

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member Performance & Governance  
**DATE:** 16 February 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Update on implementation of the Coalition Government's  
Transparency Requirements  
**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** ALL  
**REPORT OF:** Director of Corporate Services  
**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services  
John Farrell  
0151 934 4082  
**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To inform the Cabinet Member for Performance & Governance of actions taken in relation to transparency requirements.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

This report is for information.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member for Performance & Governance is recommended to note the contents of this report.

**KEY DECISION:** NO

**FORWARD PLAN:** NO

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** N/A

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

The alternative would be to fail to produce transparency information but this would be contrary to guidance from the Government.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** N/A

**Financial:**

There are no financial obligations arising from this report

| <b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>                  | <b>2009<br/>2010<br/>£</b> | <b>2010/<br/>2011<br/>£</b> | <b>2011/<br/>2012<br/>£</b> | <b>2012/<br/>2013<br/>£</b> |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure              |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Funded by:   |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Sefton Capital Resources                           |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Specific Capital Resources                         |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| <b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>                 |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure              |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Funded by:   |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Sefton funded Resources                            |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Funded from External Resources                     |                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N | When?                      |                             |                             |                             |
| How will the service be funded post expiry?        |                            |                             |                             |                             |

**Legal:**

N/A

**Risk Assessment:**

N/A

**Asset Management:**

N/A

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

N/A

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

| <b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b> |   | <b><u>Positive Impact</u></b> | <b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b> | <b><u>Negative Impact</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                                 | Creating a Learning Community   |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 2                                 | Creating Safe Communities   |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 3                                 | Jobs and Prosperity   |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 4                                 | Improving Health and Well-Being   |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 5                                 | Environmental Sustainability  |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 6                                 | Creating Inclusive Communities  |                               | ✓                            |                               |
| 7                                 | Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy | ✓                             |                              |                               |
| 8                                 | Children and Young People   |                               | ✓                            |                               |

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Letter from Secretary of State DCLG to all Chief Executives dated 13 October 2010.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. At the last meeting of the Cabinet Member Performance & Governance on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, a report entitled Update on the Coalition Governments Transparency Obligations was considered.
- 1.2. That report provided some background information in relation to the Government's expectations of Local Authorities relative to both publication of local spending data and also publication of senior salary information. In particular reference was made to the requirement to publish this information in full by the end of January 2011.
- 1.3. The report referred to an Officer Working Group that had been established including representatives from Corporate Finance, Corporate Personnel, Procurement, Communications and Data Protection and Information Security.
- 1.4. The report also provided confirmation of the intention to publish information in relation to senior salaries and spend over £500 by the required date.

## **2. Progress Update**

- 2.1. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011, information was published to the Council's website in relation to :
  - a) payments made to suppliers where those payments exceed £500;
  - b) senior salary data in respect of senior officers.
- 2.2. **Payment to suppliers** - the information published includes the total amount paid, the supplier name, the service area to which the expenditure is linked to, and the type of expense.

The reports exclude information which may be sensitive or of a personal nature including :

- a) payments made to staff
- b) sensitive personal information such as Social Services payments made to adult and foster carers, and benefits payments
- c) any payments which may reveal personal details about an individual

In order to ensure accessibility, the information referred to above is provided in three formats (CSV, Excel, PDF).

It is intended that the Council will publish new files each month detailing the previous months financial information.

2.3. **Senior salary information** – the data published includes :

- a) individual data on Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) Members, including name, job title, salary and areas of responsibility.
- b) Anonymised data on those earning between £55,000 and £150,000 presented in salary bands.
- c) The extent of the organisations establishment.

2.4. In order to ensure the accessibility of this information on the Council's website a link has been created on the website homepage under the heading Quick Links, and that link is entitled "Transparency".

2.5. It is anticipated that there may be considerable interest in the information provided and this may result in a number of enquiries which could take the form of Freedom of Information requests. However, the transparency page on the website does facilitate queries in relation to the information provided via the use of the Contact Us On-line Form, and the impact of enquiries in relation to published information will be closely monitored in order to assess resource implications.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member Performance & Governance notes the contents of this report.