



Mersey Valley

Policy GI4: Mersey Valley

- A. To protect and enhance the Mersey Valley's important strategic role within Trafford's natural environment, the Council will support proposals which help to achieve one or more of the following:
- i. Reduce and / or mitigate the effects of flood risk from the Mersey Valley on the surrounding built environment.
 - ii. Improve public access via walking, wheeling and cycling, to maximise opportunities to improve the health of Trafford resident.
 - iii. Improve walking, wheeling and cycling connections to the Mersey Valley, Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail and other routes that contribute to Trafford's integrated active travel network.
 - iv. Improve connections between areas of greenspace, particularly those with high biodiversity / habitat value, within or adjoining the Mersey Valley; and/ or
 - v. Contribute to locality specific opportunities identified in Policies GI4N, GI4C & GI4W.

Policy GI4N: Mersey Valley in North Trafford

- A. Within Trafford North, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer at Stretford Meadows (particularly woodland) and Turn Moss, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.



Policy GI4C: Mersey Valley in Central Trafford

- A. Within Trafford Central, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer, including improvements to recreation infrastructure, at Sale Water Park, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.
 - ii. Protection of Sale Water Park Flood Storage Area, in accordance with Policy WA2: Flood Storage Areas.

Policy GI4W: Mersey Valley in West Trafford

- A. Within Trafford West, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer at Urmston Meadows and Wellacre, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G1; JP-G2; JP-G3; JP-S4; JP-C6.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

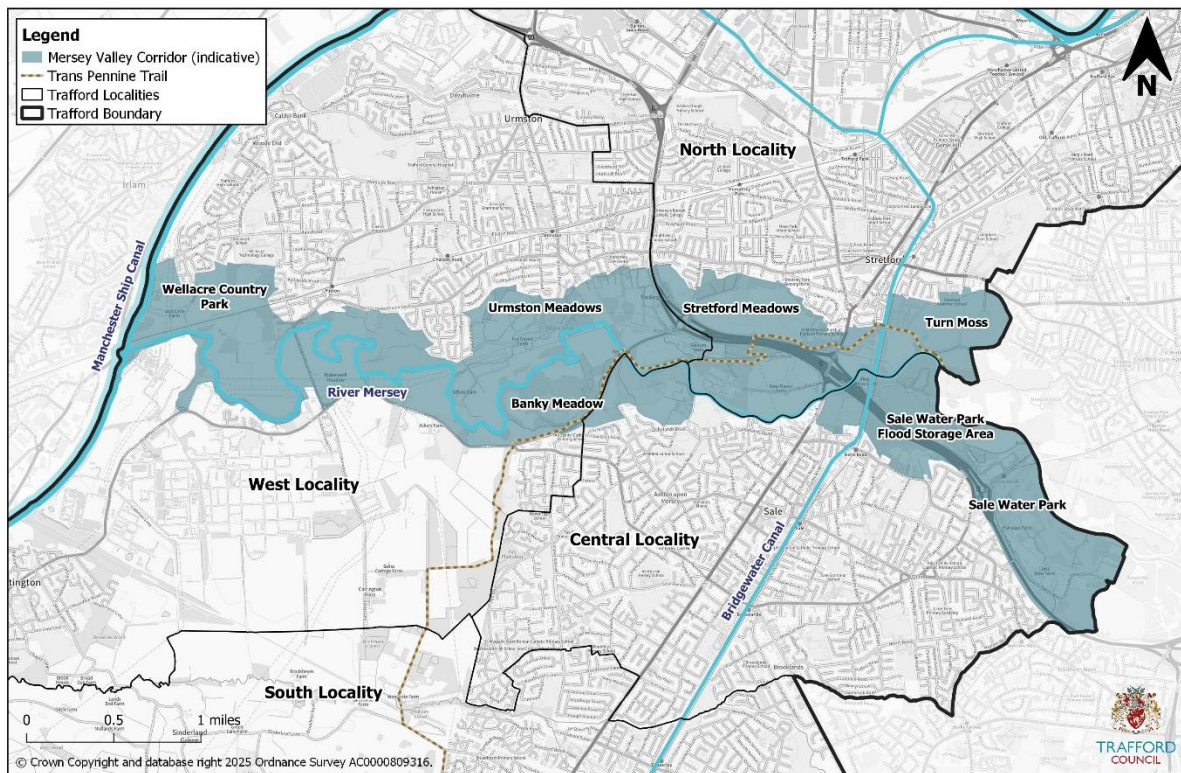
SO2; SO3; SO7; SO8 and SO9.

- 8.20. The River Mersey runs east to west across Trafford, separating the urban areas of Urmston and Stretford from Carrington and Sale. It is dissected by the M60 and A56. The valley either side of the river forms a unique green wedge of land which is predominately meadowland and agricultural land in the floodplain, containing few buildings and protected from development by its designation as Green Belt. It is a highly valued area for nature conservation and recreation in close proximity to populated urban areas and contains many Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs).
- 8.21. The area contains Sale Water Park, a regional centre for water sports and recreation whose popularity is ever growing, and which is the base for



volunteering and practical conservation projects across Trafford. Other prominent sites across the Mersey Valley include Stretford Meadows (former landfill site), Turn Moss, Banky Meadows, Urmston Meadows and Wellacre. The Trans Pennine Trail runs through the Mersey Valley from Carrington to Sale Water Park, crossing The Mersey via The Millennium Bridge close to the Carrington Spur before passing over the M60 close to Stretford Meadows and under the A56 alongside Kickety Brook.

Figure 8-4: Mersey Valley and Opportunity Areas



Consultation Question 8-4

Do you support Policy GI4? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.