



## **Sefton Access Controls and Barriers Policy Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does 'access control' mean?**

An access control is any structure that is built to limit the types of vehicles that can use a specific path or street. These can take many forms such as bollards, kissing gates, A-frames and more.

### **What are an Access Controls and Barriers Policy?**

The policy will provide a standard approach to introducing new access controls and barriers and improving the existing ones. Some access controls in Sefton inconvenience pedestrians, disabled people and cyclists. This makes our path network less accessible. Removing these barriers can help more people get around by walking or wheeling hassle-free. Where appropriate, the policy considers equestrian users such as horse riders.

### **What does the policy aim to do?**

- Provide standard guidance for introducing new access controls.
- Identify the higher priority access controls to improve.
- Improve the active travel network for all users.
- Support Sefton Council's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### **What does the policy include?**

It includes an overview of the current legislation related to access controls and what it means for Sefton. It includes the policy aim and objective, and a review of Sefton's access controls currently. The document also includes how we will coordinate with our neighbours in the Liverpool City Region.

### **Does the policy include stiles?**

Yes, they are considered in specific regards to the DEFRA guidance.

## **What stage is the policy at now?**

The policy has been drafted and is available for public consultation. This is the time for stakeholders and the general public to identify relevant changes that need to be made before the policy is adopted by the Council.

## **What is active travel?**

Active travel means getting around using your own power like walking, wheeling, or cycling. It includes everyday journeys such as going to school, work, the shops or to see friends. Active travel is a part of catching the bus or train. Active travel helps people stay healthy, reduces pollution, and makes our streets safer and more pleasant.

## **Who is the policy for?**

The policy is for everyone who uses Sefton's path network. It is about:

- People walking to school, work or local businesses,
- Wheelchair and mobility scooter users,
- Parents and buggies,
- People who might cycle if routes were more convenient,
- People who are visually impaired or vulnerable.

We want to make sure the policy supports all people using footways, paths and trails in Sefton.

## **Will there be changes near to where I live?**

We have included maps in the policy and the appendix at the back. These show where current access controls are. You can use the appendix to check your local area. The appendix will be updated periodically as audits are carried across the borough.

## **Where is the money coming from?**

Where the access controls or barriers belong to Sefton Council, the funding for their improvement or removal is mostly external funding from the government. The funding is devolved from the government to the Liverpool City Region and allocated to Sefton Council. The funding to 2027 is the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. From 2027 it will be the Transport for City Regions Fund.

Many barriers are owned and the responsibility of third parties, such as the Canals and Rivers Trust. These barriers also need to be removed or improved because the national legislation and guidance requires it. However, they will need to be separately funded by the owners of the barriers.

## **When will the changes in the policy be carried out?**

The required changes to barriers will take place over the next five years as funding is available and ongoing monitoring is carried out each year. The national legislation related to the changes is in effect immediately. The Sefton policy will focus our funding priorities on the most popular paths and routes in the borough.

## **Is this linked to other projects?**

Yes, Sefton's access controls policy is part of wider regional and national plans to promote active travel and healthier lives, notably for short journeys such as trips to schools. It is also linked to the wider plans in the Liverpool City Region, such as improvements to bus and rail facilities. It supports Sefton's climate and growth plans.

## **How can I have my say?**

You can take part by completing our online survey at <https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/investment-programmes-and-infrastructure/sefton-access-controls>

You can also email [transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk)

Paper copies of the information are in the Sefton Council libraries.

### **What happens after the survey?**

After this consultation:

1. We will review all feedback and update the policy.
2. The final policy will be recommended for adoption.

### **I have questions. Who can I contact?**

You can email the project team at [transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk)

