

Note regarding updates to policy ED1 'The Port and Maritime Zone' and Natural England's views

Policy ED1 'The Port and Maritime Zone' was discussed at the hearings session on 19 November 2015. During the discussion the Inspector indicated that he felt there was confusion between 1f of the policy and part 2.

Subsequently, Sefton Council proposed a modification to policy ED1, part 1f, to say:

- f) For development which is outside Seaforth Nature Reserve but within the remainder of the Port and Maritime Zone including any expansion of the operational port area to the A565, that it # can be demonstrated that there ~~is no significant risk of any impact upon the important ecological interests of~~ are no likely significant effects on Seaforth Nature Reserve the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Liverpool Bay Special Protection Areas and other internationally important nature sites.

The Council also proposed a modification to the beginning of paragraph 7.16 to say

7.16 The Seaforth Nature Reserve is a part of the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore and Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site. ~~and as~~ As such it is internationally important for nature conservation and is part of the Natura 2000 network of international nature sites. Under the Habitats Regulations 2010, the Council has a duty to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of sites of international nature importance.

In an email sent to Natural England on 2 December 2015, the Council set out these proposed modifications and asked for Natural England's views by 10 December at the latest, if at all possible. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Natural England, Sefton officers re-iterated the reasons for these proposed modifications, which Natural England accepted.

The Council therefore considers Natural England to be satisfied with these proposed modifications to policy ED1 and its explanation.