

LIVERPOOL KNOWLEDGE QUARTER PROJECT SUMMARY



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Introduction

Liverpool's Knowledge Quarter lies to the east of the city centre and is recognised to be a key driver in the region's economy. Despite covering a mere 1% of the city, employment within the Knowledge Quarter equates to 7% of the total FTE jobs in Liverpool and is said to generate an annual income of £1 billion¹.

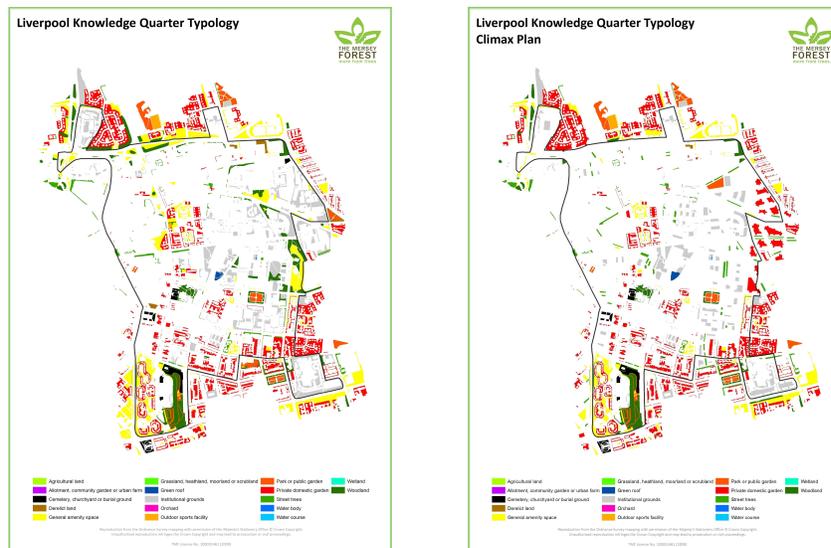
Liverpool Vision, who is the city's economic development company, published an Urban Design Framework for the Knowledge Quarter in July 2008. It included a Climax Plan which showed an estimation of how the buildings, streets and open spaces might look within twenty years. The Mersey Forest and Natural Economy North West, together with other partners, suggested that a study be undertaken to assess how Green Infrastructure (GI) planning could be incorporated into the plan to further its success.

Assessment of Typology

To better understand the potential impact any change in GI may have it was first necessary to accurately classify and map the existing GI. This was undertaken by the use of high resolution aerial photography and highly accurate vector Ordnance Survey data. Each area of GI was systematically classified in a way which is quickly becoming a regional standard. The results of which can be shown as Appendix 1.

Climax Plan

Then the process was undertaken once again using the conceptual layout of the Knowledge Quarter as proposed within the Climax Plan (see Appendix 2). The two maps are shown together below, but can be seen in higher detail within the Appendices.

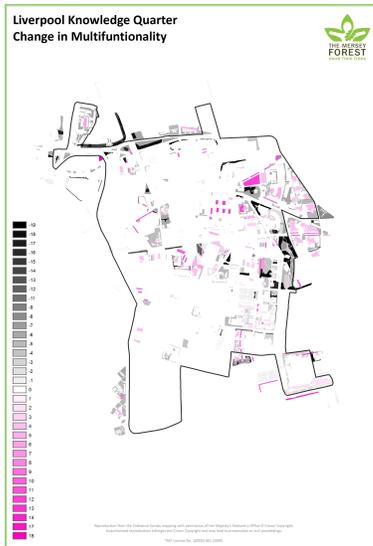


¹ http://www.liverpoolvision.co.uk/keydocs/A00322%20-%20Report%20-%20Technical%20Report%20-%20Final%20_091107_.pdf

Functionality

Green Infrastructure will perform many and in some cases very different functions, which will range from the provision of public recreation to providing a habitat for wildlife. Twenty-eight functions in total were decided

upon. The two datasets, together with many other datasets, were then used to assess where each of the functions were being performed. This was undertaken both at present and within the Climax Plan. It was now possible to see in which areas the loss or gain of multifunctionality could be when comparing the two. This was brought together to produce the map as shown. It shows areas of loss indicated by grey to black and areas of gain of multifunctionality by the light to dark pink colours. It can also be seen in more detail as Appendix 3.



Upon the production of these results it was apparent that in many areas the losses outweighed the gains, which in turn lead to a reassessment of the Climax Plan. Once the Climax plan had been redesigned it was possible to both reassign the typology (see

Appendix 4) as to reassess potential changes in multifunctionality (see Appendix 5). It is clear to see the changes even at such a scale.

