		
7C. Pioneer Urban Adventuring and Outdoor Play		
7D. Skills and Training Programme		
8. UPCYCLING YARDS AND SUPPLY LINES						
8A. UpCycle Park Collective	
8B. Wirral Waters Salvage Yard and Supply Lines Project
8C. Changing Streams and Plastic Free Community Status	
8D. 'Welcome Packs'	
9. CONSTRUCTIONS SKILLS AND DEMONSTRATIONS						
9A. Sustainable Construction Demonstrator Park		
9B. EXPO Village: Demonstrator Projects and Trials:		
9C. Sustainable Construction Skills Network:		
9D. Skills and Training Programme:		
10. ENERGY INNOVATIONS						
10A. Energy Innovation Projects
10B. Fabric First - Energy Efficiency Exemplars		
10C. Skills and Business Start Up Opportunities		

..... CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT/SECURING FUNDING
 → DELIVERY - ON SITE CONSTRUCTION & COMMENCING SERVICES

CONTACTS

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this Action Plan with interested parties.

Further information is available from:

Richard Mawdsley
Director of Development
Wirral Waters
Peel L&P
rmawdsley@peellandp.co.uk

Ian Parkinson
Director
Parkinson Inc - Urban Design
and Masterplanning
ian@parkinsoninc.co.uk

