

**Sefton Local Plan Examination**  
**Joint Statement of Common Ground by**  
**Sefton Council and the Jockey Club (ref. 711)**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**MAIN MATTER 5**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION AND RETAIL**

**Issue 5a:** *Whether the proposals for main employment areas and regeneration areas are positively prepared, effective and consistent with national policy.*

**Q5.3** *Does Policy ED5 provide sufficient clarity about the types of tourism development that is supported? Are there other important tourist locations that warrant being added to the four areas identified?*

*Do the modifications proposed by the Council adequately address this matter? Should there be a specific reference to visitor accommodation?*

**1 Introduction**

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to set out the areas of agreement, between Sefton Council and the Jockey Club on matters relating to Policy ED5 and the proposed new Aintree Racecourse policy and its supporting text, having regard to the representations submitted by the Jockey Club concerning that Policy ED5.

**2 Common Ground Between Parties**

2.1 Both parties agree that a specific policy on Aintree Racecourse should be included in the Sefton Local Plan to address the particular issues relating to development on this site.

2.2 It is agreed by both Sefton Council and the Jockey Club that the addition of the new Aintree Racecourse policy (set out in Appendix One) would address the specific issues raised by the Jockey Club in its Representation to the Sefton Local Plan Publication version and its response to the Inspectors Matters, Issues and Questions. (Dated October 2015.)

## **Appendix 1: Aintree Racecourse Policy**

### **AINTREE RACECOURSE**

Aintree Racecourse is an asset of national importance, and is the home of the Grand National Festival, which hosts the world class National Steeplechase. It is therefore a major and valuable recreation, tourism and conferencing facility which attracts significant numbers of visitors throughout the year thereby contributing positively to the Borough and the wider Region's economy.

#### **ED8B AINTREE RACECOURSE**

- 1. Within the part of Aintree Racecourse which lies within the Green Belt, development must meet all of the following criteria:**
  - a) maintain or enhance the existing use of the Racecourse**
  - b) preserve the character of the area**
  - c) be consistent with national Green Belt Policy and other Local Plan policies.**
- 2. Within the remaining part of Aintree Racecourse, development which enhances the recreational, tourism and conference functions of the Racecourse will be supported where consistent with other Local Plan policies.**

#### **Key Policy Links:**

- ED5 Tourism
- MN7 Sefton's Green Belt

#### **National /regional context**

- Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020, 2009

#### **Explanation**

Aintree Racecourse is an appropriate use within the Green Belt, in which the majority of the site is located. Development that enhances the recreational use of the Racecourse as a racing venue will be supported where consistent with other Local Plan policies. Development in this area should respect the openness of the Green Belt. It is also important that development does not harm existing outdoor recreation uses in the area of the Racecourse within the Green Belt, due to the special character and function of the Racecourse. This is in addition to the restrictions on development within the Green Belt.

In the area of the Racecourse which is outside the Green Belt (i.e. the Ormskirk Road frontage), development proposals related to tourism, recreation or conferencing, particularly those relating to the Racecourse, such as hotel and conference facilities, will be supported where consistent with other Local Plan policies. Retail uses, including food and drinks uses, which are ancillary to the function of the Racecourse will be supported.