

CABINET MEMBER - PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Brodie-Browne

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Friel and Barber (substitute for
Councillor Mclvor)

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mclvor.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

28. DEVELOPMENT OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS

The Cabinet Member considered the Report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director on the outcomes of consultations with elected members and key partners on how they felt Area Partnerships could develop and work.

The views of the Cabinet Member and also those of the Cabinet Member – Communities, were sought on the proposals for Area Partnerships, for informing Cabinet on 25 November 2010.

Arising from the consultation undertaken so far a number of proposals had been put forward in respect of:

- Initial Key Principles for Area Governance
- Optimum number of Area Partnerships
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Differences between Area Partnerships and Area Committees
- Next steps

Steph Prewett, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes presented the report and indicated that the key premise of Area Partnerships was that one size did not fit all and that whilst having a key underpinning and overall consistency to their approach, each Area

Partnership needed to develop differently to ensure they reflected the needs of their areas.

Arising from discussion the following points were raised:

- the Area Partnership for the Southport Area should be called the Southport Partnership (not the North Area Partnership)
- the premise that one size does not fit all should also be applied to the consultation process to ensure that the views collected were representative of the local area

RESOLVED:

That the consultation with elected members and key partner organisations on the development of Area Partnerships be deemed appropriate and feasible.

29. DEVELOPMENT OF AREA PROFILES

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Assistant Director Performance and Partnerships on the development of area profiles, leading to a better understanding of Sefton's Communities.

The views of the Cabinet Member were being sought to identify what information should be contained within area profiles, highlight any gaps, give direction on how area profiles should be developed moving forward and discuss and agree in principle, a process for dissemination of information to areas.

The report indicated that in November 2009, the Council had published its first Core Evidence Base and that whilst there was consensus that this document would help shape the priorities for the Borough as a whole, there remained a pressing need to have lower level, localised intelligence and information, to help understand Sefton's diverse communities and the varying needs of residents and that this understanding was crucial to the delivery of area management. The report continued that to address this need, the Performance and Partnerships Team, in consultation with the Neighbourhoods Team were in the process of developing ward profiles for each of Sefton's 22 wards and that the current content of the draft ward profiles was a combination of datasets and information sources contained within the Core Evidence Base and submissions from Council departments and/or partners. The content of ward profiles was still to be finalised with the Neighbourhoods Team and Members views were being sought on the initial draft profiles to help move forward with this work.

Appendix 1 to the report indicated current content within ward profile templates based on data/information already available.

Appendix 2 identified data/information gaps and potential ways these might be overcome. Four main gaps had been identified:

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- (i) Equality and Diversity within wards (e.g. Black Minority and Ethnic Communities)
- (ii) Information relating to consultation and engagement within wards
- (iii) Information relating to contacts, complaints and compliments
- (iv) Achievement/performance against Neighbourhood Management Plan

Alex Spencer, Corporate Performance Officer, presented the report and indicated that once the content of ward profiles had been agreed with the Neighbourhoods Team and after consultation with other members of the Council, it was intended to aggregate this information up to higher geographies such as Area Committee and Borough level and that the information would also support a refresh of the Core Evidence Base.

An updated version of ward profiles was provided for consideration and comment by the Cabinet Member and Spokespersons outside the meeting.

Arising from the discussion, it was suggested that it would be useful for the development of ward profiles to be broken down even further to polling districts which were greatly different in a number of wards. The Assistant Chief Executive agreed that this would be something that would be investigated in the long term, but in the short term the priority was the development of area profiles for the 22 wards which linked in with work being undertaken by the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director on Area Partnerships.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and the progress being made in developing area profiles be noted;
- (2) Cabinet Member and Spokespersons' feedback on the updated ward profiles circulated at the meeting be provided to the Assistant Chief Executive following the meeting;
- (3) subject to (ii) above, following the finalisation of ward profiles, the Cabinet Member and Spokespersons make recommendations on the process for dissemination of information to areas; and
- (4) the Assistant Chief Executive be requested to submit a report on the expected timescales for producing a fully operational, co-ordinated system for the recording, monitoring and reporting of the Council's Contacts, Complaints and Compliments.

30. LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUP CONSULTATION OF SECTOR

SELF REGULATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Further to Minute No. 22 of 29 September 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the Council's response to the Local Government Group Consultation of Sector Self Regulation and Improvement.

The report indicated that the consultation period had ended on 1 November 2010. Sefton Council's responses to the consultation questions were detailed in Section 3 of the report. The new arrangements would be effective from April 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the Council's response to the Local Government Group Consultation of Sector Self Regulation and Improvement be noted.

31. ABOLITION OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11 AND NATIONAL INDICATOR SET

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the Coalition Government's decision to abolish the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11 and thereafter the National Indicator Set.

Attached at Annex 1 to the report was a letter received on 13 October 2010 from Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, informing the Council of the changes to local authority performance arrangements.

The report indicated that the control of LAAs was now in the hands of the Local Authority/Partnership and they could now decide whether to continue to monitor the agreement or not. The revocation of the LAA 2008-11 involved the associated loss of the performance reward grant which would have been payable to the Council for achieving performance targets.

The revocation of the National Indicator Set meant that it was up to authorities to decide what indicators they wished to collect to measure their performance.

RESOLVED:

That the revocation of the Local Government Area Agreement 2008-11 and thereafter and the abolition of the National Indicator Set, be noted.

32. UPDATE ON THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPARENCY OBLIGATIONS

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the Coalition Government's Transparency obligations.

The report indicated that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had written to local authorities in June 2010, committing them to publishing items of spending over £500 including tenders, contracts and actual payments by January 2011. The Government had also committed local authorities to publishing certain information on salaries and contracts by this date.

The report indicated that a Transparency Working Group had been established which included the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy, the Head of Corporate Personnel, the Head of Procurement, the Corporate Services Group Accountant and the Data Protection and Information Security Officer and that the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy was to prepare a report for the Leaders Group seeking approval on what Sefton would publish in response to the Transparency requirements.

The report indicated that the agreed actions of the group were:

- Publication of salaries: to provide information relative to the requirement. We would publish an organisational structure chart, and identify posts and salaries (in bands - Hay 5 and above only). The only names to be published relative to their post and salary would be members of SLT.
- Publication of Spend: to provide information relative to the requirement, and what information precisely we will publish (liaising with other colleagues in Finance).
- Production of a report to Leaders once area leads have provided the required information:
- Communications to co-ordinate publication on the website:

Arising from the discussion issues were raised in relation to taxpayers contributions to redundancy payments and also whether the Council's compliance in respect of its transparency obligations was monitored.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) issues surrounding the Council's compliance with the transparency obligations be considered by the Transparency Working Group.