

Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
PR8 1DA

To: Members of the Cabinet

Date: 27 January 2012

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, 2012

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following report which was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No.	Item
4.	Transformation Programme 2011 - 2014 (Pages 57 - 542) Report of the Chief Executive

Yours sincerely,

M. CARNEY

Chief Executive

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Report to: Cabinet

Report: 2nd February 2012

Subject: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report of: Margaret Carney
Chief Executive

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes.

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential

No

Executive Summary

This report comprises of three parts and reports the progress towards the establishment of the 2012/13 budget, reviews of services and consultation processes completed and in progress. The Council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget. The Budget Council meeting is set for 1st March 2012 by which time the budget will need to be finalised.

Part A contains

1. Introduction/ Background
2. Work Programme & Prioritisation
3. Consultation and Engagement Overview
4. Impact Assessment Overview
5. Risk Management Overview
6. Options not to be progressed
7. Options to be redefined
8. Reviews
9. Low & Medium Impact Options to Progress
10. Options requiring further consideration
11. Conclusion

Part B informs of progress in relation to Landscape Services

Part C informs of progress in relation to Supporting People Commissioned Services

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How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

The Council continues to forecast a significant budget gap over the next three years and additional budget savings will need to be identified over the coming months to ensure that future years' budgets can be balanced.

Early consideration of budget options continues to be essential as this will lead to informed decision making, including the consideration of the outcome of any consultations undertaken, the impact of any decisions to be made and any steps that can be taken to mitigate the impact of a decision.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

FD 2000 The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has agreed this report.

(A) Revenue Costs

This report, together with the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2012/13 – 2014/15, underpins the detailed financial position of the Council for the coming years and provides a framework for Revenue planning for the three years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

(B) Capital Costs

The Council's amended bid to capitalise any statutory redundancy costs incurred in 2011/12 (£2m) has been agreed by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This is to be funded from Prudential Borrowing, the impact of which has been built into the MTFP for future years.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal LD 669/12

Members will recall that the LD comments in all transformation reports have previously advised that each individual project must clearly consider the legal, human rights and equality implications and that this consideration must be evidenced. In order to achieve this, the following has been included in the report before members

- a. Each option that has become a proposal has had the statutory basis for the service considered and details are included in the individual reports.
- b. The outcome of each individual consultation and equality impact assessment has been included in the reports.
- c. In addition mitigating factors have been included in the individual proposal reports.
- d. Generic risks including legal risks are set out in Part A Section 5 of this overarching report.
- e. The rationale for inclusion of this information, is to ensure that Members have all relevant information available, and that the information can be weighed up carefully when making a decision.

Human Resources

Currently there are 66 individuals formally at risk of redundancy as a result of service reorganisations and cessation of external funding. These figures will increase when further options are taken forward and/or later in the year when the implications of several large service reviews are known. Regular consultation on proposed changes will continue with the trade unions and employees will be informed of developments by their respective Service Directors. Employees within service areas are aware that their status may change subject to the outcome of these options and reviews. Also a number of areas have adopted revised working practices and reduced hours to avoid redundancies. These helpful amendments have been achieved following further consultation.

Equality See Part A Section 4

The Corporate Commissioning Team holds the responsibility for taking an overview on Equality Impact Assessments and assessing the impact of decisions. These will be published on the Council website.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. No Equality Implication | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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In relation to compliance with the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, Members need to make decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented. Members need to have a full understanding of any risks in terms of people with protected characteristics and any mitigation that has been put in place. Equality Impact Assessments, including consultation, provide a clear process to demonstrate that Cabinet and Council have consciously shown due regard and complied with the duty.

Background Papers:

The following papers are available for inspection by contacting the above officer(s).

Reports to Cabinet and Council 3 March 2011: Transformation Programme and Final Revenue Budget Items 2011/12

Report to Cabinet 14 April 2011: Transformation Programme 2011/12

Report to Cabinet 26 May 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 23 June 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 21 July 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 18 August 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Transformation Update Report September 2011

Report to Cabinet 13th October 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Cabinet 10th November 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Council 24th November 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Cabinet 19th January 2012: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Transformation Programme 2011- 2014 Part A

Purpose/Summary

In particular this section of the report recommends a further package of savings proposals relating to relatively low and medium impact options and if approved these options will support the Council's budget setting process for 2012/13.

This section of the report contains the following Annexes -

Annex A Work Programme Timetable

Annex B Voluntary Community Faith (VCF) Review (Option 6.4) Consultation Report & Equality Analysis

Annex C Options where the impact has been assessed as low or medium following the analysis of the consultation and engagement activity

Annex D Organisational changes and efficiencies not requiring consultation with the public

Recommendation(s)

It is assumed that all recommendations will take effect at the beginning of the new financial year (unless otherwise stated) subject to the approval of full Council.

Cabinet is asked to

- a) note the work programme timetable contained in Annex A
- b) authorise Officers, in terms of the proposals included in this report, to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

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- c) consider and take account of the detail within the equality analysis report, the consultation feedback and the mitigating actions within each option in taking their decisions on the recommendations made
- d) understand and take account of the risks outlined in Section 5 of the report including any mitigating actions identified
- e) consider the consultation options that are not in a position to contribute to the budget savings 2012/13 as detailed below –

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation
E1.3	Children's Transport	Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that it is not currently feasible to identify a budget reduction associated with the discretionary element of children's transport
E4.3	Capita Contract	Reduction and restructuring of a range of services currently delivered as part of the "Core" Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that the achievement of this savings will be delayed in light of the decision to terminate the Capita contract
E5.6	Home Improvements	Bringing the Home Improvement agency service for DFGs, in-house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that a formal procurement process to provide the Home Improvement agency service be approved
E6.10	Floral Hall	Retendering / disposal of Southport Theatre & Convention Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that Officers re-consider the best means of securing a cost saving while continuing the activity of the complex, either through re-tendering or consideration of sale of the complex in the future, subject to the required approvals.
E2.10	Fair Access to Care Criteria	To review Sefton's application of the Fair Access to Care Criteria with a proposal to raise the adult care eligibility threshold to 'Critical' only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree a wider review of the activities and resources associated with the application of the FACS criteria, to be completed by October 2012 with recommendations to Cabinet in November 2012
E2.6, E2.7 & E2.9	Older People	Review of policy – Quality Care Payments Inflation Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The re-taking of the 2011/12 budget decision to make no increase to fees payable to Care Homes for 2011/12 be deferred until after the submission from the SCA (in full) has been received; proper analysis alongside other relevant matters has been completed; and any necessary further consultation with Care Home Proprietors has been undertaken to inform the decision. • Any decision in respect of 2012/13 budget

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			options E.2.6, E.2.7 and E.2.9 (as it relates to care homes) is deferred to enable the consultation process to be reconsidered, alternative commissioning approaches explored and a further report submitted to Members.
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- f) with respect to the review of Community Care Practitioner staffing Members are asked to
- i. note the information provided
 - ii. consider the recommendation to re-organise the CCP staff to target resources more effectively and realise efficiencies. This could entail an immediate reduction in the levels of CCP's within the Adult Social Care Teams by four posts, resulting in a saving of approximately £114K. Post the re-organisation of the teams further efficiencies could be realised that would take effect during the 2012/13 budget.
 - iii. identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.
- g) with respect to the VCF review Members are asked to
- a. note the current position of the Voluntary, Community, Faith (VCF) Review
 - b. note and take into account the key messages identified from the results of the consultation
 - c. consider the recommendations to
 - i. agree that savings can be made within the VCF review
 - ii. introduce three year commissioning processes where grant aid is given to organisations subject to annual performance reviews
 - d. identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.
- h) to consider the information in Annex D for options that have now become proposals and are all identified as being relatively low to medium impact. Members will need to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework, and weigh up issues raised in the consultation, the equality analysis information and the mitigating factors for each individual proposal.

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council
E1.2	Respite Children's	Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planned expenditure should be reduced through the efficiencies identified • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E1.4	Parenting Network – Think Family Grant	Cessation of universal parenting programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cessation of the coordination of the network of practitioners delivering the Universal Parenting Programmes be approved • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, subject to the final decision of Council.

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E1.7	Early Years Outcomes Monitoring & Quality Support Service	Reduce the level of Council funding in support of this service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • core funding be reduced by 50% be approved • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council • Note that the Council will continue to deliver its statutory duties under Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006,
E3.6	Sports & Recreation	Review of the life guard cover at all swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approval of a limited reduction in life guard cover during the low risk periods identified • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E3.12	Library Services	Restructure of the Local History and Information Services Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the restructure of the Local History and Information Services team resulting in a reduced service be approved • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E3.13	Library Services	Consider the future requirement of the mobile library service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to employee and trade union consultations, the cessation of the mobile library service with effect from 31st March 2012 be approved • Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council
E4.2	Highways Maintenance	Temporary reduction in Highways Maintenance Works Budgets (3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a temporary reduction of £400,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, pending final decisions of Council, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council
E4.4	Highways Maintenance	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a reduction of three cuts to all highway grassed areas at a saving of £50,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council

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		to all highway grassed areas	
E4.9	Parks & Green Spaces	Cease supply of hanging baskets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cessation of the supply of all non-sponsored hanging baskets and a budget reduction of £30,000 be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council
E5.4	Fairways Park & Ride	Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cessation of Fairways Park and Ride services on Saturday at a saving of £15,000 be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council
E5.7	Cemeteries and Crematoria	Review of charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing the charge for the provision of a burial, cremation and associated services be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.3	Other Area Committee Budgets	Reduction in Area Committee Budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that a reduction of 10% in Area Committee Budgets be approved and that Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.6	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences – Market Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a formal procurement process to provide the public convenience operational service be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.7	Tourism	Review of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Tourist Information Centre be relocated to the Southport Cultural Centre resulting in a reduction to the Tourism budget of £90,000 be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

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- i) consider the organisational changes and efficiencies not requiring consultation with the public, Members will need to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework, where appropriate the equality analysis information and the mitigating factors for each individual option as described below -

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council or Recommendation for Cabinet to note
E2.2	Supporting People Team – Commissioning Functions	To review staffing support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a reduction in staffing be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation which will be progressed alongside E.2.1 and as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E2.8	Area Finance	Review of processes and staffing arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a reduction in staffing be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E3.1	Sports & Recreation	Review of the operational requirements that are expected of Parkwood Leisure in operating Crosby Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> note that negotiations are ongoing
E3.5	Sports & Recreation	Review of the operational requirements that are expected of Formby Pool Trust for the operation of Formby Pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> note that negotiations are ongoing
E3.7	Sports & Recreation	Reduce the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a reduction in the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory

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			notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E3.9	Library Services	Reduce the stockfund for the purchase of books and other materials and that Stock Services Unit is restructured	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• that the stockfund budget reduction of £100,000 be approved• the Stockfund Services Unit restructure be approved• Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

Impact on Service Delivery:

Described in Annexes C and D

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

Regular and ongoing consultations have taken place with Strategic Directors, Director of Built Environment, Director of Street Scene, Director of Young People & Families, Director of Older People, Director of Corporate Support Services and Director of Commissioning, Head of Personnel, Head of Corporate Finance & ICT, Head of Legal Services, Partners and Trade Unions.

The approach to consultation involving public, service users and all key stakeholders relevant to each specific proposal was approved by the Consultation Panel on 21st October 2011. Detailed consultation reports are included in the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

Further options may be developed and brought forward at a later date. Any such options would be the subject of appropriate consultation.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following 16th February Council 2012.

Contact Officers:

Jan McMahon, Head of Transformation Services
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Email: jan.mcmahon@sefton.gov.uk

For Equality Analysis Report information
Sue Holden
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Email: sue.holden@sefton.gov.uk

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Background Papers:

The following papers are available for inspection by contacting the above officer(s).

Reports to Cabinet and Council 3 March 2011: Transformation Programme and Final Revenue Budget Items 2011/12

Report to Cabinet 14 April 2011: Transformation Programme 2011/12

Report to Cabinet 26 May 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 23 June 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 21 July 2011: Transformation Programme 2011-2014

Report to Cabinet 18 August 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Transformation Update Report September 2011

Report to Cabinet 13th October 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Cabinet 10th November 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Council 24th November 2011: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Report to Cabinet 19th January 2012: Transformation Programme 2011- 2014

Review of Role & Function of Community Care Practitioners Report

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1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In 2009 the Council was aware that it was facing a significant reduction in resources at the same time as increased demand for services and cost pressures and commenced a Strategic Budget Review with the intention of ensuring that resources were targeted on priorities and that a sustainable financial position could be achieved.
- 1.2 In May 2010, the Government announced £1.165bn of grant cuts affecting local government in 2010/11. In June 2010, the Chancellor indicated in his budget speech that there would be further reductions in government spending of around 25% spread over the next 4 years. Details of where the cuts would be made and which departments would be affected were announced in the Spending Review in October 2010. The Spending Review indicated that local authority funding would be cut by 28% over the 4 years, with a significant element of the cuts being front loaded in 2011/12.
- 1.3 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2011/12 and 2012/13 was announced on 13 December 2010.
- 1.4 The consequence for Sefton was a reduction of approximately 26% of the Council's controllable budget. Over the last two years the Council has undertaken a detailed review and prioritisation process that included all service areas (*including those underpinned by external funding*). The prioritisation of Council activity continues to be based on ensuring that impact on services at the frontline and those, which are critical to vulnerable people, is minimised. The significant savings required over the next three years will continue to require tough and far reaching decisions regarding services cessation, reduction and change in order to meet the financial objectives set by Government. Even where service activity is prioritised it is imperative that this is undertaken in the most efficient way and therefore it is essential that all opportunities to achieve savings continue to be fully explored.
- 1.5 Members will be aware from previous reports that the Council has forecast a total additional budget gap of approximately £38m over the next three years.
- 1.6 The savings approved by Council in March 2011 have in the main been delivered. The Transformation Programme Update, reported to the 19 January Cabinet meeting, agreed that any outstanding elements of budget savings for 2011/12 would be met from the Budget Pressures Reserve.
- 1.7 In May 2011 the forecast revenue gaps for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15 were £20.05m, £7.65m and £10.82m respectively. The forecast required savings represent approximately 19% of the Council's controllable resources.
- 1.8 Since October, the Council has been approving savings proposals, which are currently being implemented. Assuming all the approved savings are deliverable the table below summarises the progress to date towards achieving the forecast level of savings.

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	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m	£m
Forecast saving requirement	20.05	7.65	10.82
Less			
Assumed Council Tax Freeze Grant *	-2.95	+2.95	0.00
Changes to MTFP Assumptions Approved by Council 27 th October	-1.63	0.00	0.00
Change Proposals Approved by Council 27 th October	-4.12	-0.39	+0.80
Change Proposals Approved by Council 24 th November	-1.57	0.00	0.00
<u>Updated Forecast Residual Net Saving Requirement</u>	9.78	10.21	11.62

- 1.9 It is important to note that these figures assume the following
- The 25% reduction in Management and Support will be achieved (20% achieved in 2011/12). This is on target.
 - The implementation of revised terms and conditions to the value of £3m in 2011/12 and a further £1m in 2012/13. The 2011/12 requirement has been achieved but there is a risk associated with the 2012/13 target
 - At this stage it is assumed that the Council will claim the additional grant under the Government scheme to freeze Council Tax. Current notification of this grant indicates that it will be received in 2012/2013 only. The Council has an option to increase the Council Tax by up to 3.5%, net of changes in levies. The net benefit for Council services would be realisable in 2013/14, assuming no further changes in the grant conditions.
- 1.10 Consultation and engagement activity has concluded on a wide range of options.

2. Work Programme & Prioritisation

- 2.1 Annex A details the agreed work programme, it is important to note that these activities will continue to be supplemented as required in order to ensure that timescales are met. Cabinet is asked to note the work programme timetable contained in Annex A.
- 2.2 Reducing budgets is a difficult task, and one we have to balance with all the needs of our communities. It is clear from our core evidence base, and feedback from our local population, that some members of our community need more support and services than others. In reviewing the recommendations within the reports presented, Members need to endeavour to keep this in view and balance the needs of the few with the needs of the general population whilst showing due regard to all statutory duties.

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3. Consultation and Engagement Overview

- 3.1 During 2011, significant consultation took place with staff, service users, partners and providers in connection to the review of Library Service Opening Hours and the Youth Service and Children Centre Reviews. Consultation on the Core Strategy Options also took place. Consultation has taken place in accordance with Best Value Statutory Guidance from DCLG (duty of Best Value), including with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCF).
- 3.2 Between 6th July and the 9th September 2011, the Council featured the You Choose on-line budget simulator prominently on the front page of the Council's website and on the Transforming Sefton pages and received media coverage. This free interactive tool was one of the methods used to engage the public in exercising views on the budget reductions still to be made. The tool enabled members of the public to simulate reducing the Council's budget by £20 million and the implications of making such savings in terms of both service delivery and risk.
- 3.3 During this period a total of 1579 people used the simulator (so accessed some or all of the information) and of that number, 517 people went on to submit their responses (32.74%).
- 3.4 The feedback from the exercise has been analysed and the public have been informed of the most common suggestions via the Transforming Sefton pages of the website and through staff briefings. Some of the suggestions made by the public had already been undertaken by the Council such as the reduction of pay/benefits for staff as a result of changes to staff terms and conditions and a management restructure and reviewing services. A few suggestions have also been consulted upon as part of the current budget options, for example reducing the number of road repairs and resurfacing and reducing the mayoral activities. The feedback also included what it was planning to do in the future, for example, a review on street lighting, which includes consultation due to commence in April.
- 3.5 On October 13th Cabinet agreed a set of budget proposals to go out for consultation with the public, staff and providers of services. Consultation plans for the budget options were approved by the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on the 21st October 2011. The process of consultation started with the information going live on both the Sefton Council website home page and on the e-Consult on line consultation system which could be accessed via the website. Information folders on the consultation options and copies of the questionnaires were available in libraries, One Stop Shops and Town Halls and members of staff were available to photocopy or download copies of the questionnaires upon request. Elected Members also received a copy of the folder for them to refer to when they were carrying out Councillor Surgeries. Summary information was also transmitted on Looking Local – a digital TV communication tool, hosted by Sefton NHS, with signposts to Libraries and to contact the Public Consultation and Engagement Manager for more information.
- 3.6 Coordinating teams were established across the Council to implement the consultation plans, input data into e-Consult and analyse findings and

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complete the consultation reports. These teams were also responsible for pulling together the information and data for the Equality Analysis reports.

- 3.7 The consultation plans for each option identified a range of consultation, engagement and communication activity that was specific to the purpose of the activity and the target audiences. The methods used were both electronic and face-to-face engagement and included meetings with service users, meetings with partners/providers, attendance at forums/networks (including VCF Sector), meetings with special interest groups, questionnaires distributed both on line and as hard copies (the hard copies also included Easy Read versions), posters and supporting information, letters to service users, partners, providers, parish councils and Elected Members as appropriate to the option.
- 3.8 The public consultation period closed at 12.00 noon on the 16th January 2012 and from reviewing the final consultation reports, 43 meetings with service users took place, 11 meetings with partners/providers took place, 6 meetings took place with groups that represent the interests of businesses, officers attended 4 Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector Forums and Networks presenting 13 of the budget options, 2 consultation events took place, with a total of 25 options being presented. The information on e-Consult attracted 13,560 views. The total number of completed questionnaires received was 5,680, of which the number of on-line questionnaires completed being 2,900 and hard copy questionnaires returned was 2758. Five meetings with special interest groups also took place. The consultation also led to 57 letters and email communications and 1 petition.
- 3.9 During 2011, the Chief Executive and members of the Strategic Leadership Team also attended 22 meetings with partners and service users from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. Community consultation also took place with a sample of 303 residents of Sefton to get the views of residents about how the Council should set its budget for next year and help them plan services. Telephone interviews took place between 16th December 2011 and 12th January 2012. The sample was representative of age, gender and geographical area. The survey found that whilst 51% of respondents disagreed with an increase in the Council Tax, 46% agreed to an increase by the rate of inflation. 60% of respondents agreed with generating additional income by increasing charges by the same rate as inflation. There was agreement that the Council should merge services to improve efficiency, review funding and commissioning processes, reduce maintenance budgets for grass verges, to seek to secure external operators for some services and reduce spending on arts, cultural and history services and events. The survey found that respondents valued support services for older people, disabled children, those attending day care centres, coast and countryside, the tourism service and amenities in parks. Results for specific options can be found within each consultation feedback report and a summary is available via the Transforming web pages.
- 3.10 Consultation continues to take place with the recognised trade unions, and as applicable employees, as to options which are out for consultation, options which have been approved for progression and any other circumstances which may give rise to the loss of employment and changed employment matters genera

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- 3.11 Weekly meetings continue to take place on all matters with trade unions. This consultation continues to look at prospective options and also considers options that are to go forward. Even when options are approved to go forward, meaningful consultation takes place with regard to mitigation and avoidance of job loss.

4. Impact Assessment Overview

- 4.1 The options outlined in Annex D have been subject to public consultation and engagement as part of the process of assessing impact in order to have Due Regard to the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Attached to each option is an equality analysis report which identifies any potential impact on those with protected characteristics and the mitigating actions to be taken should any risks remain. Members are requested to note the detail within the equality analysis report, the consultation feedback and the mitigating actions within each option in taking their decisions on the recommendations made.
- 4.2 High level impact assessments were undertaken by colleagues in NHS Sefton on all of the options contained within the report to Cabinet and Council. Where negative impacts have been identified, these have or will be reflected in the mitigation actions.

5. Risk Management Overview

- 5.1 As part of budget setting process the Council continues to regularly review strategic and operational risks and put in place measures to manage those risks. The Council will continue to make decisions that it can continue to deliver priority services within available resources.
- 5.2 In considering those risks identified, officers have been mindful of a range of risk factors including but not limited to the following:
- The impact of the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector duties accordingly
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
 - The possibility of judicial review on decisions that might be made by members. Possible grounds for judicial review include, but are not limited to;
 - failure to follow statute and/or statutory guidance, failure to meet statutory requirements - generally termed illegality
 - failure to take into account relevant considerations or taking into account irrelevant considerations, - generally termed irrationality/unreasonableness
 - failure to address/meet a legitimate expectation, inadequate consultation processes, - generally termed procedural impropriety
 - The risk of complaints to the Ombudsman
 - Reputational risks to the Council
 - Ensuring that contractual (including employment) provisions and requirements are adhered to

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- The possibility of other legal proceedings, including employment tribunals and county court proceedings.

All of the above is to be considered in light of the statutory requirement for the Council to set a balanced and robust budget for the forthcoming financial year 2012/13.

- 5.3 Creating the capacity to develop and implement the required change continues to carry a significant risk. The Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) will continue to monitor progress and agree priorities. This risk should not be underestimated, as the authority shrinks and changes to meet the new budget regime.
- 5.4 Changes in statute and policy can have a direct impact on the Council. SLT will continue to plan for known changes with the Corporate Commissioning Team providing regular policy updates. These updates will be made available to Elected Members and Officers on a regular basis.
- 5.5 High level Communication with the public, staff and partners has, and will continue to be, considered at all stages of this process. We have continually communicated the options through the media and other channels in a clear and transparent way. Following the conclusion of the consultation we updated the Sefton Council website to say that the information is being compiled and further updates, including the publication of this report will be made. We will continue to ensure that the public and other interested parties are aware of the next steps of the budget setting process and how they may engage in future processes - including key dates, such as Full Council on March 1. Corporate Communications continue to lead on this aspect of work with regular briefings, press releases and timely responses to media enquiries. The Communications team also continues to lead on the publication of the Transforming Sefton webpages for external consumption, as well as producing internal messaging such as the Informing Sefton News-Letters and co-ordinating the staff messages from the Chief Executive.
- 5.6 The implementation of approved proposals will continue to be monitored by the Strategic Leadership Team with a view to ensuring that where possible mitigating actions are put in place and the savings are delivered to an agreed timescale.
- 5.7 Mitigation to the risks identified by officers is vitally important in weighing up the risks with each proposal identified. Members are therefore requested to pay particular attention to this part of the report for each proposal. The extent and availability of mitigation varies for each proposal.
- 5.8 Officers have strived to ensure that the data presented to Members is as accurate as possible. Inevitably on consultation and budget reduction on the scale that has been conducted there may be factual errors or misreading of data, this will be kept under review and should it be identified Members will be alerted at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.9 Cabinet is asked to note and understand the risks outlined above.
- 5.10 Cabinet is asked weigh up the risks associated with each proposal and the mitigating factors in reaching its decisions.

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6. Options not to be progressed

6.1 As mentioned earlier in the report an initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. Alongside this Officers have continued to explore these options and in light of this work, further analysis and change in circumstance Officers have identified that the following options are no longer feasible.

6.2 Option E1.3 Specialised Transport Unit – Children’s - A review of the limited use of the discretionary element. Section 509 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended) refers to provision of home to school transport is a statutory requirement. Pupils with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) who have transport needs written into their statement must be provided with free transport to and from school.

Councils are generally only under a duty to provide free transport to a child’s nearest suitable school where the child cannot reasonably be expected to walk, having regard to his or her SEN status. The nearest suitable school for a pupil with SEN may well be within statutory walking distance. If a child is attending a school of parental preference i.e. where the Council considers there is a suitable school nearer the pupil’s home, there is no duty to provide free transport.

If a school of parental preference is named on the statement, and the Council decides not to provide transport, the statement should make clear that it is the responsibility of the parents to arrange transport.

The statutory criteria are: distance to nearest appropriate school (2 miles for under 8s and 3 miles for over 8s), because of a disability or as part of their statement of special educational need.

The Council's policy allows for discretionary transport and all service users have been reviewed. This review had shown that there are only 4 discretionary users (as at December 2011) and in each case there would be no saving to the Authority if the provision was removed because the transport would still be required for others.

Specialist Transport Unit are looking into further efficiencies but given the efficiencies already made in bringing the budget overspend under control there are unlikely to be significant savings to be found.

Note that the estimated figure was originally £33,000 and £300,000 was erroneously entered.

Having taken into consideration the information provided above in relation to E1.3 Cabinet is asked to agree that it is not currently feasible to identify a budget reduction associated with the discretionary element of children’s transport.

6.3 Option E4.3 Reduction and restructuring of a range of services currently delivered as part of the “Core” Contract. Following the decision to terminate

the Capita contract this saving cannot be achieved within the previously identified timescales but will be reflected in future service delivery cost savings from 2014/15 onwards.

- 6.4 Having taken into consideration the information provided above in relation to option E4.3 Cabinet is asked to agree that this option is no longer feasible within previously agreed timescales in light of the decision to terminate the Capita contract.

7. Options to be re-defined

- 7.1 During the consultation period Officers have continued to undertake further analysis and assess risk in relation to all options. In some instances it is no longer feasible to progress the option as previously described. The thrust of the following options now needs to be refocused as described below –
- 7.2 Option E5.6 Bringing the Home Improvement agency service for Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs), in-house. Officers have consulted with Finance, HR, and Legal. The HR/Legal advice identified a number of risks mainly relating to TUPE. Having considered these risks the assumed potential savings are too uncertain to progress. Officers are now looking to re-procure the HIA service. This may realise some savings in 2013-14, but this will not be known until tenders are received. Cabinet is asked agree that a formal procurement process to provide the Home Improvement agency service be approved.
- 7.3 Option E6.10 Retendering / disposal of Southport Theatre & Convention Centre - Following an exercise where expressions of interest were sought from potential operators of the complex, the three expressions received were evaluated. Only one had sufficient merit to consider progressing. It is clear that no saving will be secured via pursuing this single credible expression of interest. Therefore it is intended to withdraw the savings proposal at this stage and re-consider the best means of securing a cost saving while continuing the activity of the complex, either through re-tendering or consideration of sale of the complex in the future. Therefore, a revised savings proposal will be submitted in respect of the 2013/14 budget round. Cabinet is asked agree that Officers re-consider the best means of securing a cost saving while continuing the activity of the complex, either through re-tendering or consideration of sale of the complex in the future, subject to the required approvals.
- 7.4 E2.10 Fair Access to Care Criteria (FACS). Councils with adult social services responsibilities are required to use the FACS guidance published by the Government in specifying their eligibility criteria, describing those circumstances that make adult individuals, with disabilities, impairments and difficulties eligible for help. The FACS Criteria/framework is based on the impact of “needs” on factors that are key to maintaining an individual's independence over time. The eligibility framework is graded into four bands, which describes the seriousness of the risk to independence or other consequences if needs are not addressed. The four bands are: Critical; Substantial, Moderate; and Low. Sefton's current eligibility criteria are set at Critical and/or Substantial, this option would result in a reduction of those eligibility criteria to Critical only.

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Of those service users who have been allocated new services to date in the 2011/12 87% were categorised as having Critical risks to independence and 13% having only Substantial risks. This compares with 83% Critical, 17% Substantial in 2010/11 and 80% Critical, 20% Substantial in 2009/10. The proportions differ if analysed by location of care provision, with those in Nursing Homes having the highest proportion categorised as Critical (97%) and those with a community-based care package the lowest (83%) but as with the overall proportion there has been a shift towards Critical in the last 3-year period. The following table summarises the breakdown and associated cost:

Year	Critical*		Substantial Only		Total	
	Number	Cost (£)	Number	Cost (£)	Number	Cost (£)
2010/11	3754	11,771,804	743	1,439,729	4497	13,211,533
2011/12**	3014	10,286,714	431	933,443	3445	11,220,157

* some service users will also receive some service relating to Substantial risks
** this data only covers weeks 1-38 of the financial year 2011/12

By definition a reduction in eligibility criteria has potential implications for compliance with the Public Sector Equalities duty as the affected service users will be individuals with physical, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities and impairments, or from mental health difficulties.

The scope of the targeted consultation necessary is potentially very large. Those affected by the change may include:

- current adult service users who receive help in relation to Critical and also Substantial risks to independence and those with solely substantial risks (i.e. service users facing a reduction in help)
- Adult individuals not currently receiving help but whose risk to independence might be expected to progress to substantial (i.e. individuals who will not receive help in the future if/when they are assessed with Substantial risk to independence);
- Children & Young People (to whom the FACS criteria do not apply) who may currently receive help that would cease on their transition to adulthood.; and
- Carers of anyone in the above groups.

In addition, it would also be proposed to again undertake a wider non-targeted public consultation via e-consult.

There is a very strong likelihood of a reduction in eligibility criteria being challenged. There have been a number of successful Judicial Review challenges against decisions to reduce the eligibility criteria and the Council has already received one letter indicating that a challenge would be made on behalf of a resident.

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Budget Survey 2011 showed that at March 2011 of the 153 local authorities with adult social care responsibilities 6 had set their eligibility criteria at Critical only (Birmingham; Kirklees; **Page 76** ; Northumberland; West Berks; and

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Wokingham). Following challenge or an adverse Judicial Review Judgement three of those authorities (Birmingham; Kirklees; and Isle of Wight) have since reverted to Critical and/or Substantial, such that it is currently understood that there are only 3 local authorities at Critical only and 150 at a level less than Critical (i.e. Substantial, Moderate and a small number at Low).

There is also uncertainty in quantifying the actual saving that would be made as a result. Whilst it is possible to identify the cost of services provided to help those with Substantial risks to independence (approximately £1.4m in new services in 2011/12), it is extremely difficult to quantify the impact of not providing that help, in particular, to what extent, if any, that would result in an acceleration of an individual's progression to Critical risks to independence, the consequence of which could be a temporary saving but a longer-term increase in costs to the Council.

The process would require an extensive re-assessment of the needs and care packages of a large number of service users and this is likely to require significant additional resource in order to prevent failure of day-to-day service provision. Changed eligibility criteria could be immediately applied to all new assessments, but application of the changed criteria to existing service users would need to be carried out through a review of care needs, the extent of additional resource required would be determined by the speed with which reviews are undertaken (i.e. in accordance with the planned review timescales, or an expedited process to immediately review all service users).

Cabinet is asked to agree a wider review of the activities and resources associated with the application of the FACS criteria, to be completed by October 2012 with recommendations to Cabinet in November 2012. Potential savings arising from this review would be realised in 2013/14.

7.5 E.2.6 Cease Quality Payments for Residential Care (Adults); E.2.7 Cease Quality Payments for Nursing Care (Adults); E.2.9 Remove inflation provision across all commissioned services (as it relates to care homes); and the re-taking of the 2011/12 budget decision to make no increase to fees payable to Care Homes for 2011/12.

7.6 In light of the intrinsic link between the above options it was decided to undertake a combined consultation process in relation to the re-taking of the 2011/12 decision and all of the 2012/13 budget options directly affecting Care Home Fees, as listed above.

A consultation plan was drafted by the Head of Service Commissioning and Partnerships and agreed by the consultation panel on 21st October 2011. It was agreed that the public consultation on the proposal would take place between 21st October 2011 and the 16th January 2012, but that continued feedback with respect to the results of the consultation and ongoing discussions with Care Home Proprietors, the Sefton Care Association (SCA) and the other Claimants in the 2010 Judicial Review case would continue, as necessary, beyond that date and until the budget decisions were made.

7.7 The consultation was made available online and a specific "actual cost of care" spreadsheet/toolkit was developed and provided via email to all providers, together with the consultation process which

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provided for two Feedback & Consultation Meetings with Care Home Providers in early and late January 2012. Providers were asked to advise the Council if they had any difficulties completing the spreadsheet/toolkit so that further assistance could be provided.

- 7.8 A meeting was held on 7th December 2011 with the Sefton Care Association (SCA) and their Legal Advisor, to discuss the proposed consultation process. At that meeting The SCA stated that they believed the process needed “outside” expertise, that they intended to commission a consultant to identify the “actual cost of care” and would be advising members of the Association not to complete the Council’s “actual cost of care” spreadsheet/toolkit. The SCA also stated that they would supply the Consultant Brief, to enable the Council to comment on the brief and potentially commission complementary work and to confirm the date when the report would be provided. The SCA suggested that the consultation timeline should be adjusted to allow more time for the “actual cost of care” data gathering phase and that this be accommodated by reducing the planned Feedback & Consultation Meetings with Care Home Providers from 2 to 1.
- 7.9 Officers agreed, in principle, to reconsider the timeline and adjust it to allow for consideration and reporting on the SCA Commissioned report. Officers also requested confirmation of who the SCA represented, information they have to date repeated declined to provide, so that the Council could be satisfied that all parties had had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process.
- 7.10 The Consultant Brief, completed report and SCA “constituency/membership” have not yet been received. Latest information from the SCA indicates that the report will be available on or around 7th February 2012.
- 7.11 Response to the Council’s own “cost of care” spreadsheet/toolkit has been disappointingly low, with only 8 (5.7%) of the 140 registered Care Homes in Sefton completing and returning the document. Each spreadsheet/toolkit returned was also incomplete, preventing a comprehensive comparison of the data provided.
- 7.12 The limited returns submitted do indicate a significant difference in costs between Care Homes, including a range of between £18,679 and £43,850 in Total Expenditure per Unit of Accommodation. Some of this range is explainable by the different nature of the care provided within the Care Homes. Because of the limited number of returns and the presence of omissions in the data, a detailed analysis of the returns has not been presented here.
- 7.13 In addition to the returned spreadsheet/toolkits referred to above, two written responses to the consultation were received from Care Homes confirming that they would not be returning the spreadsheet/toolkit.
- 7.14 The absence of information from care home providers makes it extremely difficult at this point in time for the Council to comply with the Judicial Review Judgement in relation to the 2010/11 budget decision to make no increase to fees payable to Care Homes for 2011/12, namely on or before

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the 9th February to “reconsider the decision in light of further submissions of the Claimants regarding the actual cost of care”.

- 7.15 Statutory guidance requires that in setting the “usual cost” of care that the Council would expect to pay for care, it should have “due regard to the actual cost of providing care”, the principle of the Judicial Review Judgement, that this should be informed by evidence provided by care providers would appear to apply equally to the “usual cost” the Council might set for 2012/13 in determining budget options E.2.6, E.2.7 and E.2.9.
- 7.16 It is proposed that:
- (1) The re-taking of the 2011/12 budget decision to make no increase to fees payable to Care Homes for 2011/12 be deferred until after the submission from the SCA has been received; properly analysis alongside other relevant matters has been completed; and any necessary further consultation with Care Home Proprietors has been undertaken to inform the decision.
 - (2) Any decision in respect of 2012/13 budget options E.2.6, E.2.7 and E.2.9 (as it relates to care homes) is deferred to enable the consultation process to be reconsidered, alternative commissioning approaches explored and a further report submitted to Members.

8. Reviews

- 8.1 Members will recall that Officers are progressing a number of reviews and that these may identify further options at a future date. Members are asked to consider the recommendations in each of the reports below and

8.1.1 identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.

8.1.2 Members will need to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework, and weigh up issues raised in the consultation and the mitigating factors for each option.

- 8.2 **Community Care Practitioners.** A review of the role and function of Community Care Practitioners (CCP) was carried out from the 1st November 2011 to 16th January 2012. Savings of £142k have already been achieved through the VER/VR process.

- 8.2.1 The Community Care Practitioners Service (CCP) currently undertakes activity in 3 general work areas. A précis of the role of these teams is set out below, but is by no means comprehensive:

1. Adult Social Care and Independence Teams - undertaking community care assessments with service users, carers and relevant professionals. Typically service users can have chronic and multiple health problems making the assessment issue quite lengthy and involving other professionals such as doctors and therapists. Following the conclusion of an assessment the CCP will make a recommendation about the level of support and assistance required. If the recommendation is accepted then the CCP will proceed to c

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family, carers etc to ensure that appropriate care and support is co-ordinated.

2. Hospital Teams - cover all of the hospitals located within the Sefton Borough, and assist Sefton residents who have been admitted to hospitals outside of the borough boundary. The CCP may have a set timetable to put together a discharge plan. Failure to meet the appropriate deadlines or if there is a delay in the planned discharge, this can result in a penalty on the Council which is payable to the relevant NHS body. Similar to the Adult Social Care team - the assessment can involve a range of professionals. The service can include out of hours work to meet with carers who work or to assist the hospital at peak times such as bad weather, staff shortages etc.
 3. Sensory and Mobile Assessment - with respect to the sensory service, the CCP's in this team, assess, demonstrate and provide services to users. The CCP's visit users in their own homes and provide various drop in clinics. Home visits can include environmental safety checks, and ensure that recipients of the service optimise their use of any equipment provided. With respect to the Mobile Assessment team - they perform assessments for minor equipment and works such as bathing equipment and minor adaptations.
- 8.2.2 The work of each area is quite distinct, however there are some commonalities across the teams as well such as provision of welfare advice.
- 8.2.3 As mentioned above a service review has been undertaken to critically and impartially examine the role of the CCP's work currently undertaken as outlined above.
- 8.2.4 There is a statutory context to this service, of which Members should be mindful. The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 stated that it is a duty for local authorities to assess people for social care and support. This is to ensure that people who need community care services or other types of support get the services that they are entitled to. This approach is supported through the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) framework.
- 8.2.5 The recommended conclusion of the review is as follows:
- To re-organise the CCP staff to target resources more effectively and realise efficiencies. This could entail an immediate reduction in the levels of CCP's within the Adult Social Care Teams by four posts, resulting in a saving of approximately £114K. Post the re-organisation of the teams further efficiencies could be realised that would take effect during the 2012/13 budget.
- 8.3 **Option 6.4 VCF Review of existing arrangements:** The purpose of the VCF review was to understand what resources the Council give to the VCF sector and what the outcomes of this are. As part of this, it was felt important to give a voice to the VCF sector in terms of influencing future commissioning and priority setting. The following key outcomes have come out of this. These are consistent messages that have come from across the sector and are integral to understanding how the Council moves forward in its future engagement and c Page 80 } of VCF organisations.

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- Fundamentally, and above all else, the sector wants good communication between themselves and the Council. This includes the provision of clear and timely information about what is happening and why and ideally having one point of contact.
 - Confirmation is needed as to whether funding will be available post March 2012 and if so what organisations will be required to do. Organisations have said they need to know this as soon as possible.
 - In order to provide needs led services that are also responsive to change organisations need longer-term contracts, ideally for 3 years. It has been made clear that whilst any funding is gratefully received it does not help a service to plan for the future, nor is it conducive to building and maintaining staff and service user relationships, which are an essential part of what community based services provide. In addition short term funding results in job insecurity, which can create instability within the sector through the loss of staff and subsequent loss of knowledge and investment in training. Short term, particularly yearly, contracts make planning difficult
 - Organisations would like Council priorities to be clear and understand how any funding they receive ties back to these so they can ensure their delivery provides what the Council wants.
 - Organisations want an agreed measurement for capturing social value outcomes – a consistent approach that is simple and can be made part of their day to day collection of evidence
 - Support on commissioning and tender processes would be of great benefit. More local VCF organisations could potentially deliver more services if they were supported to become tender ready.
 - Support to explore consortium working would also be of benefit, which also links to organisations being able to consider tender opportunities through partnership working.
 - Organisations would like the Council's commissioning process to be clear, open, and transparent. They would also like appropriate timescales to be built in to allow VCF organisations the opportunity to respond properly.
- 8.3.1 The sum of £170k is felt achievable by Officers and is based on elements of services currently being provided by the Council no longer being seen as a priority. As mentioned earlier in the report consultation has taken place in accordance with Best Value Statutory Guidance from DCLG (duty of Best Value).
- 8.3.2 There will be a process of continuous challenge within the VCF Review to identify if any further savings can be made.
- 8.3.3 Picking up points raised within the VCF Review, there is a strong desire for a corporate system for recording social value to be developed to give VCF organisations a consistent r

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are able to bring to local community provision. Any models would be consulted on with VCF organisations to ensure it is fit for purpose.

8.3.4 Transitional Arrangements - Whilst the overall outcomes of the VCF review are being worked on and the process for defining priorities is ongoing, Cabinet is asked to commit to three year commissioning processes where grant aid is given to organisations. This would respond to the need for some certainty in the sector, but officers would recommend a robust annual appraisal of performance which would be an integral part of any Service Level Agreement.

8.3.5 The arrangements for how we work with the VCF sector in general will form part of the emerging Corporate Commissioning Framework. This will respond to the range of different processes that we currently have in place and make them fit for purpose and flexible to the needs of the sector and the Council. This review is now concluded and any future changes will be considered within the prioritisation process.

8.3.6 The VCF Consultation report and equality analysis are detailed in Annex B

8.3.7 Cabinet is asked to

- a. note the current position of the Voluntary, Community, Faith (VCF) Review
- b. note and take into account the key messages identified from the results of the consultation
- c. consider the recommendations
 - i. agree that savings can be made within the VCF review
 - ii. introduce three year commissioning processes where grant aid is given to organisations subject to annual performance reviews
- d. identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.

8.4 Terms of reference relating to a number of other reviews will be presented to the next meeting of Cabinet for approval.

9. Low & Medium Impact Options to Progress

9.1 Annex C contains a number of options on which consultation is complete.

9.2 Impact Assessments are detailed in Annex C. Cabinet is asked to show due regard to the equality analysis at Annex C.

9.3 All options contained in Annex C have been risk assessed by the relevant senior officers with mitigating actions identified where possible.

9.4 These options have been amended in the light of the consultation and are now presented for Cabinet to make the appropriate recommendation to Council. Having due regard for the information contained in Annex C Cabinet is asked to consider these proposals and recommend their approval to Council and authorise to prepare for implementation immediately (subject to any required employee/t

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of Council including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if appropriate to achieve change. For clarity Cabinet is asked to consider to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework, and weigh up issues raised in the consultation, the equality impact assessment information and the mitigating factors for each individual proposal as listed below–

9.4.1

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council
E1.2	Respite Children's	Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planned expenditure should be reduced through the efficiencies identified Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E1.4	Parenting Network – Think Family Grant	Cessation of universal parenting programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cessation of the coordination of the network of practitioners delivering the Universal Parenting Programmes be approved Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, subject to the final decision of Council.
E1.7	Early Years Outcomes Monitoring & Quality Support Service	Reduce the level of Council funding in support of this service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> core funding be reduced by 50% be approved Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary Note that the Council will continue to deliver its statutory duties under Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006, subject to the final decision of Council
E3.6	Sports & Recreation	Review of the life guard cover at all swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the approval of a limited reduction in life guard cover during the low risk periods identified Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E3.12	Library Services	Restructure of the Local History and Information Services Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the restructure of the Local History and Information Services team resulting in a reduced service be approved Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.
E3.13	Library Services	Consider the future requirement of the mobile library service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to employee and trade union consultations, the cessation of the mobile library service with effect from 31st March 2012(is this the date as employee notice period will extend beyond this) be approved Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council
E4.2	Highways Maintenance	Temporary reduction in Highways Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that a temporary reduction of £400,000 be approved Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, pending final decisions

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Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council
		Works Budgets (3 years)	of Council, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council
E4.4	Highways Maintenance	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a reduction of three cuts at a saving of £50,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council
E4.9	Parks & Green Spaces	Cease supply of hanging baskets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cessation of the supply of all non-sponsored hanging baskets and a budget reduction of £30,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council
E5.4	Fairways Park & Ride	Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cessation of Fairways Park and Ride services on Saturday at a saving of £15,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council
E5.7	Cemeteries and Crematoria	Review of charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the charge for the provision of a burial, cremation and associated services be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.3	Other Area Committee Budgets	Reduction in Area Committee Budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a reduction of 10% in Area Committee Budgets be approved and that Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.6	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences – Market Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a formal procurement process to provide the public convenience operational service be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council.
E6.7	Tourism	Review of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Tourist Information Centre be relocated to the Southport Cultural Centre resulting in a reduction to the Tourism budget of £90,000 be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

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- 9.5 Some options were not part of this consultation as they organisational changes and efficiencies. These options are E2.2 Supporting People Commissioning Support, E2.8 Area Finance, E3.1 Crosby Leisure Centre, E3.5 Formby Pool, E3.7 Litherland Sports Park and E3.9 Library Stock Services. Details are in Annex D.
- 9.6 Members should be aware that Officers are undertaking further analysis and negotiations in relation to options associated with E3.14 the cessation of all Council originated activity at Crosby Civic Hall, retaining the building as a 'latch-key' operation for local hirers but retaining core supplies and services budgets, E6.1 Reduce the function of mayor to the statutory minimum and E6.9 reduction in Trade Union Facility Time. A report will be presented to the next meeting of Cabinet
- 9.7 Cabinet is asked to consider the organisational changes and efficiencies not requiring consultation with the public, Members will need to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework and the mitigating factors for each individual option as described below –

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council
E2.2	Supporting People Team – Commissioning Functions	To review staffing support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reduction in staffing be approved • Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation which will be progressed alongside E.2.1 and as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E2.8	Area Finance	Review of processes and staffing arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a reduction in staffing be approved ○ Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E3.1	Sports & Recreation	Review of the operational requirements that are expected of Parkwood Leisure in operating Crosby Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ note that negotiations are ongoing
E3.5	Sports & Recreation	Review of the operational requirements that are expected of Formby Pool Trust for the operation of Formby Pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ note that negotiations are ongoing
E3.7	Sports & Recreation	Reduce the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a reduction in the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park be approved ○ Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the

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Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Recommendation to Council
			issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council
E3.9	Library Services	Reduce the stockfund for the purchase of books and other materials and that Stock Services Unit is restructured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ that the stockfund budget reduction of £100,000 be approved ○ the Stockfund Services Unit restructure be approved ○ Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

10. Options requiring further consideration

10.1 With respect to the options identified in the table below Members will be aware that extensive consultation has been undertaken in order to provide an evidence base of the needs and views of the local communities. The outcome from the consultation has been carefully analysed together with other data and information relating to the relevant service areas. These options are all identified as potentially having complex and far reaching impacts either across all the community or on the most vulnerable and therefore at this stage they are presented for initial consideration only. Further discussions will take place with decision makers to ensure that all information is taken into account in making any final decisions.

Ref	Service Area	Option
E4.5	Parks and Green Space	Reductions in the standard of management and maintenance of parks and green spaces Changes in the style of management and general appearance of parks and green spaces Reorganisation of service
E 4.6	Parks and Green Space	Recharge formal sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, allotment sites etc
E 4.7	Parks and Green Space	Recharge formal sports users the costs of grounds maintenance to provide formal facilities
E 4.8	Parks and Green Space	Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park
E 4.10	Parks and Green Space	Park Ranger functions
E4.11	Coast and Countryside Service	Merger of Parks & Coastal Rangers
E4.12	Coast and Countryside Service	Reduction to site and visitor management activities
E 2.1	Supporting People	To review all services that are funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund.
E 2.2	Supporting People Commissioning functions	Review of staffing support
E 2.3	Specialised Transport Unit — Adults	Review all Council transportation for adult client groups
E 2.4	Specialised Transport Unit — Adults Income	Review charging policy

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- 10.2 The options have been amended in the light of the consultation, further analysis and risk assessment and are now presented to Cabinet to give Members the opportunity to carefully consider the information available at this stage, in advance on making a decision.
- 10.3 Cabinet is asked to:
- 10.3.1 note and take into account the key messages identified from the results of the consultation
- 10.3.2 consider the recommendations in each of the reports below
- 10.3.3 identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.
- 10.4 Members will need to be mindful of the relevant legislative framework, and weigh up issues raised in the consultation, where appropriate the information in the equality analysis and the mitigating factors for each option.
- 10.5 The associated reports are –
- 10.5.1 Transformation Programme 2011- 2014 Part B - Landscape Services Change Proposals
- 10.5.2 Transformation Programme 2011- 2014 Part C - Supporting People
- 10.6 Members should be aware that Officers are undertaking further analysis in relation to options associated with Adult Specialist Transport E2.3 and E2.4. A report will be presented to the next meeting of Cabinet.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 The preparation of the 2012/13 budget is reaching its final stage and this report presents the latest position on those options for which consultation is considered complete. The report provides extensive analysis of the results of the consultation as well as equality assessments and further consideration of deliverability.
- 11.2 The report contains a number of recommendations and in particular requests Cabinet to recommend a number of proposals to Council for approval. The value of these recommendations is £1.8m in 2012/2013. This means that there is still a budget gap of £7.98m in 2012/2013 which needs to be bridged to achieve a legal balanced budget. This will be the subject of a detailed report on February 16th.

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	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£m	£m	£m
<u>Forecast Residual Net Saving Requirement</u>	9.78	10.21	11.62
Change Proposals Annex D	-1.51	0.00	0.40
Change Proposals Annex E	-0.29	-0.11	0.00
<u>Updated Forecast Residual Net Saving Requirement</u>	7.98	10.10	12.02

- 11.3 The consultation exercise on which the recommendations are based has been the most comprehensive engagement the Council has undertaken. It is perhaps understandable that the overall conclusion is that those who responded value the services they receive and do not want to see them reduced. However the Council has to produce a balanced budget and therefore difficult decisions are required. Where possible mitigating actions have been identified which reduce the potential impact.
- 11.4 At its meeting on 16th February the Cabinet will need to be convinced that a balanced budget is achievable and that it can make an appropriate recommendation for review by Overview and Scrutiny and Council on March 1st.

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Annex A

Work Programme

Work Programme		
22 September	Cabinet Review Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree final options, Consultation engagement plan (detailed), Agree next steps and approval process
13 th October	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve options for immediate progression or consultation and engagement
21 st October	Public Engagement and Consultation Standards Panel Launch of Consultation/Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel to sign off Consultation Plans for all options which have a high or medium impact on the service users/stakeholders Formal Launch of Public Consultation and Engagement – activity, including website go live date with link to e-consult Formal recruitment of e-panel to commence
27 th October	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve options for immediate progression contained in the report to Cabinet 13th October
10 th November	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on internal consultation Recommend any budget savings for implementation where consultation is complete
24 th November	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Cabinet recommendations on internal consultation
8 th December	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
14 th December	Public Engagement and Consultation Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim update reports
15 th December	Risk Assessment & Prioritisation Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Assessment Prioritisation of “Other” Services
19 th January	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation of “Other” Services
2 nd February	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on consultation and engagement activity Recommend any budget savings for implementation
16 th February	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended additional meeting Recommend any budget savings for implementation
16 th February	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing to Council on outcome of consultation and engagement activity on options Recommend any budget savings for implementation
21 st February	Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Corporate Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Revenue Budget for 2012/13 for comment
1 st March	Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No budget activity scheduled
1 st March	Budget Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Budget and Council Tax

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Annex B

Report of Sefton Council's Consultation on the Review of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (Ref:E 6.4)

Consultation Period:

August 2011 – 16th January 2012

Contents

	Page (s)
Background	3
Consultation Methodology	3
Executive Summary	3
Outcomes of the Consultation	4
Appendix One	

Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions.

The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report details the outcomes from the consultation for the option on E6.4 Review of funding to the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector. The consultation was focused on the providers of the services delivered by the voluntary, community and faith sector on behalf of the Council. It is important to note that this review commenced in 2009 and as a consequence the consultation and engagement has been undertaken on an on-going basis since that time. This report details the outcomes of the consultation processes from August 2011.

Consultation Methodology

The second stage consultation plan was agreed by the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on the 21st October 2011. The consultation period ran from August 2011 and in accordance with the standards adopted by the Panel, and the Council, exceeds the 12 week standard. The following methods were used to consult with the sector :

- The proposal was loaded on the e-consult to enable the public, providers of services in the voluntary, community and faith sector and users of the services to give feedback
- Letters to the sector, both funded and unfunded
- One to one meetings with providers of services in the sector that may be impacted by budget reductions
- Events with the sector
- Meetings with networks, groups and under-represented groups, including users of services

Executive Summary

The budget options were loaded on to e-consult where the public, voluntary sector groups and service users had the opportunity to feed back their views. This resulted in 2 comments which agreed with the proposal.

Engagement with the sector has been undertaken using a wide variety of methods. The review on the sector commenced in 2009 and this review is the second stage of that process. Stage two commenced with a letter from the Chief Executive to the sector, supported by a terms of reference and details of how the sector could get involved. An event with the sector and Chairs of the networks was held in October at which the Chief Executive outlined the process for consultation on all budget options. Over 30 meetings / network events have been attended by the Chief Executive and Officers of the Council to ensure the maintenance of open and transparent communication and to take feedback on budget options. One to one meetings with groups and org

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assessments, performance, quality and as part of the day to day commissioning and procurement processes, and may budget impacts there may be on specific groups.

The overall feedback from the sector has been positive in terms of having an open and transparent dialogue from which more effective commissioning of the sector can take place.

The Outcomes of the Consultation

- The sector wants good communication between themselves and the Council. This includes the provision of clear and timely information about what is happening and why and ideally having one point of contact.
- Confirmation is needed as to whether funding will be available post March 2012 and if so what organisations will be required to do. Organisations have said they need to know this as soon as possible.
- In order to provide needs led services that are also responsive to change organisations need longer-term contracts, ideally for 3 years. It has been made clear that whilst any funding is gratefully received it does not help a service to plan for the future, nor is it conducive to building and maintaining staff and service user relationships, which are an essential part of what community based services provide. In addition short term funding results in job insecurity, which can create instability within the sector through the loss of staff and subsequent loss of knowledge and investment in training. Short term, particularly yearly, contracts make planning difficult
- Organisations would like Council priorities to be clear and understand how any funding they receive ties back to these so they can ensure their delivery provides what the Council wants.
- Organisations want an agreed measurement for capturing social value outcomes – a consistent approach that is simple and can be made part of their day to day collection of evidence
- Support on commissioning and tender processes would be of great benefit. More local VCF organisations could potentially deliver more services if they were supported to become tender ready.
- Support to explore consortium working would also be of benefit, which also links to organisations being able to consider tender opportunities through partnership working.
- Organisations would like the Council's commissioning process to be clear, open, and transparent. They would also like appropriate timescales to be built in to allow VCF organisations the opportunity to respond properly.

APPENDIX ONE : VOLUNTRY, COMMUNITY, FAITH SECTOR REVIEW



Chief Executive's Department

Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 1DA

Date: 12 August 2011

Our Ref: CE/JMO'F

Your Ref:

Please contact: Steph Prewett

Contact Number: 0151 934 3485

E-mail: steph.prewett@sefton.gov.uk

Dear

RE: VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY & FAITH SECTOR REVIEW

You should already be aware that as part of Sefton Council's Transformation Programme the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Review was established to consider how the Council supports, commissions and procures services through this sector. As well as reviewing the resources allocated to VCF organisations this year this piece of work will also directly inform the development of the Council's Commissioning Framework.

In a time of reducing resources we need to make sure we get the best value for services delivered for, and in, our communities and that they are delivered against local needs and the Council's priorities. The VCF sector is an integral partner in this process so we want local organisations such as yourselves to be as involved as much as possible to ensure your views and ideas are taken into account.

The VCF review encompasses a number of pieces of work:

- Youth Service Redesign
- Youth and Community Centre Review
- Citizens Advice Bureau Review

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- Sefton CVS Review
- Interim funding review using self and officer assessments
- VCF Service Review -led by Corporate Commissioning Department

Detailed information on how the review will take place, and most importantly how you can get involved, is attached to this letter. Steph Prewett, the Head of Corporate Commissioning & Neighbourhood Coordination, is leading on the review so if you have any questions please don't hesitate in contacting her or a member of her team. Contact details are on the information attached.

Yours sincerely

MARGARET CARNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Review

Background Information

Why do we need a review?

- As part of Sefton Council's Transformation Programme the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sector Review was established to consider how the Council supports, commissions and procures services through this sector. One year's interim funding has been agreed until 31 March 2012 to allow for this review to take place. We now need to establish what elements of the previous commissioning processes have worked well and what evidence we have to show the impacts of the work delivered by the VCF sector.
- The VCF Review will encompass a number of pieces of work:
 - Youth Service Redesign – led by People Directorate
 - Youth and Community Centre Review – led by People Directorate
 - CAB Review – led by Corporate Commissioning
 - CVS Review – led by Corporate Commissioning
 - Interim funding review using self and officer assessments -led by Corporate Commissioning Department
 - VCF Service Review -led by Corporate Commissioning Department

All information collected will be shared with the relevant departments to ensure a comprehensive view of the sector is achieved.

- This is part of a bigger piece of work to review commissioning arrangements across the Council. We need to ensure all Council departments and potential partners are in the right position to be commissioned to deliver the best possible services based on need. We also need to make sure services being delivered by the Council, or on behalf of the Council, are addressing or contributing to the Council's priorities. These are:

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Critical services that have been determined as a priority for supporting our vulnerable residents - these can be considered in simple terms as life or death issues.

Frontline services that are deemed essential to residents across the borough. These are the things our Council Tax Payers expect us, as the Council, to deliver.

Regulatory services that must be carried out by the Council to ensure we are fulfilling our legal requirements. They include the regulation of certain aspects of day-to-day life to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of people in Sefton.

Why should you be involved?

- This review is the opportunity for you to influence the reshaping of how Council services and resources are commissioned in future.
- The VCF sector is an important partner in delivering local services throughout Sefton. Therefore it is important we involve this sector in these decisions. We want to know what organisations provide in the borough, why they do this, what gaps they think exist, and what they would like to deliver in future so we can gain a full picture of what this sector looks like.

How can you get involved?

- This will be an ongoing process this year and there will be a variety ways you can be involved.
- The VCF Review will be an item on the agenda of the Sefton Community Centre Network workshop meeting on 23 August 2011. A short questionnaire will be sent out to members of this group in advance of this meeting.
- A service review questionnaire will also be circulated to wider VCF organisations across the borough. This will be followed up with the option for individual face to face discussions.
- Sefton Youth Service is planning a joint workshop with VCF providers of young people activities to discuss the Youth Service redesign proposals.
- Organisations receiving funding from the Council or NHS Sefton this year (2011/12) will be asked to complete a monitoring assessment towards the end of the financial year. Further information will be circulated to the appropriate organisations.

If you require any more information about how this will work and who should be involved, you can contact:

Sue Holden on 934 3603 or email sue.holden@sefton.gov.uk

Deborah Edwards 934 3488 or email deborah.edwards@sefton.gov.uk

Ian Willman 934 2015 or email ian.willman@sefton.gov.uk

Janette Maxwell 934 3488 email janette.maxwell@sefton.gov.uk

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Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Review

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- Review how funding given to the Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) sector in 2011/12 has been delivered, taking forward any good practice and lessons learned into future commissioning arrangements.
- Gather views from the VCF sector on their needs and consider how this fits with the priorities of the Council, and use this to influence how the Council's Commissioning Framework will be developed.

Process

Neighbourhoods will carry this part of the review in two stages:

1. Review all VCF funding allocated by the Council and NHS Sefton in 2011/12
- Map all funding currently given to VCF providers from the Council and NHS Sefton to include:
 - Level of resources
 - Funding source
 - Organisation funded
 - Delivery outline
 - Type of monitoring

To be carried out August – September 2011.

- Using the mapping information, review the delivery of each intervention to include:
 - What is delivered and why
 - Assessment of whether delivery matches what was commissioned
 - Assessment of whether there are any overlaps in delivery with other services
 - Identification of any gaps or additional needs within current delivery
 - Performance against any commissioned targets
 - Identification and assessment of any social value benefits related to the intervention

This will take the form of an organisation self-assessment and an officer review. Self-assessments will be required to submit evidence to back up their statements. These responses will then be compiled by the Neighbourhoods Division to give an overall outcome for each intervention.

- To be completed by January 2012.
2. VCF consultation and service review
- A wider service review will also be carried out with VCF organisations across the borough to include:
 - The aims and objectives of each organisation
 - The types of services they currently provide

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- Their sources of funding
- Any services they would like to deliver in future
- Assessment of whether they are in a position to be commissioned

This information will be used to assess the current market in terms of VCF provision in Sefton, and to help identify the future need for services that could be supported by the Council and NHS Sefton.

- The consultation with organisations will be carried out August – November 2011. The information will be collated November – December 2011.

Outcomes

- The outcomes from these two stages will be consolidated to give an overall report.
- Information will also be fed into the other sections of the VCF review where appropriate.
- Findings will be reported back to all organisations and partners who have taken part in the review process

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LETTER TO THE UNFUNDED SECTOR THROUGH SEFTON CVS DATA BASE



Chief Executive's Department

Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 1DA

Date: 19 October 2011

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Please contact: **Steph Prewett**

Contact Number: **0151 934 3485**

E-mail: steph.prewett@sefton.gov.uk

Dear local organisation

RE: VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY & FAITH SECTOR REVIEW

As part of Sefton Council's Transformation Programme the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Review was established to consider how the Council supports, commissions and procures services through this sector. It will directly inform the development of the Council's Commissioning Framework.

In a time of reducing resources we need to make sure we get the best value for services delivered for, and in, our communities and that they are delivered against local needs and the Council's priorities. The VCF sector is an integral partner in this process so we want local organisations such as yourselves to be as involved as much as possible to ensure your views and ideas are taken into account.

The VCF review encompasses a number of pieces of work:

- Youth Service Redesign
- Youth and Community Centre Review
- Citizens Advice Bureau Review
- Sefton CVS Review
- Interim funding review using self and officer assessments
- VCF Service Review

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Detailed information on how the review will take place, and most importantly how you can get involved, is attached to this letter. **(As above)** Steph Prewett, the Head of Corporate Commissioning & Neighbourhood Coordination, is leading on the review so if you have any questions please don't hesitate in contacting her or a member of her team. Contact details are on the information attached.

Yours sincerely

MARGARET CARNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Organisations / Groups invited to participate in the review and attend events in
October 2011 / January 2012

12
13
408
Addaction
Age Concern
Age Concern Crosby
Ainsdale Community Centre
Alzheimers society
Arena Housing
Bosco Society
Bradbury Fields
Brighter Living Partnership
British Red Cross
Brunswick Youth Centre
Catch 22
CHART
Children's Trust, Health Sub Group - Deputy
Christchurch Youth & Community Centre
Citizens Advice Bureau
Crosby Older Persons Luncheon Club
DISC
Expect Excellence
Forum Housing
Galloways (previously Southport Blind Aid)
Gordon Youth Centre
Home-start Formby
Imagine
L30 Centre (FUN4KIDZ)
Leo Project
Light for Life
Litherland Youth Club
The MS Society
Maghull Coffee Bar Youth Club
Making Space

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Merseyside Society for Deaf People
Merseyside Youth Association
MSDP
Mystery Shopping Lead
MYA Space
Netherton Feelgood Factory
Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre
Nugent Care
One Vision Housing
OPERA
Parenting 2000
People First
Plaza Community Cinema
Pride of Sefton Narrow Boat
PSS
Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre
River Mersey Inshore Rescue
Riverside ECHG
Rotary Club of Formby
Salvation Army Bootle
Sefton Access Forum
Sefton Advocacy
Sefton CVS
Sefton Cancer Support Group
Sefton Carers
Sefton Helping Hand
Chairs of Sefton Community Empowerment Network Groups and Forums
Sefton Pensioners Advocacy
Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens
Sefton Play Council
Sefton Stars Basketball Team
Sefton Women & Children's Aid
South Sefton Helping Hand
South Sefton Visually Impaired group
Southport Anti Cuts Coalition
Southport Macular Support Group
St Leonards Youth & Community Centre
Stroke Association
SWAN Centre
Venus Resource Centre
Anthony Walker Foundation
Waterloo Community Centre
Woodvale Community Centre
Y Kids



To All VCF Network Representatives and VCF Organisations funded by the Council

Dear All

RE: OUTCOMES OF VCF EVENT 31 OCTOBER 2011

We are just writing to thank you for giving up your time to attend the above event and to update you on things that you asked about on the day.

Firstly, there were some concerns about making sure that the Council made the information about potential saving options as accessible as possible. Andy Woods from Sefton CVS is kindly assisting the Council to make sure that this is happening. If you still have any concerns, please can you let us know.

Secondly, hopefully any confusion about the questionnaire for the VCF Review has now been sorted out. The questionnaire has been resent to those organisations funded by the Council to double check that they have had it. We have already had some really good information sent back in. The questionnaire is also being circulated wider to those organisations that are Sefton based. This is going to about 200 groups and so please encourage people to fill it in and be as open and honest as possible.

Thirdly, issues were raised about the funding for VCF sector from NHS Sefton. We are currently pulling together a list of all those organisations affected and setting out the key issues that would impact on the sector. CVS will be in touch with you to talk about how we take these key messages to the joint meeting of senior staff in the Council and NHS Sefton as promised at the meeting.

Finally, we agreed that we would have a proper discussion about how we become a Commissioning Council and how VCF can influence its development and its implementation. We will be in touch with a date for this in January 2012, but it would be really good if you could let us have any ideas about what you want to get from the session, ways of doing it, etc to influence the planning of this. Key things that came up on the day

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included the importance of social value, innovation and involvement in service redesign at an early stage e. g Youth Service Redesign.

Hopefully, this has covered the key points raised and you should all have had a copy of the presentations.

Please let us know if we have missed anything out or you have any further questions.

We look forward to hearing from you. To avoid any confusion, feel free to share information with either of us as we will be working closely together on this.

Yours sincerely,

Steph and Angela

Steph Prewett

Head of Corporate Commissioning and Neighbourhood Co-ordination, Sefton MBC

Angela White

Chief Executive, Sefton CVS

Excerpt from a letter to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive from One Vision Housing

To the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation, however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams

Chief Executive

One Vision Housing

Section E6: Other

E6.4 Voluntary, Community and Faith

The Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector provide a number of vital services to residents in Sefton.

As an organisation we work alongside VCF groups including:

- Local churches
- Sefton Advocacy
- Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens
- Sefton Opera
- CHART

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These groups support our communities, developing and building community networks, supporting residents and keeping them from becoming isolated and providing community events.

The steer from central government is 'Big Society', 'Localism' and a drive for Local Authorities to become effective commissioners rather than directly delivering services. By reducing the budget to the VCF SMBC will undermine the long term ability of the VCF in Sefton to build capacity and to develop to a point where they can independently bid to deliver services across the borough.

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Annex C

This Annex contains a number of options where the impact has been assessed as low or medium following the analysis of the consultation and engagement activity. These options have been amended in the light of the consultation and are now presented for Cabinet to make the appropriate recommendation to Council. Having due regard for the information contained in this Annex Cabinet is asked to consider these proposals and recommend to Council that Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, pending final decisions of Council including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if appropriate to achieve change.

E1 Children & Families

Ref	Service Area	Option
E 1.2	Respite Children's	Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency
E 1.4	Parenting Network – Think Family Grant	Cessation of universal parenting programmes
E 1.7	Early Years Outcomes Monitoring & Quality Support Service	Reduce the level of Council funding in support of this service

E3 Leisure & Culture

Ref	Service Area	Option
E 3.6	Sports & Recreation	Review of the life guard cover at all swimming pools
E 3.12	Library Services	Restructure of the Local History and Information Services Team
E 3.13	Library Services	Consider the future requirement of the mobile library service

E4 Street Scene

Ref	Service Area	Option
E 4.2	Highways Maintenance	Temporary reduction in Highways Maintenance Works Budgets (3 years)
E 4.4	Highways Maintenance	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas
E4.9	Parks & Green Spaces	Cease supply of hanging baskets

E5 Regulatory

Ref	Service Area	Option
E 5.4	Fairways Park & Ride	Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays
E 5.7	Cemeteries and Crematoria	Review of charges

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E6 Other

Ref	Service Area	Option
E 6.3	Other Area Committee Budgets	Reduction in Area Committee Budgets
E 6.6	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences – Market Test
E 6.7	Tourism	Review of Service

Budget Planning Summary

		2012/13 Budget £m	2013/14 Budget £m	2014/15 Budget £m
<u>E1 Children and Families</u>				
E1.2	Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency	-0.100	0.000	0.000
E1.4	Cessation of universal parenting programmes	-0.087	0.000	0.000
E1.7	Reduce the level of Council funding in support of this service	-0.250	0.000	0.000
<u>E3 Leisure and Culture</u>				
E3.6	Review of the life guard cover at all swimming pools	-0.070	0.000	0.000
E3.12	Restructure of the Local History and Information Services Team	-0.037	0.000	0.000
E3.13	Consider the future requirement of the mobile library service	-0.044	0.000	0.000
<u>E4 Street Scene</u>				
E4.2	Temporary reduction in Highways Maintenance Works Budgets (3 years)	-0.400	0.000	0.400
E4.4	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas	-0.050	0.000	0.000
E4.9	Cease supply of hanging baskets	-0.030	0.000	0.000
<u>E5 Regulatory</u>				
E5.4	Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays	-0.015	0.000	0.000
E5.7	Review of charges	-0.215	0.000	0.000
<u>E6 Other</u>				
E6.3	Reduction in Area Committee Budgets	-0.026	0.000	0.000
E6.6	Public Conveniences – Market Test	-0.100	0.000	0.000
E6.7	Tourism - Reorganisation of service	-0.090	0.000	0.000
Total Change Proposals		-1.514	0.000	0.400

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Proposal Reference E1.2

Service Description: Respite Children's

Categorisation: Critical

Overnight respite breaks for disabled children are provided, following disabled children social work team assessment, at Springbrook (in house provision) and Nazareth House (commissioned service). Health services contribute an additional £145k to the service at Nazareth House.

Consultation has closed on the following option – Reduce planned expenditure through increased efficiency.

Original rationale for service change proposal – Unit cost of providing overnight respite care differ enormously between providers which does not reflect the individual child or young person's needs but the cost of the provision. We need to take the opportunity to look at re-commissioning of services and provide value for money.

Legislation Considered - Statutory provision from April 2011 to provide a range of short breaks – no guidance or case law. Children and Young Persons Act 2008, Part 2, Section 25, Care Breaks. Department for Children, Schools and Families - Short Breaks, Statutory Guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – None, service will be maintained at current provision.

Partners – None, service will be maintained at current provision.

Council – This will require careful management to minimise reputational risk to council.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation Framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

The consultation was open for all on e-consult and was targeted with all current users of the respite service. Specifically:

- A letter was sent to the 80 families that currently use respite services
- A meeting was arranged (invites for various times throughout the day and evening) for face to face explanations and consultation.
- Through e-consult questionnaire

Two meetings were held on 16th November 2011, one in the morning and one in early evening, with 14 carers who responded to the invitation for a discussion and engagement session with the Director of Young people and Families.

At an early stage of the consultation period it was confirmed that because of re-commissioning of the services, there would be no reduction to the access of the service for users. For that reason consultation continued on e-consult but was not targeted again, after the first invitation to meet, until the alternative Springbrook option was proposed.

For Nazareth House

It is anticipated that following a review the current level of service will be maintained but will be commissioned more efficiently. This will mean moving from a 'block commissioning' arrangement with Nazareth House to a mixed block and spot purchasing arrangement. This will ensure that the Council does not pay for provision that it is not using but will ensure there is always sufficient capacity for users.

Currently the Council block commissions 5 beds per night 365 days per year. An analysis of occupancy levels for 2010/2011 indicates that on average only 4 beds per night are being utilised, with the 5th bed being used on an exceptional basis rather than the norm. Therefore, it is appropriate to block purchase the proven level of need and spot

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purchase any exceptional additional capacity. The revised commissioning arrangement will not reduce the availability of provision to users of the service, but will reduce the cost to the Council.

For Springbrook

More efficient staffing arrangements were investigated at Springbrook involving improved placement planning, such as ensuring that children with similar needs are placed together, allowing the most efficient use of staff resources.

Management of Springbrook provided an alternative proposal of how the above can be achieved and increase the volume of overnight stays available. Springbrook management is suggesting that each child or young person is typically offered 30 nights per year rather than the current 28.

Rather than the core offer being 2 nights mid week for two months with a third month being a 3 night weekend break, Springbrook Management are suggesting that the offer is 3 nights mid week with every other one being a 3 night weekend break. The suggestion therefore is not only the increase in the number of nights per year but a more frequent weekend offer available every 10 weeks, rather than the current 12.

The Director of Children and Young People and Families has written to 42 service users and their families/carers seeking their views on this proposal. 20 service users responded, with all 20 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing'.

See full consultation report E1.2

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E1.2

Risks & Mitigating Actions – Maintaining level of service with reduced operational costs will mitigate risks.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – There will be no reduction to the volume or quality respite services for children with disabilities as a result of the proposed changes. Indeed the consultation has enabled the service providers to look afresh at the service they provide and as a result the service will be more efficient and offers greater flexibility in terms of availability for parents, carers and service users.

Cost of Overnight Short Break Respite Service: £943,000
Other Resources: £145,000 contribution from Health

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £843,000
Budget Reduction 2012/13: £100,000
Council Staff at Risk: No
Number of Posts at Risk: 0

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Consultation Report E1.2

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to reduce planned expenditure through increased commissioning efficiency for overnight respite breaks for disabled children (Ref:E1.2)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

Contents

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Appendix 1 – Other Document Representation

Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions. The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option on **reducing the planned expenditure through increased commissioning efficiency for overnight respite breaks for disabled children.**

Overnight respite breaks for disabled children is provided, following a disabled children social work team assessment, at Springbrook (in house provision) and Nazareth House (commissioned service). Health services contribute £145k to commissioning respite services for children with complex health needs at Nazareth House.

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Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation Framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

The consultation was open for all on e-consult and was targeted with all current users of the respite service. Specifically:

- A letter was sent to the 80 families that currently use respite services
- A meeting was arranged (invites for various times throughout the day and evening) for face to face explanations and consultation.
- Through e-consult questionnaire

Two meetings were held on 16th November 2011, one in the morning and one in early evening, with 14 carers who responded to the invitation for a discussion and engagement session with the Director of Young people and Families.

An alternative option was proposed by Springbrook management and the 42 service users and their families/carers were consulted on their views on this proposal by a letter (see page 6 alternative option proposed).

Executive Summary

At an early stage of the consultation period it was confirmed that because of re-commissioning of the services, there would be no change to the access of the service for users.

For that reason consultation continued on e-consult but was not targeted again, after the first invitation to meet, until the alternative Springbrook option was proposed.

For Nazareth House

It is anticipated that following a review the current level of service will be maintained but will be commissioned more efficiently. This will mean moving from a 'block commissioning' arrangement with Nazareth House to a mixed block and spot purchasing arrangement. This will ensure that the Council does not pay for provision that it is not using but will ensure there is always sufficient capacity for users.

Currently the Council block commissions 5 beds per night 365 days per year. An analysis of occupancy levels for 2010/2011 indicates that on average only 4 beds per night are being utilised, with the 5th bed being used on an exceptional basis rather than the norm. Therefore, it is appropriate to block purchase the proven level of need and spot purchase any exceptional additional capacity. The revised commissioning arrangement will not reduce the availability of provision to users of the service, but will reduce the cost to the Council.

For Springbrook

More efficient staffing arrangements were investigated at Springbrook involving improved placement planning, such as ensuring that children with similar needs are placed together, allowing the most efficient use of staff resources.

Management of Springbrook provided an alternative proposal of how the above can be achieved and increase the volume of overnight stays available. Springbrook management is suggesting that each child or young person is typically offered 30 nights per year rather than the current 28.

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Rather than the core offer being 2 nights mid week for two months with a third month being a 3 night weekend break, Springbrook Management are suggesting that the offer is 3 nights mid week with every other one being a 3 night weekend break. The suggestion therefore is not only the increase in the number of nights per year but a more frequent weekend offer available every 10 weeks, rather than the current 12.

The Director of Children and Young People and Families has written to 42 service users and their families/carers seeking their views on this proposal (see Appendix 3). 20 service users responded, with all 20 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' (see page 6 for responses).

Key messages from consultation:

- From the meeting of the 14 carers that attended the 16th November 2011 sessions the response from all was positive in that all carers expressed satisfaction with the current services and that access to these services would not change.
- From e-consult questionnaire
 - There were 10 responses with 7 (70%) agreeing that the option is reasonable of which 3 have used the service, 2 describing the service as excellent although one found the service to be 'poor' (Nazareth House)

The current anticipated saving from both the above will be £100k.

There will be no change to the volume or quality respite services for children with disabilities as a result of the proposed changes.

The consultation analysis

An e-consult questionnaire invited responses on the following questions:

1. Do you think the option is reasonable?

Yes = 7
No = 3

2. Have you ever used the overnight respite service?

Yes =3
No =7

3. If "Yes" to the above question which provision did you use?

Nazareth House = 2
Springbrook = 1

4. If "Yes" to question 2 how did you rate the provision?

Excellent = 2
Poor = 1 (Nazareth House identified)

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(Good; satisfactory; Very poor had no responses)

Other Responses

None received via letters from public.

Alternative Options Proposals

Management of Springbrook provided an alternative proposal of how the above can be achieved and increase the volume of overnight stays available. Springbrook management is suggesting that each child or young person is typically offered 30 nights per year rather than the current 28.

Rather than the core offer being 2 nights mid week for two months with a third month being a 3 night weekend break, Springbrook Management are suggesting that the offer is 3 nights mid week with every other one being a 3 night weekend break. The suggestion therefore is not only the increase in the number of nights per year but a more frequent weekend offer available every 10 weeks, rather than the current 12.

The Director of Children and Young People and Families has written to 42 service users and their families/carers seeking their views on this proposal. 20 service users responded.

When asked "Is the proposal by the Springbrook management team to increase the number of overnight stays from 28 to 30 per year with more frequent weekend breaks, but reduce the frequency from 4 to five weekly acceptable to you?" 11 responded that they 'strongly agree' with the proposal and 9 'agree' with the proposal (see table below).

Category	Response #
Strongly agree	11
Agree	9
Not sure and would welcome further discussion	0
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0

Additional comments provided:

- A very welcome proposal.
- Springbrook do a good job. Staff are very helpful and it gives me and my mum time to relax and unwind. It would be sad if it had to close, it would affect lots of families. Thanks for your good work you do for families.
- We think it's a fabulous idea.
- Sounds really good, very pleased with this proposal.
- More suitable for school holiday, better length of time.
- Further information regarding whether the number of children in the groups will be increased and what is happening with regard to child/staff ratio needs to be discussed as changes in these aspects in an attempt to increase efficiency and reduce costs may have a serious negative impact on some of the children due to the severe nature of their disabilities. [Response being drafted by Director of Young People & Families].
- [names omitted] go to their dad's every other weekend and some week days. Would work out better for me.

General comments received through e-consult:

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1. "Joining forces with a local or national charity to provide additional funding to enhance the opportunities for children to engage in respite opportunities. This would enable more children to have access to respite breaks and close the gap for those children whose disabilities do not individually meet criteria for support but whose family circumstances indicate that respite is needed."
2. "I would look at senior management in the council itself their wages expenses etc rather than disrupt that is a very much needed service in Sefton"
3. "Sack some of the senior managers in Children's Services – they don't know what they're doing if they commission too many beds then keep paying to keep them running."

Monitoring Information

Participants from e-consult told us the following:

Gender is Female = 7; Male = 3

Disability = 1 with hearing impairment/deaf and 1 with mental health/distress

Disability – 8 is No and 1 is Yes

Ethnic background – 6 are white British and 3 are white English

Religion – 6 is Yes and 3 is no, with 5 stating that they are a Christian.

Sexual Orientation – 8 are heterosexual with 1 gay and all 9 currently live in gender they were born in.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Other Documentation Representation

Letter to Parents of Children with Disabilities Requesting Views on Proposal to Change Core Offer

«Title» «Initial» «Surname»
«Address»

People Directorate

9th Floor, Merton House
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside L20 3JA

Date: 3 January 2012

Our Ref: CP/SL

Your Ref:

Please contact: Colin Pettigrew
Contact Number: 0151 934 3333
Fax No: 0151 934 3520
Email: colin.pettigrew@sefton.gov.uk

Dear «Title» «Surname»

IMPORTANT CONSULTATION POINT

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As you will be aware from my earlier correspondence dated 6 October and 25 October 2011, Sefton Council are required to reduce our spend by £44m this year and a further £20m next year. This is a result of our reduced financial settlement provided by central government following the comprehensive spending review in 2010.

As you will be further aware, one of the options being considered by Council is to reduce the cost of providing residential respite care for children and young people at Springbrook and Nazareth House. It is our belief that this can be achieved through greater efficiency without reducing either the quality of the service or the volume that your child receives.

I met with the management of Springbrook just before the Christmas break as part of the ongoing consultation process and they provided me with a proposal of how the above can be achieved and increase the volume of overnight stays available to you and your family. In brief, what X and her colleagues are suggesting is that each child or young person is typically offered 30 nights per year rather than the current 28. X is confident that she can achieve this in the following way:

Rather than the core offer being 2 nights mid week for two months with a third month being a 3 night weekend break, X and her team are suggesting that the offer is 3 nights mid week with every other one being a 3 night weekend break. The suggestion therefore is not only the increase in the number of nights per year but a more frequent weekend offer available every 10 weeks, rather than the current 12.

I shared with X my intent to write to you again to seek your views on this proposal and would be grateful therefore if you could complete the attached reply slip and return in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by **12 January 2012**.

Yours sincerely

Colin Pettigrew

Director of Young People and Families

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Equality Analysis Report E1.2

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E1.2

Details of proposal: It is proposed to reduce planned expenditure through increased commissioning efficiency for overnight respite breaks for disabled children.

Overnight respite breaks for disabled children provided, following disabled children social work team assessment, at Springbrook (in house provision) and Nazareth House (commissioned service). Health services contribute £145k to commissioning respite services for children with complex health needs at Nazareth House.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No

Nazareth House

It is anticipated that the current level of service will be maintained but will be commissioned more efficiently. This will mean moving from a 'block commissioning' arrangement with Nazareth House to a mixed block and spot purchasing arrangement. This will ensure that the Council does not pay for provision that it is not using but will ensure there is always sufficient capacity for users.

Currently the Council block commissions 5 beds per night 365 days per year. An analysis of occupancy levels for 2010/2011 indicates that on average only 4 beds per night are being utilised, with the 5th bed being used on an exceptional basis rather than the norm. Therefore, it is appropriate to block purchase the proven level of need and spot purchase any exceptional additional capacity. The revised commissioning arrangement will not reduce the availability of provision to users of the service.

For Springbrook

More efficient staffing arrangements were investigated at Springbrook involving improved placement planning, such as ensuring that children with similar needs are placed together, allowing the most efficient use of staff resources.

Management of Springbrook provided an alternative proposal of how the above can be achieved and increase the volume of overnight stays available. Springbrook management is suggesting that each child or young person is typically offered 30 nights per year rather than the current 28.

Rather than the core offer being 2 nights mid week for two months with a third month being a 3 night weekend break, Springbrook Management are suggesting that the offer is 3 nights mid week with every other one being a 3 night weekend break. The suggestion therefore is not only the increase in the number of nights per year but a more frequent weekend offer available every 10 weeks, rather than the current 12.

There will be no change to the level of or access to respite services for children with disabilities as a result of the proposed changes. Services users will experience no change in service

Risks & Mitigating Actions– Maintaining level of service use with reduced operational costs will mitigate risks.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

This service is a targeted service for overnight respite breaks for disabled children, Any reduction in capacity would have had a disproportionate effect, however, this service will continue to be delivered but expenditure will be decreased through planned efficiency.

So no disproportionate effect, in fact the service will offer a more flexible provision to meet users needs.

Consultation (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)

Colin Pettigrew, Director of Young People and Families wrote to the 80 families that currently use respite services and invited them to attend a meeting ensuring that am, pm and evening times were available. Meetings took place on 16.11.11 with 14 carers. Feedback from the meetings was positive in that all carers expressed satisfaction with the current services and that access to these services would not change.

The Director of Children and Young People and Families has written to 42 service users and their families/carers seeking their views on this proposal. 20 service users responded, with all 20 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing'.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes – service provision is delivered in light of the equality act and the three public sector equality duties. The service will continue to be delivered.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

Re-commissioning of services will take place.

Access to services will be monitored.

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Recommendation to Cabinet E1.2:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E1.2 and recommend to the Council that

1. planned expenditure should be reduced through the efficiencies identified above
2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.

Proposal Reference E1.4

<p>Service Description: Parenting Network – Think Family Grant Categorisation: Tier 2 This budget enables the coordination of training and networking as part of the Parenting Programme. This is delivered across the borough which is meeting the needs of universal to high need families. This investment in ensuring evidenced based delivery for parents results in more young people staying at home (less Looked After Children), reduced criminality and a more resilient next generation of parents.</p>
<p>Consultation has closed on the following option – Cessation of the coordination of the network of practitioners delivering the Universal Parenting Programmes.</p>
<p>Original rationale for service change proposal – Network now established and embedded and can be coordinated through alternative methods, with a maintenance model being developed.</p>
<p>Legislation Considered – N/A</p>
<p>Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – Potential for reduced network activity for practitioners delivering Universal Parenting Programme. Partners – Referral pathway to evidence based parenting programmes. Practitioners will need to look in-house to pay for training for succession planning. Council – Potential Increase demand on other services.</p>
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary The methodology used followed Sefton’s Public Engagement and Consultation Framework and was approved by the Sefton’s Engagement and Consultation panel.</p> <p>Practitioners who receive network support and could be affected were consulted with. All practitioners who are trained in the programme and each Children Centre where the programmes are delivered were invited to complete the on-line questionnaire. A total of 93 named practitioners were approached, though some of them were representing the same setting and therefore a single response may have been made on behalf of several practitioners. This was an individual choice.</p> <p>The practitioners represented the following services: 19 Children Centres ,4 Family Centres, Specialist Nurses, Targeted Youth Support, Sefton Women and Children’s Aid (SWACA), One Vision Housing, Venus, Police, Behaviour Support, Parent Partnership, Youth Offending Service, Child Adolescent Mental Health Services, P2000.</p> <p>Parents were not consulted as they are a transient cohort. Once parents have completed their support they would continue to be supported through their mainstream service.</p> <p>There were 22 responses from 93 practitioners. It is to be noted that some may have sent in a combined response therefore making it difficult to calculate an exact response rate. 17% of respondents did say that there could be alternative solutions such utilising the existing Children’s Centres into networks of their own with a lead centre to co-ordinate resources and delivery.</p> <p>88% of the responders said that the reduced network support would have a negative effect on the delivery of parenting support and evidenced based parenting programmes.</p> <p>Other types of support that responders felt would be required if the option was approved were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further training for practitioners,

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- ensuring that they had somebody to co-facilitate with, and
- ensuring that the network meetings were maintained
- There were concerns regarding resources and workbooks.

See full consultation report E1.4

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E1.4

Risks & Mitigating Actions – Coordinating the training for the networks will be lost. This will be mitigated by alternative approaches for example setting up the Children’s Centres into networks of their own with a lead centre to co-ordinate resources and delivery. Training outcomes have been embedded in to existing practice and a maintenance action plan is being developed which will be monitored by the Early Intervention and Prevention team.

Potential for delivery of lower quality programmes. This will be mitigated by Early Intervention and Prevention teams monitoring evidence based delivery of the programmes to ensure quality and targeting to families with high level needs.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce

The coordination of the network of practitioners delivering the Universal Parenting Programmes and the delivery of training to practitioners will cease. However, the coordination will be delivered through a designated parenting lead officer based in each Childrens Centre. Training will be available but practitioners will be expected to meet the costs out of their centre budgets.

Cost of Service: £87,000

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £0

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £87,000

Council Staff at Risk: No

Number of Posts at Risk: 0

Consultation Report E1.4

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to cease the coordination of the Think Family Grant - Parenting Network

(Ref: E 1.4)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Appendix 2 – Other Document Representation

Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions. The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option on the cessation of the co-ordination of the Think Family Grant - Parenting Network. The consultation was targeted to all practitioners delivering the programme. The coordination is delivered through a network of trained practitioners through existing services. The co-ordination of the network would be delivered differently if the option is approved.

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This network delivered parenting programmes to over 300 parents living in Sefton during 2011. The majority of referrals being received are from Child Adolescent Mental Health Services, Social Care and Children's Centres.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation Framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

Practitioners who receive network support and could be affected were consulted with. All practitioners who are trained in the programme and each Children Centre where the programmes are delivered were invited to complete the on-line questionnaire. A total of 93 named practitioners were approached, though some of them were representing the same setting and therefore a single response may have been made on behalf of several practitioners. This was an individual choice.

The practitioners represented the following services:

19 Children Centres
4 Family Centres
Specialist Nurses
Targeted Youth Support
Sefton Women and Children's Aid (SWACA)
One Vision Housing
Venus
Police
Behaviour Support
Parent Partnership
Youth Offending Service
Child Adolescent Mental Health Services
P2000

As we were consulting with representatives of organisations there was no need to collect equality data.

Parents were not consulted as they are a transient cohort (there are those waiting for support, those currently receiving support, and those who have completed support). Once parents have completed their support they would continue to be supported through their mainstream service.

Executive Summary

There were 22 responses from 93 practitioners. It is to be noted that some may have sent in a combined response therefore making it difficult to calculate an exact response rate. 17% of respondents did say that there could be alternative solutions such utilising the existing Children's Centres into networks of their own with a lead centre to co-ordinate resources and delivery.

88% of the responders said that the reduced network support would have a negative effect on the delivery of parenting support and evidenced based parenting programmes.

Other types of support that responders felt would be required if the option was approved were;

- further training for practitioners,
- ensuring that they had somebody to co-facilitate with, and
- ensuring that the network meetings were maintained
- There were concerns regarding resources and workbooks.

The Consultation Analysis

Practitioner Responses

22 responses were received on-line from 93 practitioners approached. This equates to a 24% individual return representing 65% of the organisations affected. Not all questions were answered by those practitioners/ organisations who responded.

Question 1

The types of agencies who responded	Number of that agency who responded
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

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Community and Voluntary Sector	4
Children's Services	11
Police	0
Health Services	4
Worklessness Related Services	0
Adult Services	0
Other	1
TOTAL	20

Question 2

What age groups are the children in the families you support?	Response
Birth to 7	20
8 to 13	9
14 - 19	7

A number of agencies who responded provided services across age groups.

Question 3

What is the main postcode of your service users? (First three characters)	
Answer Option	Response #
L9	0
L10	0
L20	7
L21	2
L22	2
L23	1
L29	0
L30	2
L31	1
L37	1
L38	0
PR8	3
PR9	2
TOTAL	21

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Responses indicate a spread across the borough; however, the majority of respondents are for L20 (in the South of the Borough).

Question 4

Do you know where to go for help and advice on parenting issues?		
	Response # Yes	Response # No
	20	0
Total	20	0

Question 5

Which Universal Parenting Services do you currently work with/refer families to?	
Service Type	Response #
Children's Centre	9
Triple P	4
Parenting Programmes	7
Health Visiting	3
School Based Services (School Nurse, Teachers, Mentors)	6
Leisure Services (Positive Futures/Active Sefton)	2
Parenting 2000	3
Well Young People	2
Other Local Authority Services (Job Centre, Sefton at Work, Social Workers)	3
Other Voluntary Sector Services (Citizen Advice Bureaux, Football in the Community)	3
HomeStart	1

Responses indicate that practitioners access a variety of universal services, with a large number using Children's Centres, Parenting Programmes and School Based Services.

Question 6

Which Targeted Parenting Services do you currently work with/refer families to?	
Service Type	Response #
Parenting Programmes	10
Triple P	7
Common Assessment Framework	5

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Which Targeted Parenting Services do you currently work with/refer families to?	
Service Type	Response #
Child Adolescent Mental Health Services	2
Other Social Care	3
Schools	3
HomeStart	2
Targeted Youth Support	1
Children's Centre	1
Carers Centre	2
Positive Futures	1
Well Young People	1
Children In Need	1
Health Visitors	2
Citizen Advice Bureaux	1
Sefton Women & Children's Aid	2
Other Local Authority Services (Special Educational Needs, Sefton Advisory Inclusion Services, Behaviour Support, Speech & Language)	4
Venus	1

Responses indicate that practitioners access a variety of targeted services, with a large number using Parenting Programmes, Triple P and Common Assessment Framework services.

Question 7

Which Critical Parenting Services do you currently work with/refer families to?	
Service Type	Response #
Parenting Programmes	4
Family Intervention Services	4
Common Assessment Framework	1
Child Adolescent Mental Health Services	1
Other Social Care	7
Health Visitors	1
HomeStart	1
Sefton Women & Children's Aid	1

Which Critical Parenting Services do you currently work with/refer families to?	
Service Type	Response #
Sefton Advisory Inclusion Services	1

Responses indicate that practitioners access a variety of critical services, with a large number using Other Social Care, Parenting Programmes and Family Intervention Services.

Question 8

What effect would the reduced support impact on the service you work for?

See Appendix 1.

Question 9

If funding for the parenting network is withdrawn what support will you need to get your service ready to continue delivery post March 2012?

See Appendix 1

Other Responses

None.

Alternative Options Proposals

None.

Monitoring Information

None.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Detailed Responses

Individual responses to the questions

What effect would the reduced support impact on the service you work for?

There would be no coordination of parenting services except through the network of Children's Centres.
Less parenting courses for families
Reduced service would impact significantly on the numbers of families accessing both targeted and universal parenting courses (including Stepping Stones).
Potentially a loss of co facilitators
The effect on the families who need parent training would be massive if it were not to be available

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less referral pathways to support families, thus creating more distress for those families who need more intensive support
It would affect our service, as many of our parents/carers have needed help and support with managing children's behaviour, and have needed advice to prevent difficulties within the family escalating. The parenting team are incredibly supportive to us, and have always supported practitioners delivering the programme to as wide a reach as possible.
Lack of support would have a significant impact on delivering parenting groups within Sefton. Having a parenting team to deliver parenting strategies/groups, co-ordinate groups, resources, provide training and support has been fundamental to the current success of the parenting programme in Sefton. It facilitates networking and ensures groups are run in an equitable way throughout the borough.
The support would go from parenting team, also network meetings for parenting services.
No specialist organisation to refer to
Reduced support from the parenting programme would lead to possible difficulty in obtaining tip sheets and work books. Also referral point- although each lead centre could act as a referral point for local families and coordinate parenting courses
Massive impact already under pressure with the previous cuts.
We can facilitate Triple P parenting programmes within our setting.
Less services to refer to, which will impact on what is available for parents/carers and increase pressure on our agency to fill in gaps. We have found that working with parents and carers the only way forward to reduce cycles of poor parenting skills.
I feel that there is a great need for these services in the L20 area. If the service was reduced it would have a significant impact on families. Latest research indicates that early intervention is vital to reduce better outcomes for children and families.
This would depend on where this was reduced and from which area. I would say the universal and targeted support could suffer most.
Increase demand waiting times, case-loads etc

If funding for the parenting network is withdrawn what support will you need to get your service ready to continue delivery post March 2012?

Further cascade evidence based parenting courses training
Training for staff teams to deliver group programmes and support through initial delivery until in-house practitioners are confident in delivering services on their own.
funding for resources.
I would need access to the Parenting Group materials Primary Care and Teen Triple P Workbooks and tip sheets etc
More staff trained in parenting interventions
We would need a service that provides and informs us of relevant training, and to

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give advice on the wide variety of families whom we work with.
Central point to order and provide resources. Co-facilitators to help run groups Support to keep updated. Co-ordinator to ensure equity throughout Sefton.
Support for continuing to deliver parenting courses, referrals to parent course making sure parents still have information available to them of what's on offer.
Training for in-house staff in dealing with more needy families
funding for purchasing of resources
All agencies to know the clear pathways re referrals for parenting courses.
We would probably need more money to employ more family workers to fill in gaps.
We would need a central co-ordinator /base to liaise with. Support/ advice?? Data base, links with other centres/ practitioners?
More of the team trained and enabled to deliver parenting programs independently of the parenting team. Currently we have just one parenting practitioner trained. Withdrawal could impact greatly on support we could offer.
Build more capacity in for Parenting Programmes by decreasing case-loads of trained practitioners.

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Appendix 2 – Other Documentation Representation



To the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation, however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams
Chief Executive
One Vision Housing

Section E1: Children and Families

E1.4 Parenting Network- Think Family Grant

The Think Family Grant supports families including those with high needs. Sefton's own data shows that 34% of referrals since Oct 2011 were from police, social care and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services – 107 families.

The proposal to ensure that high level needs families will be picked up by the Family Intervention Programme without high risk families slipping through the net is entirely dependent on capacity within the FIP to manage this extra work load.

The ring fence was removed from the Think Family Grant in only 2010/11 and we would ask Sefton MBC to consider continuing to protect this budget, or making a reduced cut to this budget and considering using the remaining budget to build capacity within the FIP to at least cover the high level needs families adequately.

The impact of this cut, especially when considered alongside cuts e.g. to Educational Psychologists, is that there are less and less opportunities for early identification and intervention in support and indeed safeguarding issues with children and families across the borough.

A One Vision Partner

Equality Analysis Report E1.4

Equality Analysis Report (draft)

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E1.4

Details of proposal: Parenting Network – Think Family Grant.

This proposal will lead to a removal of the co-ordination of the network. This budget enables the parenting offer to be delivered across the borough which is meeting the needs of universal to high need families. This network has delivered parenting programmes to over 300 parents living in Sefton during 2011. The majority of referrals being received are from CAMHS, Social care and Children's Centres.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

If 'Yes' give details

The network is currently delivered through a network of trained practitioners through existing services. The co-ordination of the network would be lost through the cost saving.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No This proposal is for removing the co-ordination of the network.

Lack of co-ordination of the network will be mitigated by the new integrated Early Intervention & Prevention Teams who will support evidence based delivery of parenting programmes and mitigate some of the reduction of programmes to families with high level needs

The majority of the parents who received support are referred through targeted / critical services. Therefore the family is in receipt of a specific services either for mental well being, social care, police and community safety. (See table below)

Agency / service	Jan 2010 till Oct 2010	Since Oct 2010 till end Aug 2011	Total
Social Care	42	43	85
Targeted Youth Support/ YOT	1	2	3
CAMHS	3	49	52
CAF	3	11	14
Health Visitors	21	29	50
Family Inclusion Project (FIP)	1	1	2

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Courts	1	16	17
Voluntary, Faith and Community Sector ¹	14	8	22
Self referral	15	38	53
Education Welfare	2	1	3
Nurses	6	11	17
Children's centres	31	61	92
Schools / PSA	27	16 ²	43
ASD / ADHD	7	5	12
Speech and Language therapists	1	1	2
Police	6	15	21
	181	307	488

There are families who we know through research and predictive data will have poor outcomes. These are families:

- who have poor mental well being across one or more family members
- where a member of the household has been involved with criminal behaviour
- who have substance misuse needs with one or more members of the household
- where one or more members of the household have a long standing health need and / or disability

Since Oct 2011 34% of parenting referrals were from police, social care and CAMHS. Totalling 107 families out of 307 referrals.

With the reduction of funding there could be a negative impact on the delivery to these families. This will be negated by

- the training that the Centre Managers have received and the number of referrals they are already working independently on.
- the reduced support from parenting practitioners in line with the Family Intervention Programme.
- The targeted and critical identification and delivery continuing through early intervention and prevention
- Fathers being identified for targeted delivery through early intervention and prevention

Consultation.

Parents were not consulted as they are a transient cohort. There would be those waiting for support, those currently receiving support and those who have completed support. Once completed they would continue to be supported through their mainstream service, Practitioners who received the network support and could be affected were consulted with. All practitioners who are trained in the programme and each Children's centre where the programmes are delivered have received the questionnaire.

¹ Although reduced number of referrals there does not seem to be an explainable reason from the data.

² Reduction due to reduced number of PSA

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes – service provision is delivered in light of the equality act and the three public sector equality duties.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

Discussion with network about future co-ordination.

Monitor access to the Early Intervention and Prevention Team

Develop action plan based on consultation feedback from the network

Recommendation to Cabinet E1.4:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E1.4 and recommend to the Council that

1. the cessation of the coordination of the network of practitioners delivering the Universal Parenting Programmes be approved
2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference E1.7

Service Description: Early Years Outcomes Monitoring & Quality Support Service

Categorisation: Regulatory

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework is a statutory requirement for EYFS providers to deliver, and the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on the Local Authority to provide EYFS training to maintained and Private Voluntary Independent (PVI) settings; also to support childcare providers judged inadequate by Ofsted. The funding is intended to ensure that more children reach a good level of development at age 5 and that the gap between those children who do least well and the rest, narrows by that age — this includes those with special educational needs, those living in poverty and those from particular minority ethnic communities. Functions of the team include the implementing EYFS Framework; monitor, support and challenge all settings in quality of provision, safeguarding and welfare requirements; monitor childcare 0-19; provide information, advice and training to parents and childcare providers.

Special Educational Needs support for early years settings.

This is made up of three areas central, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and 50% of the core funding has already been removed.

All providers are Ofsted registered.

Consultation has closed on the following option – Reduce the level of Council core funding in support of this service by 50%.

Original rationale for service change proposal – This Service was previously supported through Sure Start Early Years Grant which has ceased and been incorporated into the Council's main funding streams. The reductions proposed would bring the service down to the statutory minimum.

Legislation Considered - Childcare Act 2006; Early Years Foundation Stage (Welfare Requirements) Regulations 2007; Early Years Foundation Stage (Learning and Development Requirements) Order 2007

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Reduced staff support

Partners – N/A

Council – Reduction in staffing levels will have to be made

Communication, Consultation & Engagement Summary

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A questionnaire was circulated to all users:

PVI settings:

- Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings (68),
- Childminders (174),
- Out of School (OOS) Clubs (41) and

Schools:

- Primary, infant and maintained nursery schools (77).

As we consulted with representatives of organisations there was no need to collect equality data.

In total, 64 responses (23%) were received from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) and Out of Schools (OOS) settings and childminders, and 24 (31%) from schools.

It is clear from the responses received that schools and settings acknowledge the clear benefits and positive impact of the support from the current Early Years service. The analysis of the responses received reflected that the PVI settings and schools have a concern that this may lead to a reduction in this support to insufficient provision, poorer children's outcomes and lower Ofsted grades. Of all responses, 91% reported that they would envisage at least some risk to their provision if Sefton's Early Years service was reduced.

A significant number of responses suggest that this is not the right time for a review as a revised statutory EYFS Framework (this is in response to a national review and will involve a number of key changes) is due September 2012.

A number of responses from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) settings express concerns over any reduction to advice, support and/or funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN) children.

However, Schools reported that they would be prepared to pay for support in monitoring provision and for staff training (each 30%), followed by support for assessment of children's progress and for training related to the EYFS framework (each 22%). In the PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) sector, 62% of responses reported that they would be willing to pay for mandatory/essential training (e.g. first aid, safeguarding, and food hygiene). About a third (34%) would be willing to pay for any other type of training.

Slightly over a third (35%) reported that they would find it difficult to pay for any training, with some unable to do so now.

When asked what elements of support would be regarded as essential moving forwards, the key responses are as follows:

For schools:

- 1) EYFSP pre-moderation and follow-up support
- 2) Assessment of children's progress;
- 3) Support for enhanced transition arrangements for children with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) settings into schools;
- 4) Support for head teachers and senior leaders in monitoring and evaluating EYFS provision;

Schools' responses mainly suggested some increase in the service provided, mainly through visits, training opportunities and resurrecting cluster/network meetings.

For PVI settings:

- 1) Support for Special Educational Needs children;
- 2) Training related to Safeguarding, child protection
- 3) Assessment of children's progress.
- 4) How to implement the requirements of the EYFS framework; and,

From the responses to what could be done differently a limited number of PVI responses suggested some changes to existing systems, e.g. going paperless; at courses, have only the member of EY staff delivering training there (i.e. and not any others who are not presenting); reduce the number of visits to settings over the year.

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Attendance at the PVI Forum meeting showed that the group wished to reinforce the following:

- a. the strength of feeling that Sefton must keep an Early Years team to support this sector;
- b. that any other saving options should be explored first, before looking at staff reductions e.g. reducing costs by being totally paperless;
- c. paying for training now and in the future is a real issue for a number of settings, that could prove detrimental to their provision and children's outcomes;
- d. there is a strong need for training related to mandatory/essential issues, and for training related to the changes to be made to the EYFS Framework for September 2012; and,
- e. the strong feeling that members of the EY team did not attend PVI training if they were not actually delivering.

The question was asked about any responses that mentioned safeguarding; the answer being that it generally arose in terms of it being referenced as essential training. Comments were made that support for settings with safeguarding issues was important as a small number need access to advice and support from wider Sefton services than just the training they currently access. The Forum wished this to be included in key findings in the final summary.

See full consultation report E1.7

Equality Analysis Report – See EAR E1.7

Risks & Mitigating Actions – Staff reductions will result in a reduced service, which may lead to poorer quality outcomes in PVI settings. A number of settings are vulnerable to changes in circumstances and outcomes without the support and challenge from the team and therefore, there is a risk of more inadequate Ofsted judgements. Safeguarding and welfare requirements are key judgements that continually need monitoring in settings.

Mitigated by prioritisation of work.

The council's overall EYFS results may decline (currently in line with the national average).

The recent improvement in settings has been noted by Ofsted, however, the number of inadequate Ofsted inspection in PVI settings may rise.

Risks associated with reduced EY SEN funding will be that children previously funded will no longer be eligible as the criteria for agreeing funding will have to change.

Some settings may no longer be able to accept SEN children if there is reduced support for enabling access to the provision.

Mitigated by core statutory duties still being discharged:

- The team will still provide support to settings and schools to be inclusive for all children aged 0-5.
- The team will continue to support settings and schools to develop effective monitoring and assessment procedures, and to implement appropriate interventions for closing the gap between the most disadvantaged children and the rest.
- The team will continue to monitor all settings' provision for vulnerable groups, especially those with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, and those youngest children from the most disadvantaged areas at risk of development delay.
- Mandatory/essential training (e.g. first aid, safeguarding, and food hygiene) will continue to be delivered. An external firm has historically delivered food hygiene training – there is an administration charge for this. In future other

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organisations, e.g. Environmental Health could deliver the service (for a charge).

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce

The savings proposed would lead to a reduction in staffing in the Early Years team. Visits to settings to monitor quality and ensure statutory duties are met will be reduced according to need, with good and outstanding settings receiving fewer/no visits.

A minimum requirement of annual monitoring visits would be one day equivalent for outstanding settings, two for good settings and three or more (according to need) for satisfactory and inadequate settings. This has already been implemented and has released staff time.

Training offered will be greatly reduced to that only linked to statutory duties and vulnerable pupils (e.g. SEN) will be prioritised. Level of staff support in PVI and childcare settings would be affected, however statutory duties will be met. Support for schools will be targeted to those schools where it is considered that intervention is needed to improve quality.

Cost of Council contribution to Early Years Quality Team : £804,000
Staffing: 14 posts
Other Resources: Dedicated School Grant (DSG)

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £554,000
Budget Reduction 2012/13: £250,000
Council Staff at Risk: Yes
Number of Posts at Risk: 5

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Consultation Report E1.7

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to reduce by 50% the Early Years Outcomes Monitoring & Quality Support Services (Ref: E 1.7)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

Contents

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Consultation Methodology

Executive Summary

Consultation Analysis

Other Responses

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Monitoring Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Other Document Representation

Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions.

The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option on **reducing the level of funding in support of the early years outcomes monitoring and quality support services by 50%**. The consultation was targeted to professionals and organisations that access the services provided by the Early Years Quality and Inclusion Service.

There are statutory duties in relation to this service provision – see page later for full details.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A questionnaire was circulated to all users:

PVI settings:

- Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings (68),
- Childminders (174),
- Out of School (OOS) Clubs (41) and

Schools:

- Primary, infant and maintained nursery schools (77).

A meeting was held with the Early Years Headteachers' Group (09/11/11) who agreed to send the schools' questionnaire to all schools and chase up responses.

Local Authority officers attended the Early Years Forum (10/01/12) to present draft findings to that date and to allow a further opportunity for views to be made and suggestions for what could be done differently. In addition, the questionnaire was included in the online consultation process.

The option proposal was also included in the telephone survey community consultation.

As we are consulting with representatives of organisations there was no need to collect equality data.

Executive Summary

In total, 64 responses (23%) were received from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) and Out of Schools (OOS) settings and childminders, and 24 (31%) from schools.

It is clear from the responses received that schools and settings acknowledge the clear benefits and positive impact of the support from the current Early Years service.

The analysis of the responses received reflected that the PVI settings and schools have a concern that this may lead to a reduction in this support to insufficient provision, poorer children's outcomes and lower Ofsted grades. Of all responses, 91% reported that they would envisage at least some risk to their provision if Sefton's Early Years service was reduced:

- *"Sefton Early Years have had a great influence in the way early years education has been portrayed in our area and we feel if they have to reduce their services, the local community and children will suffer". (PVI)*
- *"The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) team in Sefton is one of the jewels in Sefton's crown of education support services. Without this support at this crucial stage of child development, this may have grave consequences for future generations of young people in Sefton." (school).*

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A significant number of responses suggest that this is not the right time for a review as a revised statutory EYFS Framework (this is in response to a national review and will involve a number of key changes) is due September 2012.

A number of responses from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) settings express concerns over any reduction to advice, support and/or funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN) children, which *“would seem to go against the EYFS principle of providing equality for all”*. (Private, Voluntary Institutions)

However, Schools reported that they would be prepared to pay for support in monitoring provision and for staff training (each 30%), followed by support for assessment of children’s progress and for training related to the EYFS framework (each 22%). In the PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) sector, 62% of responses reported that they would be willing to pay for mandatory/essential training (e.g. first aid, safeguarding, and food hygiene). About a third (34%) would be willing to pay for any other type of training.

Slightly over a third (35%) reported that they would find it difficult to pay for any training, with some unable to do so now. *“In the current financial climate, paying for services/training with which we are currently provided would be prohibitive, therefore the service our setting provides, the children would suffer”* (PVI).

When asked what elements of support would be regarded as essential moving forwards, the key responses are as follows:

For schools:

- 5) EYFSP pre-moderation and follow-up support
- 6) Assessment of children’s progress;
- 7) Support for enhanced transition arrangements for children with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) settings into schools;
- 8) Support for head teachers and senior leaders in monitoring and evaluating EYFS provision;

Schools’ responses mainly suggested some increase in the service provided, mainly through visits, training opportunities and resurrecting cluster/network meetings.

For PVI settings:

- 5) Support for Special Educational Needs children;
- 6) Training related to Safeguarding, child protection
- 7) Assessment of children’s progress.
- 8) How to implement the requirements of the EYFS framework; and,

From the responses to what could be done differently a limited number of PVI responses suggested some changes to existing systems, e.g. going paperless; at courses, have only the member of EY staff delivering training there (i.e. and not any others who are not presenting); reduce the number of visits to settings over the year.

Attendance at the PVI Forum meeting showed that the group wished to reinforce the following:

- e. the strength of feeling that Sefton must keep an Early Years team to support this sector;

- f. that any other saving options should be explored first, before looking at staff reductions e.g. reducing costs by being totally paperless;
- g. paying for training now and in the future is a real issue for a number of settings, that could prove detrimental to their provision and children's outcomes;
- h. there is a strong need for training related to mandatory/essential issues, and for training related to the changes to be made to the EYFS Framework for September 2012; and,
- e. the strong feeling that members of the EY team did not attend PVI training if they were not actually delivering.

The question was asked about any responses that mentioned safeguarding; the answer being that it generally arose in terms of it being referenced as essential training. Comments were made that support for settings with safeguarding issues was important as a small number need access to advice and support from wider Sefton services than just the training they currently access. The Forum wished this to be included in key findings in the final summary.

Respondents to the telephone survey community consultation were asked their views on reducing by half the funding for monitoring and training to organisations providing early year's services and childcare. Over two thirds (66%) disagreed to the reduction, whilst 23% agreed. (11% neither agreed or disagreed).

The consultation analysis

A questionnaire invited responses from users on the following aspects:

- Did they envisage any risks to their provision if the Early Years service was reduced;
- What elements of a revised service would be considered essential/desirable to the setting and the children;
- What services or training would they be willing to pay for if provided/facilitated by Sefton;
- What might be done differently;
- Any other comments from consultees

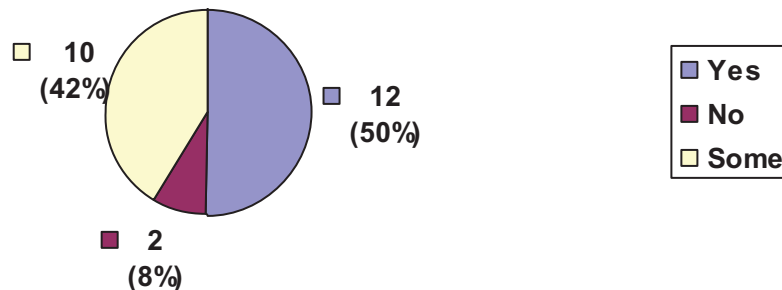
In total, 72 responses (25%) were received from PVI (Private, Voluntary Independent) and Out of Schools (OOS) settings and childminders, and 24 (31%) from schools.

Evaluation - Schools

5. Do you envisage any risks to your provision if our service is reduced?

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Question 1



Comments

- At present we are able to access support for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) from the Authority should we have queries / need support / training in any area. This is vital for Foundation Stage practitioners in order to maintain standards and work with a shared understanding throughout Sefton.
- There are still lots of inconsistencies in the quality of experience at pre-school, the reliability of records on transition to Reception, etc. Early Years has been working hard to improve this and I feel cuts would take this a step backwards. Moderation support has been invaluable in providing evidence that practitioners' judgements are sound. Data analysis has supported whole-school tracking procedures and allowed robust judgements to be made re progress.
- We are currently an ISP school and receive support from the service which may not be available if the service is reduced. We also rely on the service to provide support and guidance on matters of legislation and good practice, if the service is reduced this is not likely to be as readily available.
- The support of the team is invaluable for staff in early years. This year new members of staff have joined our early years team and have gained from the experience and support network provided by Sefton EYFS team. This then means that the learning of children in Reception is enhanced and improved.
- I see many of the things that you provide as essential. Any that are ticked as desirable may be viewed as essential if it had been something that we had accessed or been supported with. I feel the Key Stage 1 transition is reliant upon the teaching style of the Year 1 practitioner and although you have tried to include them in training it has not been effective.
- Less support particularly regarding Special Educational Needs (SEN) children coming into reception. Knowledge of National/Local Trends. Knowledge regarding good practice in the area
- Best practice can only be developed when there are opportunities to access training and new initiatives. Early Years (EY) staff in Sefton look to the EY Service to provide this. Often subject co-ordinators in schools offer excellent support to colleagues in KS1 and KS2 but are unable to advise EY staff as they lack Foundation Stage experience. I worry that the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum may be compromised in some settings. I am fortunate that I have the full support of my headteacher but this will not be the case in all schools.
- In supporting children with SEN / English as an Additional Language etc. Training for staff, especially with the new curriculum in 2012. Training for

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- staff new to EYFS. Sharing of good practice within the authority.
- Authority implementing policy and practice. Time of change Sept. 2012 (Tickell report). Advisory support (Quality Practice). Networking meetings. Call on in times of crisis e.g. (illness/ adoption leave). Management of change. Professional body to refer to (objective view)
 - Development of EY provision may be effected if there are no longer the means or resources to share information about new initiatives, curriculum developments or changes to EY practice within schools
 - As a new head the external moderation allows both myself and the EYFS team to quality assure the provision currently being offered. The guidance on base-line procedures and courses such as Effective Early Learning (EEL) would not be possible if there was a change in provision.
 - We have a long established Reception team, however in the future there will be changes and it will be necessary to access training in EYFS and assessment for a new TA to maintain high quality provision.
 - I feel that EYFS is a very specialised area of education that needs people with expertise in Child development of children from birth. It is important that Early Years practitioners are supported in all areas of their work. It is important that excellent practice is encouraged and shared with others.
 - This school is committed to continuous improvement of its provision across all phases of education. We have a belief that good, sound early years practice can be applied across those phases. A successful and strong EYFS makes for a successful and strong school. The service has much experience and expertise to offer in support of our EY provision, e.g. advice in self evaluation, observational assessment, planning, data tracking & analysis, Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) moderations, pedagogy, safeguarding, environmental development, support for EEL. All of these are significant as we seek to provide the best for our learners. We are concerned about the risk to the quality of our provision, as we seek alternative, unknown, unproven, support.
 - Our school has up to 17 different nursery settings feeding into our Reception class, therefore I am concerned that if training, support and advice is not as readily available, especially to the privately run nursery settings then we may have problems in the future with the transition from nursery to Reception.
 - Need ongoing training for practitioners especially those new to EYFS. Ongoing training needed in tracking, observation and assessment. Support in schools and Private, Voluntary Independents (PVI's) needed to ensure quality and high standards of provision.
 - Without the excellent support and direction from EYFS team I would be extremely cautious about future of EYFS provision in school. Being able to support us with early identification of specific needs, helping us in light of major national changes to Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and on-going professional development via Effective Early Learning (EEL) programme – without all of these, I do fear for future EYFS provision.
 - If training needs are not met by Sefton it puts more pressure on schools, and EYFS teachers specifically, to provide in-house training for staff new to EYFS. As much as we are prepared to train staff, there is very little time to do so.
 - We feel we have a strong EYFS team due to the training and support we have received over the years by your service. If this is reduced we would be concerned about the level of support which would be available and its cost.

6. Which elements of a revised service would you consider to be beneficial to you, your provision, the staff and children?

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	Essential	Desirable
EYFSP pre-moderation and follow-up support	18	5
Ensuring free entitlement is delivered to consistently high standards	17	4
Data analysis and advice on improvement planning	17	6
Support for enhanced transition arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs from pre-school settings into school	17	6
Support for Head teachers and EYFS Managers in monitoring and evaluating EYFSP provision e.g. integrated education and care, developing inclusive provision, developing outdoor learning	17	6
Assessment and tracking; evidencing attainment on-entry and progress over and through the EYFS	16	7
Developing and supporting quality provision through facilitation of local networks and professional dialogue between all EYFS providers	15	8
Pre-Ofsted support	15	8
Researching and providing advice on trends and developments at a national, regional and local level	12	11
Support for teaching assistants	12	11
Support for EYFS to KS1 transition	10	13
Developing and supporting self evaluation through initiatives such as EEL	7	15

7. What services or training would you be willing to pay for if provided and/or facilitated by the team?

- It would depend on the cost of services that the EYFS team were offering as to what we would be prepared to pay for but at a minimum that would be quality training, data analysis and Ofsted Preparation.
- Training for Head Teachers and practitioners
- Support with improving provision within the setting. Data Analysis Support for staff new to Foundation Stage
- I would be willing to pay for optional training such as any new trends or initiatives that have come about e.g. forest schools.
- Data Analysis. Evaluating EYFSP provision for senior managers.
- New and exciting initiatives. Training events with national speakers.
- Any support for pre school transition would be great. I have had no support for a number of children falling into this category. Indeed it was year 2 before an appropriate setting was found.
- Specialist Teaching Assistant training for Reception Teaching Assistant
- Inset / training for teachers and support staff new to the FS. Inset / training to support new developments and changes to the EYFS especially at National level. High quality Inset delivered by respected consultants to enhance curriculum delivery
- Currently we highly value the EYFS training and support provided as a standard part of the service linking with curriculum and assessment and feel the quality would suffer and have long term implications and effect on "outstanding practice"
- EYFSP moderation and follow up support. Pre-Ofsted support. Support for arrangements for SEN children
- Completion of the data booklet and comparison of data with Sefton and National. Quality training that would be relevant and inspirational.
- All of the items we have ticked as being essential (9 items). Having

identified what we require we would have to prioritise but are willing to direct some of our budget towards these areas.

- At present school budgets are being squeezed and therefore it is unlikely that school will be in a position to pay for services or training
- It concerns me that Early Years may have a budget cut as I feel this is the most vital part of a child's education. We need to get things right at this age and develop the whole child. Children are coming into school with so many difficulties and early intervention can make so much difference to them and save money further up the school. So much depends on money available to schools in their own budgets. It concerns me that the quality of Early Years provision across the authority may suffer. Schools who do not see EY as a priority may not buy in to services. This would lead to a decline in provision.
- Any of the above that our budget could stretch to
- All of the areas marked in section 2 could form the basis of a service level agreement which this school would be very interested in
- Assessment and tracking; evidencing attainment on-entry and progress over and through the EYFS. Data analysis and advice on improvement planning
- Support in data analysis of EYFSP, support for heads and EYFS managers
- Pre-Ofsted support, TA training and support
- All of the above elements – as and when necessary

8. Please tell us what you think could be done differently (improvements you would like to see to the current service.)

- Yearly visits to school settings in order to improve practice and share expertise. Training geared to observations made in settings. Training to be predominantly ½ day as most information can be covered in this time and like children, concentration is not as good in the afternoon if the morning has been intense.
- Further moderation and advice for PVI settings to ensure greater consistency of judgements as children leave pre-school
- The service could be more responsive to the needs of setting, i.e. ask setting what they would like support with.
- LA support / resources should be determined according to individual school needs, e.g. through annual audit / Ofsted outcomes.
Further develop the EYFS network of teachers to enable cost savings by sharing good practice etc.
- Facilitation of improved links with private providers
- I'm aware that some schools appear to have a lot of support / access to pilot programmes and that maybe your service needs to target or get in touch with schools that don't seem to have much involvement with you.
- Any support for pre school children with SEN to help individuals and school to cope
- Termly newsletters to FS staff in schools updating and advising on latest developments at both local and national level, signposting support exchange of ideas etc. This would provide a network of support throughout the authority
- Done differently will compromise quality standards which have taken a long time to reach these high standards. What support mechanism for Early Years training will be left
- Training provided on a termly basis to assist teachers to complete the EYFS profile – particularly for those new to Reception. The service needs to have a higher profile and be more proactive across the whole authority. All schools to have equal access to the statutory services to be delivered – parity for all.
- Regular meeting for EYFS Co-ordinators to be updated on government policy and to share good practice.

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- In the past we have had cluster groups for EYs and we shared our expertise and set up our own training sessions. Perhaps this is a way in which we could support each other.
- Speech and Language therapists attached to clusters of Early Years providers would enable early intervention. Better pupil/ practitioner ratios would help children to be supported in their learning. EY practitioners need guidance and support
- There is a great need for a better system of identifying children in pre-school settings with behavioural problems. When these children start in Reception (often with little or nothing known of them) they can create serious problems that impact on the early development and learning of their peers.
- As a school without a nursery we would want to see transition from PVI settings developed to promote continuity of successful and effective practice (e.g. in pedagogy and data tracking). We would also want to see more resources deployed in the vital work already carried out by the service in supporting enhanced transition for children with Special Educational Needs from pre-school settings into school
- I am concerned that the EYFSP moderation process will not be as comprehensive and supportive as it has been. As part of the moderation team for the past several years, I felt that we have developed a secure system for moderation and many practitioners welcomed and valued the support given. I was disappointed to hear that the moderation team had been cut back this year, especially given the type of feedback from the last three schools I moderated, e.g. a supportive and helpful process.
- More training, particularly in assessment and tracking. More support in schools in the Foundation Stage
- I would like to see Sefton re-start the EYFS cluster groups
- Excellent before the cuts – reduction in training days

9. Please add any other relevant comments.

- At present I feel that the EYFS team are predominantly involved with pre-school and I would like to see a greater range of support offered to school settings. Therefore the service needs extending as opposed to decreasing.
- We had experience for a number of years when Sefton's EY support was quite rudderless and we have seen a significant improvement, particularly in the last year which has had an evident impact. There is a clearer vision and structure of support, improved training and tighter moderation.
- I highly value the support of the team and would find it difficult if it did not exist.
- Generally pleased. However the above issues (support with SEN to help individuals and school to cope) have caused serious problems throughout the school. No apparently joining up of information regarding sharp end issues. Quite poor really.
- I think that it is essential that staff new to FS receive support and training is delivered on appropriate curriculum
- How is the procedure of entering the childcare market, meeting the registration and regulatory requirements going to be addressed.
- Major concern over meeting needs of disabled children and those with special educational needs
- Also the use of effective safe guarding and child protection procedures
- Trains of EYFS assessment addressed and the completion of EYFS Profile offered to all providers who require it
- Many Early Years school staff believe that the current provision is very much geared toward raising standards within the private sector and feel that this could result in a detrimental impact across the standards achieved in schools.

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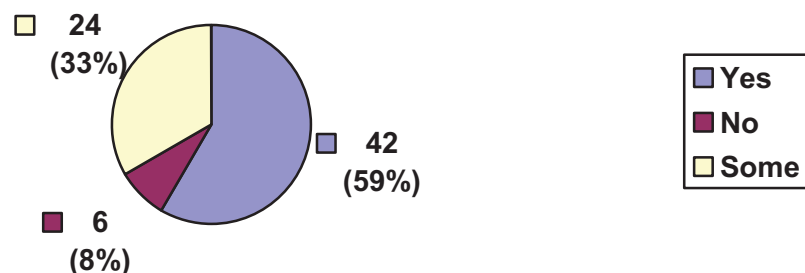
This may result in children not being adequately prepared for KS1 and future learning.

- We are concerned about additional support for children with SEN. At present we have 2 children in Reception – ‘school intensive’ who receive only 7½ hours each!
- I think money should be increased into the Early Years service as so much more could be done with added resources. This early intervention would save money in the long run as children would need less special educational need support, there would be fewer behaviour issues and children would be confident and positive about their learning. Quality assurance is important across EY services. Ofsted does not have all the answers
- We have benefited greatly from the support of the service to date. Its work could and should continue. As a school which was represented on the data group we saw close up how effectively the service operated in galvanising schools and PVI settings to work co-operatively towards common goals. Every effort should be made to maintain this quality.
- The Advisory Service is crucial in driving forward improvement. However experienced teachers are, there is always a need for CPD, sharing ideas etc.
- The EYFS team in Sefton is one of the jewels in Sefton’s crown of education support services. Without this support at this crucial stage of child development, this may have grave consequences for future generations of young people in Sefton.
- We have greatly missed the training days provided by the service previous to the cut-backs. Always found refreshing ideas, consultations and discussions with other schools very useful

Evaluation – Settings

1. Do you envisage any risks to your provision if our service is reduced?

Question 1



Comments

- If we were unable to seek advice about concerns we have this could be a risk towards the way I provide my service
- Lack of training is a key concern as the amount of training offered the past year seems greatly reduced and the cost of training is a worry. The document says SEN support will be affected and we haven’t noticed this

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year as we've been given lots of support but losing it would have a negative impact as we have a few SEN children

- Having support at the need of the phone, when necessary, has been a great help. We have a child who is due to start with us in November, who is involved with multiple agencies. We will require lots of support and advice to guide us through his enhanced transition
- Sefton Council provide me with lots of ideas and brilliant training to my staff. Also the help I have received with my improvement plan and policies has been great. Without this help the setting would not have worked through this as well as we did
- I rely on these visits from the Quality Improvement Officer to help me prepare for an Ofsted Inspection and EYFS duties. Without this support and training I would be unable to further develop as a childminder and achieve an outstanding grade in my next Ofsted inspection
- Early Years is a rapidly changing environment and any changes will affect the outcomes for professionals and therefore children e.g. keeping professionals up to date with changes and legislation. A good example is the intended change to the EYFS the reduction of milestones etc.
- It is imperative that LA's are able to support nurseries whether on a 1 to 1 basis or for training system wide. Close and robust monitoring takes considerable time and cut backs would not help the quality inputs that we currently receive. Moderation implies that standards are consistent also assessments and again this takes much effort and time
- Sefton Early Years Team keeps us fully updated on legislative changes and Ofsted requirements. Any reduction in Early Years involvement could leave us at risk of non-compliance with any changes. The number and availability of training courses has already been reduced and any further reductions could lead to our staff being unable to keep updated and well qualified. Our staff currently has a broad base of knowledge and are always seeking opportunities to extend and improve their qualifications, which reflects on our provision. Sefton Early Years support is invaluable in allowing us to maintain our high standards.
- Having less access to the Early Years Team would have a detrimental impact on the way that I work, as I am an alone worker. Without the support from the Early Years Team who would I be able to turn too if I am unsure of how to complete something for example paperwork. This would then have an impact on my grading with Ofsted if I was not meeting all of the standards expected. If I achieve an inadequate it is up to Sefton to provide me with the correct support to get me achieving again, and this would then take far more time, resource and money. Training is also something that is vital to the service I provide to children and making sure that within my setting that I am covering all areas of learning and development on the EYFS. Without the support to do this we would potentially not be getting our children within Sefton to the required standards before the start reception class within schools, which then creates further work and more money to get those children up to speed. Also in 2012 the EYFS is being revised so along with it will be more changes and new information to understand. It is important that we have a central team who are able to fully support us with all of these changes.
- SEYQUIS play a vital role in supporting us as a private setting by:
 - building our confidence in achieving high quality provision and practice,
 - raising our profile and promoting links with schools,
 - providing continuous professional development opportunities
 - keeping us up to date with changes to national policies and standards
 - providing advice and funding to enable us to meet the needs of children with

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special educational needs

- Without their involvement I could see a risk that we become isolated as a setting, I feel it would be very difficult to maintain standards and that the team would feel less driven and motivated.
- Early Years services have reduced significantly over the past few years. The support they offer us currently, is generally very critical of our practices and always lowers staff morale. Training is often poor and staff have to travel an hour to the training location there and back.
- We get help and support which is vital in helping us improve our services
- Our Early Years support gives us advice and support in order to provide the best quality care possible. They are always at the end of the phone and come to visit our nursery throughout the year to help us obtain good Ofsted results
- Early Years team have provided and delivered training to settings supporting different aspects of the EYFS, free of charge. As a non-profit making charity we are unable to pay for training and cover supply costs in the future. As a result a thriving culture of aiming to improve our services will no doubt suffer from these changes. I also worry that settings will end up feeling isolated and cut off by not affording to attend training and overall standards of provision in Sefton will suffer.
- Your service provides a very necessary role to our provision. Not just for the day-to-day running of our facility but also for the statutory guidance advice and advice on individual cases that may occur.
- We need to access support and advice and help for preparation for Ofsted inspections and SEN children without these we would not be able to offer a quality service.
- We have recently had a child in our setting that has EAL needs. Through Sefton Early Years (SEY) we have managed to source an interpreter who attends our setting weekly on a voluntary basis. This would not have been possible without the support of SEY. We feel as a setting that SEY have been invaluable, they are always at the end of the telephone for support and advice. Over our eight years as Managers we have built a good professional relationship with all of the SEY team.
- The support of Early Years Advisers is essential and beneficial to provisions to ensure that standards are maintained.
- We have been very fortunate to have had excellent support and guidance in the two years since we took over the nursery. The knowledge and encouragement that has been given to us has been immeasurable. Sefton Early Years have given us their total support and have helped to eliminate risks that were present. Quality worker visits are so important to us, sharing their up to date knowledge and advising us on any issues we are concerned about.
- We rely on support from the Early Years team to maintain quality and to support individual children – where would we go otherwise? Not having this support would be devastating.
- Our Early Years team keep us up to date with all relevant legislation from the Government and Ofsted. Without this input, Settings will be at risk of being down graded on our Ofsted inspections. Early Years also give settings valuable training and ongoing support when needed
- At the moment I feel we are on track with most areas but from experience changes happen all the time so we would need the support to make sure we continue to stay on track.
- Have not had any contact from Sefton Early Years since March 2011.
- I am newly registered and have relied on the help provided to get me through my Ofsted registration, help with observations and planning etc. I

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am still finding that I would need the contact with Early Years in order for me to be successful with my childminding. I want to be great at my job and I have a good working relationship with my EY Adviser where I feel able to ring her and discuss any worries or concerns I have. I feel I would struggle without the help. Early Years support has been invaluable.

- If reduction in staffing probably more difficult for queries from childminders to be answered promptly. Insufficient training courses e.g. First Aid at times when I'm able to attend.
- I feel support that is regularly available may go
- Updated information or advice if needed
- The support received from the staff is needed to keep childminders etc. up to date with all that is needed to enable us to deliver all safety and educational aspects of our service.
- We would have no information how things are with Sefton. The support we have at the moment is great.
- We will need support and advice.
- As a childminder caring for children with severe Special Needs I need the support of the Early Years team and the Network.
- Support and advice will not be available if funding is cut which is important to maintain standards.
- Any queries of Special Needs help and advice.
- I am an experienced childminder with years of experience behind me, although I would miss the support given by my network co-ordinator who is always on hand to answer any queries that may crop up and to keep me informed of any changes. I am lucky to be in the Sefton Network of childminders and the training no doubt improves our standards in childcare. Although this training is not essential it is invaluable.
- I would miss keeping up to date with any changes and the training we receive on the network.
- The information, support, courses we get from this Service is outstanding. I need help and support with updated information from Ofsted. Without this support from Early Years I feel I would miss out on a lot.
- The support and training I receive from Sefton Early Years is excellent and enables me to run my provision to an outstanding standard.
- The support that we receive from SEYIS ensures that we deliver a high quality childcare service. The SEYQIS is an essential part of our team, which we feel would affect the quality of the service we provide. We aim to maintain high standards with the support of the SEYQIS team. We feel it is an essential selling point of our nursery.
- No training (i.e. have to pay for it ourselves) = no new staff or ongoing training. Funding for SEN provision – can we afford it ourselves?
- Risks in that courses are so drastically reduced staff are no longer kept up to date with current thinking / legislation. I will always ensure a high standard of care and education but without the support of outside guidance nurseries will suffer and ultimately the children.
- Sefton Early Years Consultants have helped shape our setting, environment and practice. Pat Keith and in particular Lynda McQueen, latterly Jacqui Finlay, have continually challenged our ideas, thought processes and quality. They have inspired us to believe that we can go further and become better and offer more to our Children and Parents.

At times when we may have gone off at one hundred miles an hour in the wrong direction Lynda has redefined our focus based on considerable knowledge and experience. Would we be an Ofsted graded outstanding setting without the level of partnership we have received from Sefton?... possibly not, who knows?

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Sefton have provided me with a constant source of advice (4.7) when I have really needed someone to talk to or bounce off. This is very valuable to me; it is a knowledgeable trusted resource, the value of which can't be underestimated.

Being a high quality setting has provided Sefton with a benchmark. We are often used by Sefton as a support to other settings, to inspire, problem solve and offer support. We have received great feedback from settings who have been here to visit; they have expressed great value in the visit and have gone back to their own settings with a focus, new direction and great ideas of how to move forward. All of which will impact the children and families attending the settings.

I should express that I am a little disappointed that the consultation doesn't focus enough on how we feel the suggested significant cuts would affect not just ourselves but Sefton Children. It would be the children who would experience the greatest loss and feel the reduction of investment in them. Some settings I am sure you will find, may feel that they do not require the support of the Early Years team, they may feel that they would prefer not to have Consultants visiting their setting with a critical eye, quality enforcement measures and ideas. However, no setting could argue or dispute with any integrity that the suggested cuts, if made in line with Reference E1.7 would, as you have identified in your risk assessment possibly (I would say definitely!!) lead to poorer outcomes for children.

The risk that settings may fall into the category of 'inadequate' is terrifying for the children attending and the Parents placing trust in the setting, Local Authority and Government Standards.

To me it is unacceptable to make a cut at all when there is a risk that children will be placed for hours on end in an environment that cannot/will not meet their needs.

I would not like the moral responsibility of making the choice to cut where that risk exists, I appreciate that I don't have to, I also appreciate that cuts have to be made in Sefton, but please, do not put 'risking children's life outcomes' into your pot. We need people on the ground, at best working with quality in settings and at worst protecting children by being there often enough to enforce minimum standards.

Training in Sefton I feel has been at best inspiring (Quisp, Peal, Beel) however these experiences have been limited. Largely I would suggest that the budget spent on training has not been optimised.

I feel the fault lies mostly with the settings. When I have attended training the attitude of many settings seemed to be apathetic, as though the training was something that was being 'done' to them, rather than an opportunity. Limited value seems to be placed, little organisation or strategy considered I feel that this can happen when training is offered 'free'. I feel that settings would pay for training in the future if the training was really relevant to settings and settings were consulted on the training offered, I know that West Lancashire always charge for training, it is well attended with Practitioners 'switched on', inquisitive and ready to learn.

With the EYFS review and subsequent changes, the Early Years team will be required to support every setting with the implementation of the changes. I do not see how this can be managed with a reduced number of Consultants.

The document "Supporting families in the Foundation Years' suggests that the role of settings is going to evolve greatly, supporting families and providing a valuable link with health visitors. It suggests settings will provide written information to form part of regular development checks for children from the age of 2 years. Many settings are going to need considerable training to be able to produce accurate, moderated information that will

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provide evidence for such checks. Early Years I am sure will be required to assist all settings with being capable to 'practice' at this level.

The challenges of the EYFS review, the implementation of practice required to enable the supporting of the document 'Supporting Families in the Foundation Years', our country's difficult economy and subsequent impact on the family unit are going to put pressures on settings that I believe are going to be unprecedented. Families themselves are going to be pressed financially, this has always and will remain, to put pressure on the home life of children. Domestic violence and broken relationships increase at times when there is an economic downturn. Settings will experience new challenges, they will require support from the Early Years Team.

- The Early Years Service supports us in our ongoing quality improvement process. Identifying areas for improvement and also highlighting good practice.
- The quality of provision has improved due to the support from Early Years workers. Their support has helped us to keep abreast of current legislation and changes in Policies and Procedures.
- Like the advice and support. Being kept up to date with changes.
- Not having the support of the Early Years team would make it more difficult to maintain my strive to continuously improve my childcare provision. The Network, including Network Co-ordinators are vital in supplying up to date support and guidance for Ofsted requirements.
- The help and support I receive from my EY worker is excellent. My practice would not be as good without the support.
- I have dyslexia and the extra help I get is essential to me having my paperwork organised and up to date. I cannot do it without help. I was told by Ofsted to get extra help from you.
- We feel we are in a more advantageous position than others due to our EY workers experience in the Early Years team. However, a reduced service will undoubtedly have a negative impact at some point.
- We have received wonderful support, advice and training from the Sefton Early Years Team and they provide vital and much needed service to childcare practitioners. The removal of such a service or cuts to elements of it would certainly have a detrimental effect on childcare provision. Training and staff development would immediately suffer and impact on the level of service provided.
- I feel that the standard of service provided would be greatly compromised if the team are placed under further pressures of staff numbers. They provide invaluable ongoing support with training sessions to cascade important information to ensure that we are providing / meeting the requirements of EYFS. I think that standards of childcare across the board may slip due to lack of knowledge / information over a period of time.
- With my 17 years of experience as a childminder means that I am confident there will be no risk to my provision.
- Not being able to access support and advice when needed. Not being kept up to date with relevant issues. Not having access to training. Not having support for families when needed.
- The tremendous support will be reduced
- Your service keeps us up to date where necessary
- Senco opinion – depending on the meaning of 'risk' there is certainly a danger that our setting will not be able to meet the needs of disabled children, or those with SEN if funding for individual children is reduced or stopped. This would seem to go against the EYFS principle of providing for equality of opportunity.

Manager opinion – despite our strong leadership and highly qualified staff,

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our setting still requires valuable input from the EY team to enable us to offer high quality EY provision

Owner opinion - Sefton EY provide a reliable back up service to our own research. Sefton EY is our contact for our enquiries and ensuring that we continue to deliver the latest practice. We work in close partnership with Sefton EY at all levels, this association is both a setting strength and a reassurance for parents and carers

- We currently have additional funding support for a child with special needs. This allows us to provide one to one support. This would be in jeopardy if it were removed.
- Sefton Early Years have supported my setting over the last three years, they have been there to advise me on any problems I have had. They have supported me with children that have had additional needs or with English as an additional language.
- With the introduction of the revised EYFS framework in September 2012 providers will need support to ensure this is delivered as planned and all Ofsted Welfare Requirements are met. Without the support of the Early Years and Childcare Quality Inclusion Service this may be difficult for providers to achieve and therefore Ofsted grades will be affected.
- As with all providers I worry that a reduction in the present services will have a negative impact on the quality of care and education provided to our children.

Sefton can now pride itself on having far better Ofsted results for Early Years providers, this can be credited to the excellent support provided by the Early Years team. I feel that if this support is reduced there is a great danger of settings grades falling back into satisfactory or inadequate.

Reduction in Inclusion support would not only have a devastating effect on our service but to the children and families who benefit from the early identification of special needs and their ability to enter into key stage one with excellent support packages in place.

- The main area I feel that will have an impact is the extended training that should be offered to our newly qualified staff to further their own personal development and understanding of all areas of childcare.
- Strengthening families and communities lie at the heart of recent Government initiatives. By using your service our provision has strengthened families who use our setting as you have supported us in creating pathways by sharing information, translation were necessary which creates confidence within our team as we drew upon the specialist skills and expertise which you offered
- The services provided to support us have had a positive impact on our setting and I'm hoping this will continue.
- Mainly due to understanding the needs of SEN children and how to support them appropriately. To keep up to date with current legislation. The quality of staff training and knowledge would be at risk.
- Risk of deterioration in quality provision.
- Effectiveness of the provision may be reduced if we are not offered the same level of support, I have only been child minding for 18 months and do not feel I have had many visits from the quality workers to assess my provision. Although when I have approached the quality workers they have been very supportive and helpful and have come to my setting when required. If this service is reduced any further would I get any support at all? Would this have an effect on my provision? On my Ofsted judgements?
Childminders work alone and value the feedback from quality worker visits to set and keep us on the right track.
- Further down the line they could be, risks that is not seen now

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- We rely to quite a large extent on our quality workers advice when we are dealing with everyday issues. We have an excellent relationship with our quality worker and teacher advisor which is built on trust and we know that they are at the other end of the phone if there is a question we need to ask about anything. They are our first contact if we have any niggles about children who we suspect have SEN or any general safeguarding concerns. Without the service, we feel very strongly that we would lose not only the support, but also a valuable resource, because the early years team is quick to offer the loan of books or forward publications if available, or at least guidance on how and where to get them.

2. Which elements of a revised service would you consider to be beneficial to you, your provision, the staff and children?

SEN	Essential	Desirable
SEN support / Multi Agency access / assessment / funding	43	3

SEN support was mentioned as essential by 59.7% of respondents.

ASSESSMENT / TRACKING / CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENT / PLANNING		
Observation / assessment / planning / tracking / moderating / support	27	8
Training how to help children achieve	6	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the EYFS Profile 	3	1

TRAINING	Essential	Desirable
Mandatory training / First aid	15	1
Safeguarding / child protection training / updates / support	24	1
Training needs (not just core and SEN)	26	5
Risk Assessment / Health and Safety	2	
Food Hygiene / food labelling training	3	1
Training for Core requirements should be free	2	1
Training SEF / Equality and Diversity	1	1
Conferences		1
Course handouts		1
Funding for Degree courses		1
Training around issues pertinent to the individual setting	2	
Support to assist childcare providers to meet the welfare requirements	6	

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WHOLE SETTING PLANNING IMPROVEMENT	Essential	Desirable
EYFS / support implementation / changes	33	2
Whole setting planning / quality improvement	9	1
Policies and procedures / help and support	4	2
Paperwork / records	1	1
QISP		1

EY STAFF VISITS / SUPPORT / CONTACT	Essential	Desirable
General Help and Advice / understanding queries / problems	13	1
Ensure all settings have similar approach / understanding	1	
Visits from Early Years staff (setting)	2	1
Contact point in office to always answer queries or issues	1	
Home visits every 6 months (childminder)		1
Availability of SEY to answer queries if required	2	
Quality Worker visits and support	2	
Network / Network Co-ordinator support	3	
Early Years team	1	
Access to detailed accurate information	6	
Support to achieve sustainability in the current economic climate	1	

OFSTED / REGISTRATION / SUPPORT	Essential	Desirable
Ofsted / support with processes / achieving / maintaining / pre inspection visits	20	2
Completing self evaluation form		1
Support in entering the childcare market / help with registration / regulatory requirements	6	1
Any revision to the service must not entail downsizing which compromises quality	1	

OTHER	Essential	Desirable
Involvement in National Pilots and research projects		1
Opportunities to visit Centres of Excellence		1

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10. What services or training would you be willing to pay for if provided and/or facilitated by the team?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am willing to pay for the training that is essential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We understand that we have to pay for core training if that is the only way it is offered to us. We are a small pre-school who like to offer the lowest price for sessions, to meet the needs of our catchment so we don't try to make a large profit. Having to pay for training will mean that we will probably apply to go on the minimum that we need to.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we are a registered charity, we do not have sufficient funds to attend non-essential training. We would, however pay for essential training, e.g. senco, safeguarding, first aid, health & safety, if these were to be charged for in the future, in order to make sure we were kept up to date with changes. This would put a strain on the pre-school budget and use funds that would otherwise have been used to buy resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All basic training such as First Aid / Food Hygiene / Health and safety Training which the setting feel is important or necessary such as SENCO / Behaviour Management / E.Y.F.S / Risk Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid / Food Hygiene / Safeguarding Children / EYFS Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training that is not mandatory. All other training some contribution could be made.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are a new setting and therefore are not yet in a position to pay for very much but down the line I envisage a payment being an option. I feel that there is a big gap in English as an additional Language training.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the current financial climate, paying for any services / training with which we are currently provided would be prohibitive. Therefore the service our setting provides the children would suffer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am really interested in improving the outcomes for the children within my setting. In order to do this I do a lot of research into studies on how children learn best and how to work with each individual and their own styles. So I would like to see sessions dedicated to schemas, understanding how children develop, workshops on messy play and ho, how to engage all the different ages of children in reading, learning and development areas and how to effectively make sure that we monitor it correctly, effective communication spaces. All of these sessions though would need to be informative and allow me to fully understand the ins and outs. There is lots of people/companies out there who can provide the above information such as the company Elizabeth Jarman for the communication friendly spaces, so all the Early Years Team would need to do would be to facilitate these sessions as they are impossible for me to attend as a lone childminder when they are all over the country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training days with early years specialists / experts / researchers and health professionals / Visits to centres of excellence / Conferences The costs of running an early years setting have risen considerably over the last couple of years in terms of staffing, utilities, food, insurance and registration costs. In my setting I would find it very difficult to fund training on top of the other costs. The most beneficial training for our team has always been whole team sessions we have organised in the setting when all practitioners and also parents can attend and really address the practicalities of what is being discussed. Listening to speakers including name provided, name provided and lecturers from Edge Hill has been motivational and inspiring for individual practitioners and we would like the opportunity to send other members of the team to listen to them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the training is mandatory it should be free. Specialist SENCO training i.e.

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<p>ASD / behaviour / CLL. The Quality of Early Years training with regards to Safeguarding is poor. Specific training in Safeguarding should be done by a number of the LSCB who has experience in this field and can offer specific advice if required. 2 hour training sessions are often too short and it takes our setting (and others) up to an hour to travel there and 1 hour back for the short course.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not happy about paying for courses, but would pay for Food Safety and First Aid if I have to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is very difficult as with costs going up for everything I do not have much left to cover costs. My budget for this year 2011 / 12 did not have this accounted for so this has caused a few issues with regard to covering the cost of First Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be very difficult for our setting to pick up the cost for the training and supply staff. Training delivered outside hours might help if staff is willing to give up their own time to attend training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the present time our business is struggling to find any money for training needs at all. I think many providers are in the same position. If we do have to pay then the training needs we legally have to offer would be the only ones managed i.e. First Aid, Safeguarding etc. The training needs we wish to offer our staff to enhance their work and enhance what we can offer to the children in our care would unfortunately be secondary compared to what we legally need to have in place. This is not a situation we would be happy with.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Safeguarding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would probably be unable to pay if the Government grant remains the same.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training e.g. Paediatric First Aid, SENCO, Safeguarding of children, which are beneficial to our provision. Revised EYFS to improve the provision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would have to pay for any training that is mandatory i.e. First Aid, Safeguarding, Food Hygiene. We must emphasise that our finances are greatly affected by the present unemployment in our area – hence the reduction in numbers attending nursery. We would seriously have to consider whether training was needed, thus lowering our knowledge and understanding of current trends. I don't believe that services should be charged for. Early Years providers are being hit from all angles by Government cuts and this is seriously affecting our sustainability. I believe that the Local Authority should not make cuts to the Early Years team budget as it is a necessity not a luxury. However I would pay for training if this were necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Hygiene / First Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately we would be unable to fund any courses at the moment due to low numbers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am unable to afford to pay for any training services at the moment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would be willing to pay for courses related to helping me progress further my knowledge of Childminding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Will find it very difficult to pay for essential courses such as Food Hygiene and First Aid. If more charges introduced will have to seriously re-consider whether I can continue to work as a childminder.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Planning / Food Hygiene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Child Protection / Food Hygiene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Risk Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Food Hygiene / Child Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / New information or regulation / Food Hygiene / Special Needs / Child Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid / Food Hygiene / Safeguarding / any other training that would benefit my childminders practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only courses required by law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses that are required by law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatric First Aid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would consider paying for some training. But only if I thought the training was necessary and the setting needed particular in the area of focus. It would depend on the costing of courses. As we do not have spare cash in our budget for training. This would put strain on other areas, which we felt that needed improving due to costs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would be unable to fund training courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not too expensive would pay for any courses on play / education if of quality / actual use. First Aid / Safeguarding are critical. We would pay but don't feel we should as such a vital area. Many nurseries might not / then put children under risk!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory training / Paediatric First Aid / Safeguarding / Health and Safety / Risk Assessment / Food Hygiene. Successfully Implementing the Revised Framework – addressing the Three New Prime Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation / Assessment / Planning / Quality and Diversity / Risk Assessment / Self-evaluation / Safeguarding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's difficult to have to pay for something which has always been provided in all my 12 years of childminding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Ofsted required training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid course as it's a very important skill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present I cannot afford to pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would be willing to pay for training but feel it should be provided by the authority free of charge to ensure high quality provision and support a cycle of continuous improvement. We have been able to offer training in-house but there is such a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise in the Early Years Team that we could draw on.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We depend heavily on the free and subsidised training offered by the Early Years Team. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints if we had to pay for courses and training, our choices would be limited to the training we would be legally required to have (e.g. first aid) This would undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on staff development and therefore the quality of service we provide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would obviously be willing to pay for all the compulsory training necessary i.e. first aid, safeguarding children etc. and also other training that I consider to be beneficial to my practice. I have undertaken considerable training sessions over the last few years and would not refrain from similar training in the future due to the cost. I would prefer to have access to continued training as peace of mind that I was following correct procedures / guidelines in delivering EYFS effectively, even at a cost to my business (which would be a business expense anyway!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately we don't have funds to pay for training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVI settings are already squeezed in terms of funding and pay, we are therefore unable to pay for services or training provided by the EY team, any restriction in access to training would be detrimental to our 'Outstanding' setting (Ofsted Inspection June 2011)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It really depends on the quality of training provided. Certainly any training with regards to special needs would be beneficial. Other mandatory training such as first aid and safeguarding would be accessed. In terms of other training we are lucky that as an organisation we have the up to date skills required to put that training on in-house.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would be prepared to pay a fee towards the training provided by Sefton early years, but not for the full cost of the training. By making settings pay for training it may discourage settings from sending practitioners on the training course due to cost. This will have an impact on practitioners continuing professional development and the consequently the quality of care and learning settings will be providing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paediatric First Aid. We would be willing to pay for training aimed at those working with children under three years of age as we haven't had much of this on offer lately. E.g. schemas, treasure baskets and heuristic play. Training that would be specific to an individual child's needs who attended our setting i.e. any child with a disability or special educational needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to deliver EYFS framework. Mandatory training e.g. First Aid, Food Safety etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As my setting is a voluntary organisation who relies on grant aid, I feel that charging for services and training may exclude my setting from accessing quality training and have a negative impact on the high quality of service we currently provide. As with the local authority many settings are having to make cutbacks. I feel that due to high cost of training many will look at reducing this to the minimum requirement having a negative impact on the quality of service that is provided. Should a charge be made for other services provided, I assume that settings will be able to opt out or due to cost not be able to afford to purchase services. I feel again this would have an overall negative impact on the quality of provision on offer in Sefton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I am not at all sure what the revised service would look like, I am confused as to how I can realistically consider which elements if any as beneficial. In E1.7 it is suggested that settings such as us will receive fewer or no visits!! My understanding is, that the service I have enjoyed for years is going to be cut to an absolute minimum at best. I am struggling to see any benefits to my setting, team or children. Understandably the limited resources will be prioritised to the poorer settings and settings with a higher quality will only receive the statutory minimum. As a high quality setting who as prioritised quality before profit will be penalised. A poor quality setting with potentially much higher profitability will receive more support.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any courses or training such as First Aid, Food Hygiene etc. that are essential to each member of staff.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and awareness is beneficial. Awareness and knowledge i.e. of equal opportunities is an area that should receive regular review to keep practitioners up to date in changes in the diversity of the population in which our community is. Our setting would be willing to fund a variety of short-term training. However introducing a curriculum appropriate to the needs of young children is a positive step, but it would not be difficult to envisage that practitioners would likely need significant support and training to implement so as to have

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<p>a positive effect. If outcomes for all children are to be raised having limited access or no support and training and resources which you provide implications of gaining this could be prohibitive.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None as we have strict budgets and use our own training (internal) when needed. Busy Bees internal training does come out of our budgets which would leave little or none to spend on LA training / services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialised training to improve focus areas within the setting such as the outdoors, SIDS and Asthma. All of which we have paid for ourselves. Specialised SEN training such as Manual Handling etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality / enhanced provision schemes. Feedback on government legislation. QISP. SEN. Safeguarding updates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel that the statutory required courses ie ICP / First Aid / Food Safety should be provided free of charge. Any additional courses that are preferable but not statutory could be charged for, but a lesser fee of under £20. I need to attend the food safety course as Ofsted require it, however the fee is over £30 and due to the times offered for the course and the location I will have to lose a days pay to attend the course. This may work for nurseries but for childminders this isn't fair.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay some cost to training and up dated to protecting children and my self with my child care business and Ofsted requirements. It is not possible to cover all costs my self, it would depend on my income as to what I could afford to put towards assisting costs of training and development of polices for childminders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would be maybe willing to pay a small amount towards courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If prices are reasonable, we would be willing to pay for training. Perhaps there needs to be a re-think of how training is offered out which could be more cost-effective. For example using one member of your team to offer the training, instead of two and asking settings to specify what they really want from the sessions and choose their training wisely. Settings can get hung up on making sure that everyone has first aid or food hygiene, when if they look at it realistically, do they really need that? More beneficial would be to send a good, strong member of staff e.g. EYP/leader to a valuable training session about the role of the adult in the setting, or parent partnership etc, which could then be taken back and re-trained to the staff team. (of course ensuring that they have sufficient staff qualified in first aid etc too!)

4. Please include any other comments you feel are relevant to the review.

- I understand that cuts do have to be made but would prefer it to be made with as little affect to the children as possible e.g. the Advisory Service going paperless (sending info via e-mail) as they have already done. I don't think the tracking needs to be checked by Sefton at the end of each year on a formal basis as suggested because I think there are other ways of ensuring it is happening e.g. getting feedback from the reception teachers that completed tracking sheets have been sent to them and they can contact Sefton if they have concerns about a pre-school not sending info or if they feel it is wrong in any way. To the same degree we can contact Sefton if we have a concern about a primary school not sharing information. My primary concern are the cuts affecting the most vulnerable eg SEN children.
- We have valued the help and advice that we have been given over the years, by the Sefton early years team.
- I have always received a good service from my Childcare Quality team. I received a lot of training to help me understand the EYFS framework and help

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towards my Ofsted inspection, enabling me to achieve a grade Good and Outstanding in some areas. I feel with more training I could achieve outstanding in more areas.

- Increase childminding networks and then training can be given during sessions and childminders are more likely to be kept up to date.
- Sharing good practice does mean that advisors need to visit a variety of settings and on a regular basis, cut backs will only isolate some nurseries even more.
- Any further reduction in the service provided by the Early Years Team would be detrimental to the standard of care we provide children and parents. We find the support the team offers us invaluable in running the setting and losing this would inevitably have a big impact on our ability to run a successful Pre-school.
- The opportunities and support provided by A Bentley and her team over the past few years has enabled us to develop a much greater understanding of how to provide a quality early years experience for children. We need their continued involvement to stay at that level and to keep staff motivation high.
- Inclusion grants are vital to our provision. We can operate at levels of 25% sessions taken by children with SEN's or EAL. This has been the case for the past 10 plus years. We find the existing system of having to apply for inclusion grants every term and then being paid in arrears, very frustrating from a workload point of view, for the recruitment/retention of staff and financially. Any improvements to this situation would be appreciated.
- When we have attended training in the past or attended meetings, there are often 3 / 4 members of the Early Years team there and often, only 1 of the team addresses the audience. Do they all need to attend? Couldn't their time be used more efficiently i.e. to pay for the training? Consistency amongst advisors and advice given. The tracking system now used in our setting is a good idea from Sefton, however, this is not what seems to be happening in schools. Why are Nurseries and schools not doing the same planning and tracking systems? It seems that schools are able to plan as classes rather than individually. Is this fair?
- I feel that Early Years have been a great support to us over the years. They are always available and willing to help in anyway they can. If there are too many cut backs with regard to staffing then this could have a 'knock on' effect with regard to the quality of service we give. It is always good having someone to come in and advise us.

I think that the cost of the courses is going to have a great impact on all of the settings as we are all struggling to cover larger bills with still the same amount of money coming in, if not less as some parents are losing hours.

- In the past there are documents, charts we have been asked to prepare then forgotten about and not asked for again. There is paperwork we can cut down on but on occasions need support with others
- The training and advice we have had from EYCQI department has been fantastic over the years and has helped many Out of School clubs achieve a good or outstanding Ofsted report. A reduction in this service may have a detrimental effect on all of us.
- Statutory training should remain free and any new training for the delivery of the EYFS. Without this we would be unable to deliver a quality setting and standards will fall. Visits by one member of support staff once per term would be sufficient with the option of the setting being able to contact them if required for extra support.
- Sefton Early Years have had a great influence in the way early years education has been portrayed in our area and we feel if they have to reduce their services, the local community and children will suffer. There has been a

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marked improvement in 'conditions' for our local children and just as things seem to be improving, cuts are being made. These children are our future.

- Once again I would like to reiterate that the Early Years team has been an excellent source of support to our setting and has unquestionably supported our attainment of 'Outstanding'. I also felt that the partnership with early language consultants during ECAT was invaluable and it would be aspirational to continue to have this support return in some capacity.
- During a time when the EYFS is under review I feel strongly that our Early Years team is now as important as ever and should stay as it is, offering the much needed support and guidance as it has always given.
- As a childminder who currently has a lot of vacancies I am unable to afford to pay for training at the level set at the moment. I feel a contribution towards the cost would encourage more use of training facilities.
- Can I also add that the ICP course I attended was excellent. Early Years staff were brilliant and extremely helpful. I often stayed behind after class to ask questions and always felt they were there to help. I have sent e-mails, made phone calls when I have had questions too and they were all very efficient and responded quickly. I think they are all fantastic at their jobs, and feel they go that little bit further, in making all the Childminders I know (including myself) completely at ease and relaxed about approaching them knowing they will get the help no matter what.
- I think the support we receive is essential to the needs of the children.
- We feel any educational needs would not be there. The support is very important for us.
- Childminders have come a long way forward in our professional status with the help of the local team. If the team goes it will plunge childminding back into the dark ages!
- My Early Years Adviser has been such a support for me over the last couple of years. Thanks to the training and support I got an outstanding judgement in my last inspection. I feel without her and the network standards would not be as high. I have valued my Early Years Advisers help over the years and feel that with her help and support I have achieved outstanding in my last two Ofsted inspections.
- I have depended on the Early Years staff and the SENCO Co-ordinator.
- Helps us as a setting to improve in all areas of learning and keep up to date with what other settings in the surrounding areas are doing and promoting. Support from quality worker sharing ideas, challenges and experiences, which can help develop setting from setting. Nice to receive praise and support from somebody who does not pay to use our service and is aware of the standards expected by Ofsted. Through the input of SEYQIS we feel confident that we meet Ofsted requirements and fear without their support and regular involvement that we will not continue to develop and thrive as a setting that aims to provide the best possible start to all children within our provision. Overall the support maintains our high standards as we driven to review and evaluate our practice from the advice and input of SEYQIS.
- 1:1 Funding – all nurseries should have this funding monthly and in advance, not retrospectively and without delay as we finish up waiting to be paid for staffing costs we have already paid out for
To be guided by the advice of paying 1:1 support at National Minimum wage level does not make financial sense at all. Any employer knows the on costs of employing each individual; National Insurance / Administration i.e. Accountants paid for wages / Monthly employment law so many costs. The end result of this will be employment of poor quality staff on very low wages; nurseries being forced to make a loss on 1:1 provision in order to fully include and meet the needs and targets for the individual child.

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- I am doubtful the consultation will tell you anything you don't know. I have been fortunate to work alongside some wonderfully professional committed individuals (Mentioned earlier) who have put their heart and souls into a sector they clearly believe in. They have always acted with passion for children. Sefton training has told us and demonstrated clearly with statistical information, the importance of quality in the Early Years. This is mirrored with the document 'Supporting families in the Foundation years'
- The EY Service has provided valuable support to our provision and has assisted us in enabling quality outcomes for children, young people and families. Overall the improvement in the quality of EY provision is a testimony of EY services and to withdraw this support will have a significant impact and will determine the future of many aspects of provision for children and their families.
- Our provision has strengthened due to the input and support of our Quality Worker. Practitioner's knowledge has increased by attending relevant courses. Guidance from EY has ensured that our policies and procedures are current and up to date. A multi agency support approach to tracking and development has helped to embed new documentation.
- We are not on a big income as most of our children are part-time. Insurance has gone up, home car and public liability. Ofsted fees have gone up, all the paperwork has increased our costs. Our charges have not gone up in proportion to these costs, if they did we would have no work.
- Without the continued support of EY and Network the quality of childcare would not be of such a high standard as they help support us with training / guidance for Ofsted requirements.
- I feel my setting would suffer without the help and support of all the team.
- With all the ongoing changes at Ofsted, I cannot keep up with paperwork, as soon as it's complete it's changed again. Without Sefton's help I would not understand it. I need things explained and simplified before I take it in. I need this help and was told I would get it. I hope this help will still be available to me.
- We feel as a setting that training opportunities have not been available since cuts were made. Practitioners need ongoing professional development to ensure high quality provision for all children. Support visits from the Early Years Team enable Practitioners to reflect and evaluate current practice and provision and continue to improve Sefton's Early Years provision. Any more cuts in the Early Years Team/Service would be extremely damaging.
- We really cannot stress how valuable we find the service provided by Sefton Early Years Team. We have been and continue to be advised, encouraged, informed and developed by the team who are always on hand to offer us much needed advice and support. HB has worked tirelessly for us and with us and we have benefited hugely from the quality of service she provides. The training courses we have attended have also been extremely useful and have always been informative, clear and concise and very well delivered.
- I just feel that the excellent standard of childcare provision that Sefton currently enjoys, is largely due to the work and support of the Early Years Team. I have two relatives currently working in childcare in other regions and by comparison they do not seem to have had the same level of assistance not the same high standard of Ofsted judgements in their regions. It would be a shame to see our team be reduced to the detriment of childcare providers confidence and morale, as they are the driving force of our profession.
- Feel some of the money that is spent on quality worker visits should be more beneficial for quality training
- Any cuts resulting from the review will lead to children and families losing out. The SEYQIS has played a crucial role in our setting achieving 'Outstanding'

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Ofsted judgement and I feel that a loss of this service would be a loss for all of the children who practitioners work so hard for, to be able to offer them such a high quality EY experience. This service is vital to the future success of the children within our care.

Any review proposing to downsize the EY team poses a severe threat to maintaining high quality successful PVI operations at a time when we will shortly be facing the challenges of the revised EYFS framework and the latest government initiative, 'Supporting Families in the Foundation Years'. If Sefton EY are not available to respond quickly to users' queries this could lead to user isolation, or development of inferior practice. This is totally counterproductive if we believe in the importance of early intervention, firm foundations and how much young children benefit from quality care and education. I trust this consultation is the first of a series of new initiatives in which the PVI sector can fully participate on equal terms with all other EY providers, including schools; we need further face to face discussions / workshops if we are to be fully involved in the redesigning of the EY service.

- From a managers point of view it is good to know that you have got the support network of Sefton Early Years. They are there to support you to improve the quality of care we are providing. If this is no longer available then this may have detrimental effects on the children and the settings, the impact of this will only be reflected in years to come.
- We have already noticed the impact of reduced funding as support for the QISP reduced and the SENCO Training has stopped 'Help I'm a SENCO'
- Due to the current Tickell review I feel that the timing is wrong for Sefton to review the Early Years team and the services they provide. At a time of great uncertainty of the impact the review will have on the Early Years Foundation Stage and how the recommendations will effect settings, I worry that weaker settings will not gain adequate support to implement the recommendations to continue to provide quality care and education.

As the Children's Minister Sarah Teather stated: "The importance of the early years – as a foundation for life and for future attainment and success – cannot be over estimated. That's why it's vital we have the right framework to support high quality early years education". I feel that by reducing the support and training to Early Years setting we are in danger of reducing the present high quality of Sefton's early years provision.

The recent Sefton Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011 (5.2. Quality) found

Generally, childcare in Sefton is good; a significant amount of childcare has been rated as good by Ofsted, some is outstanding. The Early Years and Childcare Service work closely to support and guide childcare providers to improve quality, via a system of monitoring, support and training." [and] "Overall, childcare providers feel supported by Sefton Early Years and Childcare Service. (only 8% say this is not the case), and value the training and guidance on offer to help them improve quality. Indeed, when asked about how the Local Authority could support providers, continuation of this valued service was the most frequently cited support need".

When conducting the review these valuable findings need to be considered.

- Previous training courses have focused on the essential courses and more SEN courses and focused courses for newly qualified staff to get further experience would be of benefit to the settings.
- We would like to confirm that without the support of the Early Years team in our settings (2) Ainsdale would not have achieved an Outstanding Ofsted Report and Southport a Good Ofsted Report. They have been most beneficial in helping us develop our settings to such high standards and assisting us in providing the children with high quality care, thus enhancing

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the children's experiences and their own development consistently in all areas of learning and development. Our staff have gained a broad knowledge and understanding of safeguarding from the training provided and up to date legislation and information disseminated to us by the early years team. This enhances greatly our ability to safeguard all children.

One of our main points would be to note the additional support from the Inclusion team regarding children in our nurseries who require additional support such as Behavioural issues to SEN that require more one to one assistance. The team have been available at any time to give advice and encouragement about these children and any matters that may arise.

We feel that to lose the support of the Early Years team would have an effect on the quality of care the children receive as our staff would be less knowledgeable about present as well as changing curriculum and legislation required to provide such care.

- The Government Green Paper ECM set out its vision on how society should be organising itself to meet the needs of all children. A range of family needs can be met through opportunities on offer. However if reduced or taken away, this would affect our service due to particular needs such as mental health difficulties and disabilities. Parents needs have to be precise, we as a team we are sensitive about our community needs and negotiation skills which have been supported by your team over the last 10 years. As children under the age of 4 years old are only supported by your service at Next Steps Nursery our positive outcomes have only been possible as a result of the sensitive process of initial engagement by yourselves. The purpose of this approach however, is to show that it is important how to consider how the service you provide can have a positive impact on different stakeholders. In our service as an example our outdoor area. Children have received more individual support. All staff received in-service training on children at risk. Through shared belief and vision of your team this has given us the initiative to take on new activities without fear and to operate within a professional climate, which balances openness to new ideas.
- The support from our LA has been amazing over the past few years and this support has created better provision and outcomes for children. I hope that we still receive this support in the future to continue to improve our delivery of services to children and their families.
- Early Years in an invaluable support team for settings. Early Years act as a link between the provider and Ofsted, supporting settings to develop further towards 'outstanding'.
We also feel that all settings should have equal time allocated to them and that this shouldn't only be based on their Ofsted outcome as settings will always want to continue improving and develop further with the support from the Early Years team.
- The service has been an excellent support and help to myself and my staff team. I believe that the training they have provided in terms of EYFS and QISP has been excellent. The support they give for safeguarding issues is invaluable.
As more PVI nurseries open and indeed government funded it is reassuring that there is another 'body' with a magnifying glass over the early years and the areas youngest and most vulnerable children. The reduction of this service would enable some providers of the future to endanger what has become a positive area of Merseyside in terms of childcare and quality.
- As I've been a childminder for the past 15 years, I feel there have been many changes over time with different requirements that need to meet for Ofsted, and I believe I would not meet all these requirements without the support of the early years team, as they are always very helpful and also understanding

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to encourage us with our childcare we offer for the children. As I am a network childminder I feel the co-ordinator of the group, Jeanette, is wonderful for the support she has given over the last 6 years since I've joined the group, and I feel I would find my job much harder if she wasn't there to support us and I am happy to say I'm an overall GOOD grade with outstanding areas which I feel I met with the support and help given through the early years team.

I would like to say finally that it would be a great loss to childminders in this area if we were to lose any of the services offered through early years, and it would have an impact on the service we offer, as we might not be kept fully updated on new things being asked for or have someone there just to check on things we might not be sure about,

Thank you for your time concerning this matter and I hope this helps towards keeping early years there for childminders.

- The team is extremely valuable to settings as a resource, a bank of knowledge and a group of experts in the field of early years childcare...most of them have degrees and EYF status so what a shame to waste all of that training and funding...by cutting the service. Sefton early years need to work in real partnership with the settings they support and ask us all what do you need? How can we help? How can we ensure that you get outstanding judgements from Ofsted?

The support we receive should be in partnership. We need very clear guidelines on what we need to be doing, particularly in the area of safeguarding children. We need to all be less negative and worried about failing and who gets the blame, and more positive, working together with our shared good practice and sound knowledge of child development to make the childcare in Sefton the best it can be. Without a service though, we will all be very isolated and poor practice will go unnoticed, which will lead to very sad consequences for childcare in Sefton.

- In the document **Transforming Sefton point E1.7-Early Years Outcomes Monitoring and Quality Support – Reduced Funding Consultation Summary states: “Level of staff support for SEN children in PVI and childcare settings would be affected”**. A dreadful thought! and not without impact. If financial and advice support for Inclusion is reduced or disappears, families will feel isolated as settings are forced to be unable to support them by offering childcare and more specific targeted support. The Early Years Practice Guidance 2008 clearly states “Early year’s practitioners have a key role to play in working with parents to support their young children. This should include identifying learning needs and responding quickly to any difficulties”. The Special Educational Code of Practice has clear guidance about how we should support children with Special needs. Children with SEN require enhanced services involving additional support for Parents and also supporting the transition to School. Settings already struggle to gain support for children under the age of 3. The Early Year’s team provide valuable support to settings at an early stage to identify needs, plan for individual learning and refer to other specialist professionals and if necessary to provide assistance to follow procedure to gain statement. The reduction of this support for children with SEN would be devastating and most likely mean going back in time to many children entering into Key Stage 1 without their needs known so hindering them to reach their full potential. This is supported by Children’s Minister Sarah Teather when ordering the review to improve the training and qualifications of people working in the Early Years said: “It’s essential that people working in the early years have the right skills and training to give children the best start in life. One of the most important factors affecting a child’s healthy development is the quality of the education and

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childcare they receive in their earliest years. We want to make sure young children are starting school ready and able to learn. So we need to look at the training and qualifications of those working in the early years". A fully functioning Early Years team must be available to take the lead in ensuring all our settings have quality training to enable staff to gain adequate qualifications.

Other responses

See appendix 1

Alternative options proposals

None proposed – however see response, within the report, to question 4 from settings and schools.

Monitoring Information

None collated as sent to Schools and Settings.

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APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Other Documentation Representation

Early Years Consultation

Minutes of meeting with the members of the SAPH EY Group – Jennifer Reid as Council representative.

Wednesday 9th November 2011

PDC 2.30pm

Head teachers present	School
5 headteachers present (names removed)	

- Jennifer Reid had previously made contact with the Chair of SAPH and informed him of the need to consult with schools. He described their process that I should meet with the EY HTs Group to decide on how to consult and then questionnaires would be sent out to all schools through him as the Chair.
- Informed the group that the council had agreed in their meeting of 13/10/11 to move forwards on a consultation process with a view to making a saving in the EY budget.
- Confirmed that the council has to make £20m of savings next year.
- Referred the HTs to the council report from 13/10/11 on the website – all had seen it, including the figure of £250k listed as the saving to be made in the EY budget. Reported that this was an indicative figure only.
- Shared the questionnaire sent to the PVI settings and the HTs felt that this could be used a basis for a questionnaire to all HTs. They would want to include a list of all that is currently on offer to schools to be included so that they can identify what is important; a list has been provided.
- Stated that consultation goes alongside other consultations e.g. the EY team provide some SEN support and the LA consultation on the provision for SEN is already underway.
- Agreed at the end of the meeting that the HTs in the group would refine and add to the questionnaire so that it best suits their contexts and the information they want to provide. The Chair of the Group will email me a copy, and then send it to all schools.
- They stated that would want responses as possible before their next SAPH meeting (22/11/11) and they would chase up replies. All responses to be sent to me.

Please Contact: name provided
Address: Tweenie Tots 2
by
Date: 16th January 2012

Dear

I am writing to you as a Cabinet Member on behalf of the Sefton Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Forum. We have a determined and passionate message for you to seriously and carefully consider when influencing the appropriateness of further cuts to our Early Years Department at the Cabinet meeting on 2nd February 2012.

The implications of cutting further this service are serious and it is essential that cuts are made with a realistic understanding of the impact it will have on Sefton Families and Children.

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The Early Years Team in its present form (appreciating the cuts that have already been made) is clearly already struggling to meet the demands of the Providers. ***The Providers requests of Early Years support are in response to a need to meet the needs of the families, National Strategies and Local and National reviews.***

I should express that the Forum felt that the initial consultation letter informing us about the impact of reducing the Early Years team and levels of support did not sufficiently explain to settings how far the cuts could go in reducing the current level of service provided by the team.

Early Years at best provided us with

- inspiration
- motivation
- ambitions for our children and families
- direction
- a strong link to Government priority
- communication of Sefton Priority
- mandatory training
- specific best practice lead training
- opportunities to introduce new frameworks that are working successfully in other authorities
- advice, support and funding for vulnerable children and their families including those with special needs, looked after children, those with social care needs and those with English as an additional language
- Support to parent who are vulnerable, afraid when their child is in need of additional support to thrive and develop.
- A quality enforcement programme, offering settings quality management and development
- Creation and enforcement of S.L.A in relation to NEG
- Much more!

Many of these services have already disappeared leaving a skeletal service that is offering little of the above and leaving what is left at risk. The serious threat to families lies with the further reduction again of the service.

The Early Years Team offer a cushion to the Local Authority providing an integrated service covering education, special needs, health, training, social care and safeguarding. This valuable service minimises the risk of the likelihood of a tragic horror story of an unsupported setting making a poor judgement for a child. They attend settings regularly and gauge the level of care, the level of practice, the child's safety and the setting's ability to meet the child's needs emotionally physically and educationally. I wish the threat didn't exist but I'm afraid it does.

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Some settings we are sure you will find, may feel that they do not require the support of the Early Years team. They may feel that they would prefer not to have officers making visits to their setting with a critical eye, quality enforcement measures and ideas.

However, no setting could argue or dispute with any integrity that the suggested cuts, if made in line with Reference E1.7 would, as you have identified in your risk assessment possibly (I would say definitely!!) lead to poorer outcomes for Sefton children.

The risk that settings may fall into the category of 'inadequate' is terrifying for the children attending and the Parents placing trust in the setting, Local Authority and Government Standards.

We strongly feel that it is unacceptable to make a cut at all when there is a risk that children will be placed for hours on end in an environment that cannot/will not meet their needs.

We see a big problem with the timing of this review and proposed cuts!

The Tickell Report (2011) has led to a review of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is the statutory framework for children from Birth to 5 years. Every setting will be required to revisit every element of their environments and practice. The Early Years team will be required to support every setting with the implementation of the changes. I do not see how this can be managed with a reduction in the team and the level of service they provide.

The **Government** document "**Supporting families in the Foundation Years**" states that the role of settings is going to evolve greatly in supporting families and providing a valuable link with health visitors. It suggests settings will provide more in depth information to other Childcare Professionals, forming part of regular development checks for children from the age of 2 years. We are already recognising the impact of the 2 year old funded projects. These are the most vulnerable children in Sefton and it is essential that we have the quality support of the Early Years team to accesses when these children first attend our settings to ensure that they are making good progress.

Many settings are going to need considerable training to be able to produce accurate, moderated information that will provide evidence for such checks. Early Years I am sure will be required to assist all settings with being capable to 'practice' at this level.

The challenges of the EYFS review, the implementation of practice required to enable the supporting of the document '**Supporting Families in the Foundation Years**', our country's difficult economy and subsequent impact on the family unit are going to put pressures on settings that I believe are going to be unprecedented.

Families themselves are going to be challenged financially; this has always, and will remain, to put pressure on the home life of children. Domestic violence and broken relationships increase at times when there is an economic downturn.

Settings will experience new challenges. These will require support from the Early Years Team.

Frank Field's review of child poverty emphasises the importance of improving parenting and children's early development as a means of ending the inter-generational transmission of child poverty. He points to the impact that high quality early education for two year olds can have on later life chances, noting that known vocabulary at aged 5 is the best predictor of whether children are able to escape poverty in later life. For the first time the government has recognised the wealth of research on brain development and the importance of the early years in developing a firm foundation before children start school. It is ironical that we are cutting the Early Years team when we have evidence of the impact they and settings have had on improving our younger children's future life chances.

In the document **Transforming Sefton point E1.7-Early Years Outcomes Monitoring and Quality Support – Reduced Funding Consultation Summary states:**

The savings proposed in this option would lead to:

1. **“A reduction in staffing to the Early Years team”**. The staffing team has already experienced reductions in staff through natural wastage. Further reductions would be detrimental to the services our setting provide to the families of Sefton and to the statutory and moral duties that Sefton has to providing High Quality Early Years Care and Education to our younger children. I feel it is important that we all give a clear message to our parents and the nation that the children of Sefton do matter, and that we support their rights to Be Healthy, Make a Positive Contribution, Stay Safe, Achieve Economic well being and Enjoy and ACHIEVE
2. **“Visits to settings to monitor quality and ensure statutory duties are met will be reduced according to need, with good and outstanding setting receiving fewer/no visits”**. Families have the “right” to expect High Quality of Early Years Care and Education. The reduction in visits will mean more inadequate Ofsted judgements, unthinkable to me as satisfactory settings are only meeting the minimum requirements of the EYFS. Also Sefton will fall down in the L.A league tables for quality.
3. **“Training offered will be greatly reduced to that only linked to statutory duties and vulnerable pupils (e.g. SEN) Level of staff support for SEN children in PVI and childcare settings would be affected”**. A dreadful thought! and not without impact. If financial and advice support for Inclusion is reduced or disappears, families will feel isolated as settings are forced to be unable to support them by offering childcare and more specific targeted support. The Early Years Practice Guidance 2008 clearly states “Early year’s practitioners have a key role to play in working with parents to support their young children. This should include identifying learning needs and responding quickly to any difficulties”. The Special Educational Code of Practice has clear guidance about how we should support children with Special needs. Children with SEN require enhanced services involving additional support for Parents and also supporting the transition to School. Settings already struggle to gain support for children under the age of 3. The Early Year’s team provide valuable support to settings at an early stage to identify needs, plan for individual learning and refer to other specialist professionals and if necessary to provide assistance to follow procedure to gain statement. The reduction of this support for children with SEN would be devastating and most likely mean going back in time to many children entering into Key Stage 1 without their needs known so hindering them to reach their full potential. This is supported by Children’s Minister Sarah Teather when ordering the review to improve the training and qualifications of people working in the Early Years said: “It’s essential that people working in the early years have the right skills and training to give children the best start in life. One of the most important factors affecting a child’s healthy development is the quality of the education and childcare they receive in their earliest years. We want to make sure young children are starting school ready and able to learn. So we need to look at the training and qualifications of those working in the early years”. A fully functioning Early Years team must be available to take the lead in ensuring all our settings have quality training to enable staff to gain adequate qualifications.

As a Forum we have strong opinions on this. Why have we got them? Largely from commitment to meet children’s needs, a passion to make a difference through motivation, training, knowledge, skills and support we have been given from the Early Years Team at Sefton. We do appreciate that cuts and savings are required but we feel that this **MUST NOT** be at a cost of our children’s welfare and achievements. Children attending Early Years settings are the future generation of Sefton and we

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feel that the input of the Early Years Team is vital to ensuring our future youth and work force have a firm foundation on which to build their education and other skills to ensure a brighter economic future for all our families.

Bearing in mind the above I again ask for you to seriously and carefully consider when influencing the appropriateness of further cuts to our Early Years Department.
Yours Sincerely

Spokes person Sefton Early Years PVI Forum

Copy:
All Cabinet Members

Tuesday 10th January 2012

PVI Forum Meeting PDC 11.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

1. Register
2. It was explained that I had requested of the Chair some time to report current findings from the PVI questionnaires returned to date. The attached summary was used to provide the key findings from the responses.
3. There was general disappointment in the number of returns from providers and the Chair agreed to send a high-priority email to encourage more returns. It was also stated that providers could provide their comments directly by email to Jenny Reid up to noon 16th January. The close of the consultation period. The Forum was told that all their responses have been collated and will be provided to Cabinet as an appendix to the summary, and it was reinforced that any submissions up to noon 16th January would be included.
4. The group wished to reinforce the following:
 - i. the strength of feeling that Sefton must keep an Early Years team to support this sector;
 - j. that any other saving options should be explored first, before looking at staff reductions e.g. reducing costs by being totally paperless;
 - k. paying for training now and in the future is a real issue for a number of settings, that could prove detrimental to their provision and children's outcomes;
 - l. there is a strong need for training related to mandatory/essential issues, and for training related to the changes to be made to the EYFS Framework for September 2012; and,
 - m. the strong feeling that members of the EY team did not attend PVI training if they were not actually delivering.
5. The question was asked about any responses that mentioned safeguarding; the answer being that it generally arose in terms of it being referenced as essential training. Comments were made that support for settings with safeguarding issues was important as a small number need access to advice and support from wider Sefton services than just the training they currently access. The Forum wished this to be included in key findings in the final summary.
6. A question was asked if the actual amount of the cut to the budget was known. It was explained that the Cabinet would be reviewing all consultations on 2nd February to make recommendations to the Council, to be approved at

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the Council meeting of 16th February. Some members of the group suggested that they would like to make further representation to the Council, possibly by having a presence at the 16th February Council meeting.

7. The question was asked if there was a new EY Team structure in place. It was explained that work cannot begin on a new structure until the budget is known for 2012-13, and that any new structure would be on the premise of starting with a clean sheet, to take into account firstly statutory duties of the LA, and then responses from the consultation, especially in terms of key findings, and any other further considerations.
8. The group had earlier in the meeting recorded what they felt was important to consider when moving forwards – a request has been made to the Chair for a copy of that list.
9. Agreed actions by the end of the meeting:
 - n. for the Chair to email all settings and strongly encourage them to make a response to the consultation if they have not yet done so;
 - o. for the Chair to share the list of aspects the group had earlier discussed in the meeting, relating to what they wanted to have access to moving forwards;
 - p. for JR to confirm to the Chair the dates and venues of the Cabinet and Council meetings; and,
 - q. for JR to send to the Chair the final summary of findings when completed.

Equality Analysis Report E1.7

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E1.7

Details of proposal: This proposal would lead to a reduction in staffing in the Early Years team. Visits to settings to monitor quality and ensure statutory duties are met will be reduced according to need, with good and outstanding settings receiving fewer/no visits. Training offered will be greatly reduced to that only linked to statutory duties and vulnerable pupils (e.g. Special Educational Need). Support and funding in Private Voluntary Independent (PVI) and childcare settings will reduce, however, statutory requirements to meet the needs of SEN children will continue to be met. Support for schools will greatly reduce, and will be targeted to those schools where we consider that intervention is needed to intervene to order to greatly improve quality.

The Early Years and Childcare Quality and Inclusion Service ensures that the Local Authority meets its statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2007 details the actions the LA must undertake in order to meet the duties:

- 4.7 Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to secure the provision of information, advice and training, whether delivered by themselves or by others, to meet the needs of local providers and support sufficiency of childcare provision.
- 4.8 Regulations made under Section 13 require that, within the context of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), this provision includes: training and support in meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; ensuring that training in Early Years FS assessment and the completion of the Early Years Foundation Stage

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Profile summaries is offered to all providers who require it; meeting the needs of disabled children and those with special educational needs and the use of effective safeguarding and child protection procedures; support in entering the childcare market and in meeting the registration and regulatory requirements.

- 4.9 In addition, local authorities must secure information, advice and training to all childcare providers who have been deemed inadequate by Ofsted; and to those who have been granted a temporary exemption for a specific period of time to give them an opportunity to develop their provision so that it meets the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 4.10 Local authorities have the responsibility for assuring that Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment judgements are moderated. They appoint and train moderators with appropriate experience of the Early Year Foundation Stage and the early learning goals to secure consistent standards in assessment judgements.
- 4.11 Local authorities ensure that all providers are visited regularly as part of a cycle of moderation visits and notify the provider whether the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment is being carried out in accordance with requirements. Where the moderator judges that the assessment is not in line with the exemplified standards, the local authority can require the provider to arrange for the practitioner to participate in further training/moderation activities and to reconsider their assessments as advised by the moderator.

Support is provided for all schools with children aged 3-5yrs, and particularly those schools with Early Years Foundation Stage departments that are satisfactory or inadequate (in terms of Ofsted judgments) or who have very low outcomes by the end of Early Years Foundation Stage. This co-ordinated approach with the School Improvement Team means that schools can be supported to improve outcomes and provide early intervention where appropriate. The team leads on the moderation process (4.10 and 4.11 above) to ensure that judgements made on children's development and learning are accurate.

The members of the Early Years Childcare Quality & Inclusion Service team monitor, challenge and support the quality of provision in all settings with 0-5 aged children: 75 Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings, 171 childminders (5 are registered with Ofsted), 36 Out Of School (OOS) settings and 22 settings registered for holiday provision. Much success has been seen in recent years in terms of improving Ofsted judgements and improving Local Authority results in key target areas of pupils' outcomes by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The introduction of the national Quality Improvement Support Programme (QISP) means that the team assesses settings against criteria relating to leadership and management; practitioner learning; partnerships for learning and development; progress and learning; and environments. Settings are then Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rated (Red – low priority; Amber – medium priority; Green – low priority) which is reassessed every year. Over the three-year period 2009-11, the percentage of Red settings has reduced from 15% to 7%. All other settings are good or excellent when judged against Quality Improvement Support Programme criteria.

Particular emphasis is given to advising and training settings in Safeguarding procedures and support for Special Educational Needs pupils. There is a distinct allocation (Inclusion Grant) within the budget to allocate to settings to support the provision for Special Educational Needs pupils following a multi-agency assessment of the child.

The Early Years Childcare Quality & Inclusion Service also supports the Two-Year Project, led by

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the Families and Schools Together Team (FAST). The project aims to improve outcomes and close the gap in attainment by funding childcare in high quality settings for our most disadvantaged children. Early Years Childcare Quality & Inclusion Service advise and support settings to develop personalised children's play plans, and to develop effective systems for tracking and assessment in the prime areas of Communication and Language, physical development, and personal, social and emotional development. These areas are particularly important for children's capacity to learn and develop.

Recent changes to ways of working

- A more formal schedule of differentiated visits to settings has been implemented, based on Quality Improvement Support Programme criteria and Red Amber or Green (RAG) rating, with the settings in need of most improvement receiving most support.
- Reduced training offered, ensuring that only 'essentials' are provided e.g. safeguarding. However, there is the capacity for settings and schools to be charged for attendance at course, and for access to other support.
- Supply cover is no longer given for courses, making savings to the existing budget.
- Loss of the Graduate Leader Funding means reduced work within the team in organising and monitoring how the funding has been spent.
- The Big Lottery three-year project to develop free and inclusive play facilities for children ended in July 2011, releasing some management time that had been given to monitoring and evaluating the programme.
- With the loss of extended schools, there is no longer the need to monitor the childcare as part of it.
- This team originally had responsibility for the DCATCH programme (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) but this was moved to another team. Therefore, this reduced the work of the EYCQIS staff as they were no longer involved in developing personalised packages of care for identified children.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

Visits to settings to monitor quality and ensure statutory duties are met will be reduced according to need, with good and outstanding settings receiving fewer/no visits. Training offered will be greatly reduced to that only linked to statutory duties and vulnerable pupils (e.g. SEN). Support and funding in Private Voluntary Independent (PVI) and childcare settings will reduce, however, statutory requirements to meet the needs of SEN children will continue to be met. Support for schools will greatly reduce, and will be targeted to those schools where we consider that intervention is needed to intervene to order to greatly improve quality.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Inclusion Grant is used to support Special Educational Needs (SEN) children in our Early Years Foundation Stage settings. There has already been a 20% cut to this grant, which means that the allocation for 2011-12 has reduced to £100,000. As a result, the process for application has been revised and strengthened. Members of the team are now more involved in the assessment of children's needs in the settings during their visits. In some instances, the team can advise the settings on a range of alternative actions, which pre-empts an*

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application for finance to enable specific support. Where it is agreed that the setting should apply for financial support, the application is submitted for consideration. It is also feasible for settings to allocate staff time to more than one Special Educational Needs child where appropriate. Our children at the highest level of need of support will continue to receive support according to need.

* It has been agreed that there is a need to review procedures to bring them more in-line with those for other phases so there is a consistent process for all age groups.

Consultation/. (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)

- The schools have been informed about a review of services, including early years, in a letter from the People's Director(06/12/10).
- All Private Voluntary & Independent (PVI) settings were informed early this year that the support from the service was now needs-led rather than universal, as vacant posts and two maternity leaves led to a reallocation of workload. (07/01/11 and 05/05/11).
- PVI providers were informed that the early years service will be reviewed this term (12/09/11)
- Consultation with Early Years staff re forthcoming Cabinet meeting (Head of Service 05/10/11)
- Letter to PVI settings re budget savings 2012-13 (Head of Service 06/10/11)
- Consultation meeting with the Early Years team on future provision (Service Manager 19/10/11)
- Questionnaire sent to all PVI settings (Service Manager 20/10/11)
- Consultation with Primary HTs EY group (Service Manager 09/11/11)
- Questionnaire sent to schools (Service Manager 18/11/11)
- Responses through questionnaires analysed (Service Manager 06/01/12)
- Attendance at PVI Forum to feedback on findings from consultation so far, and to record further comments (Service Manager 10/01/12)

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes.

- *The team will still provide support to settings and schools to be inclusive for all children aged 0-5.*
- *The team will continue to support settings and schools to develop effective monitoring and assessment procedures, and to implement appropriate interventions for closing the gap between the most disadvantaged children and the rest.*
- *The team will continue to monitor all settings' provision for vulnerable groups, especially those with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, and those youngest children from the most disadvantaged areas at risk of development delay. The current population of vulnerable children attending settings in the private and voluntary sector comprises:*
 - 54 children who are the subject of a health care plan or have a physical disability;
 - 6 children have been diagnosed as Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), or assessment evidence suggests that they will be given an ASD diagnosis;
 - 24 children are the subject of a Common Assessment Framework (CAF);
 - 12 children are the subject of a child protection plan;
 - 11 children are the subject of a children in need plan;
 - 14 children are LAC; and,
 - 30 children have English as an additional language and accompanying spoken

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English needs.

(The above represents 2.5% of the total number of children in PVI settings)

- *Of the current population of children attending PVI settings, the following shows the number of children at each stage of the graduated response:*
 - 36 children are at the highest level of need, Early Years Action Plus. 24 of these children benefit from an EY Inclusion Grant in order that the provision meets their specific needs. The role of the team is to support the childcare staff in designing individualised programmes, moderating assessment evidence, training staff as appropriate, monitoring the effective use of the Inclusion Grant, and supporting transition into school.
 - 41 children are at the slightly lower level of need, Early Years Action. 2 of these children benefit from an Inclusion Grant. This allows the children to receive intensive help for a fixed time period and for professionals to gain a more precise understanding of need.
 - 50 children have been identified because their learning and development is below age related expectations. The role of the team is to ensure that each child receives individualised help in order to accelerate progress. This is a universal service.
- ♦ The Early Years Team supports children who benefit from the 2 year old offer; these are the most vulnerable 2 year olds in Sefton, from economically disadvantaged families and communities, are at risk of under attainment, and/or have learning and development that is already below national expectations. The following data relates to 2 year old children attending settings in the PVI sector and does not include the Children's Centres.
 - 46 children attend settings, funded by the 2 year old offer.
 - 26 new children will be admitted to settings in January/February 2012. These places become available as children reach the age of 3 and are able to access the free early education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. However these 3 year olds remain in settings and a large percentage of them remain in a 'vulnerable' category.
 - An additional 20+ children will enter settings during the next month in line with the increased and targeted funding for 2 year olds.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

HR Procedures will be followed to implement the proposal
Partners will be informed of changes

Recommendation to Cabinet E1.7:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E1.7 and recommend to the Council that

1. core funding be reduced by 50% be approved
2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary
3. Note that the Council will continue to deliver its statutory duties under Section 13 of the Childcare Act 2006 subject to the final decision of Council.

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Reference E3.6

Service Description: Lifeguard Cover

Categorisation: Tier 1

Reduce life guard cover at all swimming pools.

The Sport & Recreation Service is responsible for the management and operation of the Councils sport & leisure centres, sports development, physical activity and health promotion programmes, positive futures project, contract monitoring for Crosby Leisure Centre & Formby Pool. Assets: 5 sport & leisure centres; 1 outdoor pursuits & residential activity centre; 2 facilities under contract; a workforce of 250 full time equivalents. It has in excess of 3m visits/users p.a.

It is commissioned to deliver services to partners; value circa £1.4m p.a. with grant support sustaining an additional 30 fixed term posts.

Consultation has closed on the following option - Reduce life guard cover at all swimming pools which will include;

- No cover for public sessions between the hours of 07.00 – 09.00 & 20.00 – 22.00.
- No cover in the learner pool at Dunes during weekdays.
- No cover for clubs sessions.
- Reduced cover during school swimming lessons.
- Reduced cover in Splash World.

Original rationale for service change proposal – It is possible for the Council to operate without lifeguards at certain times, providing that appropriate notification is advertised to this effect. Many private sector leisure clubs and hotels do not staff pools and place the responsibility and decision to use at the participants own risk. In addition, most people when on holiday use pools that are unsupervised. So rationale for each of the above is as follows;

- No cover for public sessions between the hours of 07.00 – 09.00 & 20.00 – 22.00
- Most swimmers during these times are adults, who are fit and capable swimmers and using the pools as part of an exercise programme.
- No cover in the learner pool at Dunes during weekdays.
- All users of the learner pool at these times are adults accompanying children. Therefore they already provide supervision.
- No cover for clubs sessions.
- Clubs are delivering swimming development and use highly trained coaches. All members are highly competent swimmers. Coaches would be trained to be able to effect a pool rescue.
- Reduced cover during school swimming lessons.
- Swimming teachers are present during the lessons and can be trained up to provide rescue cover.
- Reduced cover in Splash World.
- By altering the way lifeguards operate and their working hours it is possible to reduce the number.

Legislation Considered - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

There are recommended guidelines for Life Guarding and providing the Council has an appropriate risk assessment and a clear policy for users it can work to these changes.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – It may deter people from using facilities and therefore reduce their access to leisure activity. There is also the potential that their experience will be less positive.

Partners – The clubs have been consulted on this and it would not give them a problem.

Schools may feel differently and this would need to be discussed with them to gauge opinion.

Council – The Council will be exposed to a greater risk of incident without the cover.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

As well as the questionnaire being available on E-consult, a paper questionnaire was circulated to users at Leisure Centres containing pools across the Borough and to swimming clubs; 468 have responded (16/1/12).

The following forums were attended to give information and seek feedback on the budget options for People directorate-:

- Sefton Access Forum – 22/11/11;
- Customer Forum at Dunes and Meadows in November 2011;
- Youth consultation event on 3rd December 2011 (16 Young People attended) at Sing Plus;
- Learning Disability Market Place event on 19th December 2011 at Goddard Hall;
- A letter was sent to schools November 2011 informing them of the option and inviting comment

See full consultation report E3.6

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E3.6

Risks & Mitigating Actions – The model proposed has been introduced by other Local Authorities elsewhere and is similar to the way that most of the private sector leisure clubs work.

A risk assessment at each facility will need to be undertaken to measure risk of making the changes. An action plan and policy of operation would be established, publicised and implemented. All users at the identified times would be made fully aware of the change along with the need to confirm competence in being able to swim unsupervised.

This will include clear communications in Leisure Centres to pool users on arrival and posters at poolside.

The majority of users at early morning and late evening swimming are adults and do so for fitness training purposes and are more likely to be competent swimmers.

Disability and Age (older people) – Disabled users and older people may have issues accessing the pool facilities or related medical conditions which may make them less likely to use the pool when a life guard is not on duty between 7am – 9am & 8pm – 10pm. Other centre staff such as Duty Managers, gym staff and receptionists will be available to assist users who require additional support to access the pool such as using pool hoist. These staff will also be available to administer first aid or assist with pool evacuations as required. Additional staff can be called by the activation of the pool emergency alarm, signposted at several points around the pool sides which sound and illuminated around the centres.

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Age (under 5's) – Parents with young children may be less likely to use the learner pool during the week daytime if a lifeguard is not on duty. Mitigation as above.

Age (Children & young people) – Parents may be less likely to use or allow their children to use Splash World if there is a reduction in lifeguard cover due to the nature of the facility. Lifeguard cover will meet but not exceed the required recommend level for the facility and bather load.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce - There is considered to be no adverse effect on the programme of activity, however, people may be reluctant to use facilities (or allow their children to) if no lifeguard cover is available.

Cost of Leisure Centres with swimming pools Service: £1,087,700
Staffing: TBC
Other Resources: N/A

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £1,017,700
Budget Reduction 2012/13: £70,000
Council Staff at Risk: Yes
Number of Posts at Risk: 2 FTE

Consultation Report E3.6

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to remove lifeguard cover at certain times during public and club swimming activity at swimming pools (Ref E 3.6)

Consultation period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

Contents

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Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions. The consultation on the budget options closes on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option on **removing lifeguard cover at certain times during public and club swimming activity at swimming pools**. The consultation was targeted with all users of the swimming pools in the Borough.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

As well as the questionnaire being available on E-consult, a paper questionnaire was circulated to users at Leisure Centres containing pools across the Borough and to swimming clubs; 468 have responded (16/1/12).

The following forums were attended to give information and seek feedback on the budget options for People directorate-:

- Sefton Access Forum – 22/11/11;
- Customer Forum at Dunes and Meadows in November 2011;
- Youth consultation event on 3rd December 2011 (16 Young People attended) at Sing Plus;
- Learning Disability Market Place event on 19th December 2011 at Goddard Hall;
- A letter was sent to schools November 2011 informing them of the option and inviting comment

The option proposal was also included in the telephone survey community consultation.

Executive Summary

468 people responded to the online/paper questionnaire. 51% of users, who answered the question about how often they attend a swimming pool, attend once or twice a week; 39% attend three times or more, however, only 10% attend daily.

Of those who answered the question about the times that best describe their typical use; 65% attend or visit a swimming pool between 7am and 8pm. Of the 65%, 35% use it before 9am.

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Of those who answered the question about what they go to the swimming pool to do, 67% use the swimming pool to do fitness swimming or general exercise; 33% use the pool after or before a work out in the fitness suite, swimming club training or for fun.

Out of those people who responded to the question about whether or not the removal of lifeguard cover would have an effect on their desire to go swimming, 79% answered that it would have an effect on their desire to go swimming, further evidenced by 67% who would no longer swim if the option to remove lifeguard cover was accepted.

79% of those who responded to the question regarding use of the learner pool, answered that they would no longer use the learner pool if there was no lifeguard cover and 78% of people would personally feel at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty.

Of 97 people who answered the question about attending a swimming pool between 07:00 and 09:00 hours, only 19 of these people consider they have a disability, 78 who attend between this time, do not consider themselves to have a disability.

Of 76 people who answered the question about attending a swimming pool between 09:00 and 20:00 hours, only 16 of these people consider they have a disability, 60 who attend between this time, do not consider themselves to have a disability.

Of 15 people who answered the question about attending a swimming pool between 20:00 and 22:00 hours, only 3 of these people consider they have a disability, 12 who attend between this time, do not consider themselves to have a disability.

Of the 6 people who answered the question about attending a pool for club training, none of these people consider themselves to have a disability.

Of those people who answered both the question about whether or not they consider they have a disability and if the removal of lifeguard cover would have any effect on their desire to go swimming, which was 203, 44 who recorded they have a disability also recorded that the removal of lifeguard cover would have an effect on their desire to go swimming, however 159 who recorded they have a disability, recorded that it would not have an effect.

Of those people who answered both the question about whether or not they consider they have a disability and the question if they would still swim despite the lack of lifeguard cover, which was 93, 79 people who consider they have a disability would not swim if there was a lack of lifeguard cover; 14 people recorded that they would still swim.

Of 24 people who answered the question relating to age, and the typical time used on a daily basis, 11 who attend between 07.00 and 09.00 recorded their age as being 60 and above.

Of those people who recorded their gender and answered the question about whether or not they would feel at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty, which was 385, out of 219 female respondents, 164 answered that they think they would personally be at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty. Out of 166 males that answered this question, 130 answered that they think they would personally be at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty.

Of those people who recorded their gender and answered the question would they still use the learner pool despite the lack of lifeguard cover which was 329, out of 191

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female respondents, 159 answered that they would not use the learner pool. Out of 138 males that answered this question, 97 answered they would not still use the learner pool.

Both Sefton Access Forum and Ability Network attendees did not support at all the two proposals to remove cover in pools during the early morning sessions and in the learner pools. A combined total of 49 participants attended the two disabled community consultation sessions

100% voted against the option being approved. Suggestions from the group included training swimming instructors as lifeguards, introducing a volunteer lifeguard scheme or using the volunteer centre to advertise volunteer lifeguard positions.

From the written comments, the common themes were as follows:-

- Health & Safety
- Anti-social behaviour would increase
- Concern for the safety of weaker swimmers
- Concern for vulnerable older people, children, and people with disabilities, and those people who have medical conditions
- People feel more secure with the knowledge that there are lifeguards on duty when they swim
- A comment suggested that people should be encouraged to swim which would in turn reduce the increased pressure on the NHS with obesity related illness
- There were only two comments that fully supported the option
- Comments were about the risk of the Council being sued if there are serious accidents
- There was one comment that the prices should be lowered for the elderly
- Membership would be affected with a loss of money when people stop swimming
- 07:00-09:00 is a busy period for usage by people who are 60 and above
- Lifeguards are required at the learner pool
- Lifeguards provide assistance with the hoist to aid wheelchair users, in and out of the pool
- Seven people commented that there would not personally be affected
- If lifeguard cover was removed, the public would be expected to take on the role of lifeguard which is unacceptable
- There were two comments about higher salaried staff should take a cut
- There were three comments about the diversity form being invasive
- Comments were made about money being more important than life to the Council
- There were a few comments who offered other ideas
- Twelve people commented that it was a ridiculous or disgusting idea to reduce lifeguard cover
- Two comments were about school staff should not be expected to be lifeguards when taking children to the swimming pool

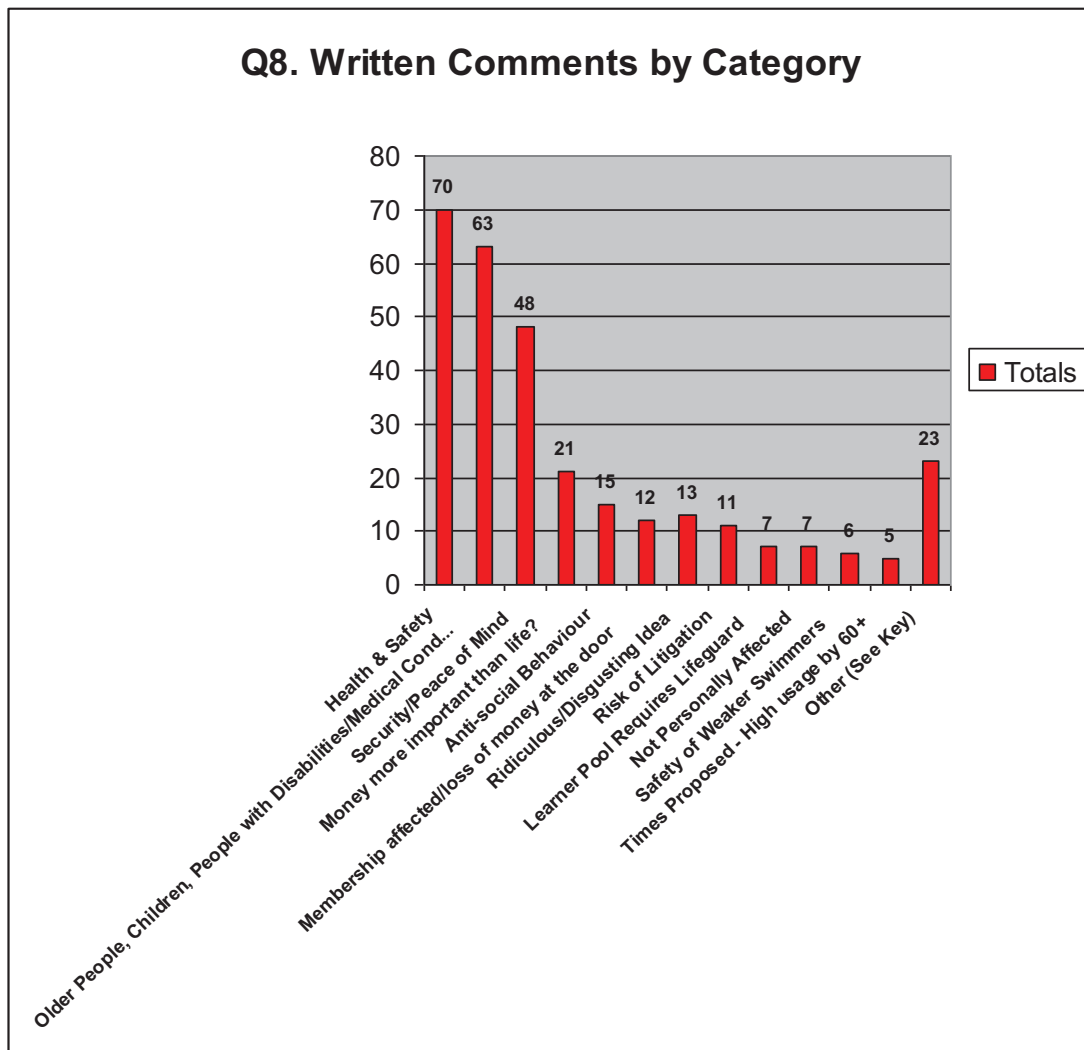
The respondents to the telephone survey community consultation were asked their views on this option. 66% of respondents disagreed with the reduction of lifeguard cover, with 67% of these being female. 73% of the respondents who disagreed were over the age of 55 years, and 42 (78%) of these were retired. 30% of respondents agreed with the option (6% neither agreed or disagreed).

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Consultation Analysis

A questionnaire invited responses from users on the following aspects:

- Frequency of their swimming activity;
- Would the removal of lifeguard cover have any effect on their desire to go swimming;
- Would they personally think they would be at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty;
- Would they still use the learner pool despite the lack of lifeguard cover;



Key to Other

Reduce Pressure on NHS – 1

Prices should be lowered for the Elderly – 1

Proposed times – not a problem – 1

Fully Support the Option – 2

School Staff should not be Lifeguards – 2

Higher paid staff should take a cut – 2

Diversity Form Questioned – 3

Other idea put forward – 3

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Public Expected to take on the role of Lifeguard – Unacceptable – 4

Lifeguards provide assistance with the hoist to aid wheelchair users – 4

True Stats as of 17/1/2012 Demographic Information

Of the 348 people who answered the question about their age, 248 were over 40 years of age, 63 between 30-39 years of age and 37 under 30 years of age.

Of the 315 people who answered the question about their postcode 99 people live centrally within the borough, 55 live in the south and 161 in the north.

96 people answered the question about having a disability. Of those who answered 71% considered themselves to have one either a long-term illness that affects their daily activity, a physical impairment or a hearing impairment/deaf.

Of the 371 people who answered the question regarding their ethnic background 342 were White British/White English. The largest group after this was 11, who answered White Welsh.

Of the 209 people who answered what their religion or belief was 203 answered Christian.

Of the 310 people who answered what their sexual orientation was 290 answered heterosexual, 13 bi-sexual, 4 gay and 3 lesbian.

Of the 328 people who answered the question 'do they currently live in the gender they were given at birth?' 314 answered yes and 14 answered no.

Q1 How often do you use a council swimming pool?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Daily	44	10
Once a week	120	27
Twice a week	107	24
Three times a week	90	20
Four times a week	35	8
More than four times	47	11
TOTAL	443	100%

Q2 Which of the following times best describes your typical use?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Between 07.00 & 09.00	159	35
Between 09.00 & 20.00	135	30
Between 20.00 & 22.00	23	5
No regular pattern	89	20
Club training	17	4
Learner pool with child/children	28	6
TOTAL	451	100%

Q3 What do you go to the swimming pool to do? (tick **all** that apply)

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Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Fitness swimming	154	27
After or before a work out in the fitness suite	49	9
General exercise	229	40
Swimming club training	59	10
Fun	84	14
TOTAL	575	100%

Other: Aquafit, or family swim 1, learner pool with child/children 66

Q4 Would the removal of lifeguard cover have any effect on your desire to go swimming?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	362	79
No	99	21
TOTAL	461	100%

Q5 Would you still swim despite the lack of lifeguard cover?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	150	33
No	305	67
TOTAL	455	100%

Q6 Would you still use the learner pool despite the lack of lifeguard cover?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	81	21
No	314	79
TOTAL	395	100%

Q7 Do you think you would personally be at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	353	78
No	101	22
TOTAL	454	100%

Comparison of

'Which of the following times best describe your typical use?' (Down)

Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'? (Across)

(Across)

	Yes	No	Total	Total

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	Response #	Response #	Response #	Response %
Between 07.00 & 09.00	19	78	97	38
Between 20.00 & 22.00	3	12	15	6
Between 09.00 & 20.00	16	60	76	29
No regular pattern	11	41	52	20
Club training	0	6	6	2
Learner pool with child/children	1	12	13	5
Total	50	209	259	100%

Comparison of

'Would the removal of lifeguard cover have any effect on your desire to go swimming?' (Down)

Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'? (Across)

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

	Yes	No	Total	Total
	Response #	Response #	Response #	Response %
Yes	44	159	203	76
No	10	54	64	24
Total	54	213	267	100%

Comparison of

'Would you still use the learner pool despite the lack of lifeguard cover?' (Down)

Are you 'male' or 'female' (Across)

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

	Female			Male			Total	
	Response #	Response %	Response #	Response %	Response #	Response %		
		col%	row%		col%	row%		
Yes	32	16.75	43.83	41	29.71	56.16	73	22
No	159	83.24	62.10	97	70.28	37.89	256	78
Total	191	58.05		138	41.94		329	100%

Comparison of

'How often do you use a Council swimming pool?' Answer – 'Daily'

'Which of the following times best describes your typical use?'

What is your age?'

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Daily

Age	Time Between 07.00 – 09.00	Time Between 20.00 – 22.00
13-19	0	0
20-29	1	0

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30-39	3	0
40-49	3	0
50-59	1	0
60-69	7	0
70+	4	0
Unknown Age	4	1
TOTAL	23	1

Do you think you would personally be at risk if there were no lifeguards on duty? (Down)

Are you: Male/ Female (Across)

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

	Female	Male	Total	Total
	Response #	Response #	Response #	Response %
Yes	164	130	294	76
No	55	36	91	24
Total	219	166	385	100%

Comparison of

'Would you still swim despite the lack of lifeguard cover?' (Down)

Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'? (Across)

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

	Yes	No	Total	Total
	Response #	Response #	Response #	Response %
Yes	14	79	93	35
No	36	133	169	65
Total	50	212	262	100%

Other Responses

None received

Alternative Options Proposals

None proposed.

Monitoring Information

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

What is the first part of your postcode?

Answer Option	Response	Response %
L9	9	3
L10	5	2
L20	29	9
L21	19	6
L22	0	0
L23	12	4

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Answer Option	Response	Response %
L29	0	0
L30	7	2
L31	61	19
L37	8	3
L38	4	1
PR8	93	30
PR9	68	21
TOTAL	315	100%

Are you?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Female	223	57
Male	170	43
TOTAL	393	100%

What is your age?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Age	Response	Response %
13-19	17	5
20-29	20	6
30-39	63	18
40-49	98	28
50-59	42	12
60-69	71	20
70+	37	11
TOTAL	348	100%

Disability: Do you have any of the following? (please select **all** that apply)

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Physical impairment	21	22
Visual impairment	12	13
Learning difficulty	8	8
Hearing impairment/deaf	16	17
Mental health/mental distress	8	8
Long term illness that affects your daily activity	31	32
TOTAL	96	100%

Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

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Yes	55	20
No	215	80
TOTAL	270	100%

Which of these options best describes your ethnic background?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Asian – Bangladeshi	0	0
Asian – Indian	1	0.27
Asian – Pakistani	0	0
Asian – Other Asian Background	0	0
Black – African	1	0.27
Black – Caribbean	0	0
Black – Other Black Background	0	0
Chinese – Chinese	3	0.81
Chinese – Other Chinese Background	0	0
Mixed Ethnic Background – Asian & White	2	0.54
Mixed Ethnic Background – Black African & White	0	0
Mixed Ethnic Background – Black Caribbean & White	0	0
Mixed Ethnic Background – Other Mixed Ethnic Background	2	0.54
White – British	180	48.52
White – English	162	43.67
White – Irish	2	0.54
White – Scottish	2	0.54
White – Welsh	11	2.96
White – Polish	1	0.27
White – Latvian	0	0
White – Gypsy/Traveller	1	0.27
White – Other White Background	3	0.81
TOTAL	371	100%

Do you have a religion or belief?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	195	65
No	105	35
TOTAL	300	100%

If yes please tick one of the below

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Religion or Belief	Response	Response %
Buddhist	2	0.96
Christian	203	97.13
Hindu	1	0.48
Jewish	2	0.96
Muslim	1	0.48
Sikh	0	0

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TOTAL	209	100%
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How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Heterosexual	290	94
Gay	4	1
Lesbian	3	1
Bisexual	13	4
TOTAL	310	100%

Do you currently live in the gender you were given at birth?

Below is a breakdown of those respondents who chose to answer this question

Answer Option	Response	Response %
Yes	314	96
No	14	4
TOTAL	328	100%

Written comments from the questionnaires received were separated into 22 themes; within these themes, there were 301 comments.

- The majority of comments were concerned about health and safety (70) if lifeguard cover was removed;
- 63 comments were concerned about the safety of vulnerable older people, children and people with learning difficulties, and also those people with medical conditions.
- There were 48 comments that recorded they felt reassured and secure when there was lifeguard cover, and;
- 21 comments were concerned that “money was more important than life”

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Detailed Responses (True stats as of 16/1/2012)

Response
Lifeguards are there in case of emergency which can happen at ANY time. They also are there to curb anti-social or dangerous behaviour, It is completely wrong to contemplate public swimming at any time without qualified supervision.
Although I am a competent swimmer those who also use the pools within the early (pre-school) hours tend to be older people. As this age group are prone to slips trips, falls and other health related problems I would worry about safeguarding issues within the pool areas when vulnerable people are using the space and there are generally less members of the public around to offer help.
There is always the possibility of risk when swimming. Any number of things could occur such as someone suffering from a medical condition or even cramp and being unable to reach the side in time to hang on until the cramp has gone. There is a real possibility of someone getting into trouble. Especially with young swimmers or teenagers as well as the elderly.
Life guards do not just save drowning people they keep order at the pool and stop

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people endangering themselves and others. That is my biggest concern.
If lifeguards are not needed now, why have they been employed in the past. Water is still water and people still get into difficulties in the water or is it a case of money is more important than life ??????
I would not take my children to a pool that did not have lifeguards on duty. Lifeguards should be on duty during weekends and school holidays and during school & club bookings.
Absolute madness how can you put peoples lives at risk?
I am a stronger swimmer and so should not suffer esp. as I do not attend the times you have suggested. But I would fear for the safety of the weaker swimmer, and there a number there at the suggested times, the average clientele in the morning tend to be elderly thus vulnerable. It is up to the council to decide this but I would consult the police and the Coroner as I can see a case for corporate manslaughter if someone does drown.
As explained in the proposal, I would expect members of staff to be able to assist in an emergency, but it does not put me off swimming if there is no lifeguard at the poolside.
Its seems a bit drastic to save a little bit of money by not providing a lifeguard, they are worth their weight in gold unlike those that make these silly decisions. What next turning off the fire alarms to save money on electricity? Feel free to turn off the till to save more money.
The lifeguards are an integral part of the pool for both health and safety and discipline by removing them will in my view break health and safety laws as well as putting lives at risk.I feel this is wrong and the panel should seriously reconsider their stance. If it should go ahead then I will be remonstrating to the highest authority along with contacting the media-thank you
If you remove life guards you might as well drown some of your customers. Can't wait to see you sued.
Even the best swimmers can get into difficulty so a trained life guard should always be on duty when the general public are present on the premises.
Practical money-saving decision.
Club sessions – presumably they could cover these themselves. Public sessions – I would not have thought these were legal without lifeguard cover. Presumably anyone would be able to sue the council (if they were that way inclined) for the slightest mishap (or alleged mishap) and there would be no “official” witness to support the council if lifeguard cover were to be removed! What would the situation be if someone got cramp and drowned due to lack of cover
I fully support the removal of lifeguard cover at the times suggested.
You are not clear when you say ‘reduced cover’. How many lifeguards are you proposing to be on duty during ‘reduced cover’? My only concern is high use by children and young people during school holidays and inadequate cover at this time.
I think removing lifeguards before 9am and after 7pm won't cause a problem, as at these times children won't be swimming. There should be a lifeguard on at all times when children are swimming and having lessons through school. This is an area that must have cover. I believe that Southport swimming club does not require a lifeguard as all these youngsters are strong swimmers and represent the town in competitions.
Lower the prices for the diabetes and the elderly pensioner thank you

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<p>At the moment I don't use the pool but my children do. I would feel better knowing lifeguards are on duty.</p>
<p>This is crazy *Cost V Risk* you are putting people especially children, disabled and the elderly at risk. Thought we were trying to improve areas health not put them at risk.</p>
<p>I feel that it is necessary to have life guard coverage at all times because of the different age groups children need to be watched all the time and older people like myself feel safe if there is a life guard present lots of things can happen in the swimming pool</p>
<p>Health & Safety is at the forefront these days. It is both dangerous and foolhardy to risk a life. Both young and old could have a seizure at any time someone could drown. The liabilities are enormous in lives and compensation. The council should either seek cuts elsewhere or close the pool down during these times It would be the safest options. Who knows, we might have a change of central government soon the way they are going on and then everyone will be HAPPY. And these problems will evaporate</p>
<p>I consider myself a strong swimmer but if I was to get into trouble whilst in the pool what measures will be put in place for my safety and others.</p>
<p>I think this is a very dangerous proposal that Sefton Council might do. This could result in the loss of life/lives or result in an injury. It also leaves Sefton Council open for liability. Lives are more important than money</p>
<p>No life guard, no safety</p>
<p>Being diabetic I would feel at risk if there was no pool attendant (lifeguard) present.</p>
<p>I would like to think lifeguards are at the pool at all times for (health and safety)</p>
<p>I think it is ridiculous taking the lifeguards off the pool any time. It will cost lives and you will lose customers</p>
<p>Organised sessions such as school/club swims could reasonably be expected to provide their own lifeguards or pay towards staffing. Lifeguards should not be removed from quieter sessions – when there are fewer people around there is a greater risk someone in trouble would not get help. The ratio of lifeguards to swimmers could be reduced but I do not think lifeguards should be removed completely from any public session as this could put lives in danger.</p>
<p>I think that lifeguards are very important as there are all age groups and fitness levels of people that go swimming what about an 80 yr old man that got cramp in the water or even went dizzy in the water or worst still had a heart attack they would want a trained lifeguard to save them from drowning and there is a lot of disabled people too that go swimming not to mention schools I think if the lifeguards got stopped, the schools and people in general would stop going swimming.</p>
<p>Cost saving should not come into the safety of children or adults. It is too late to reflect on whether it is or was the right move if a life was lost regardless of savings. The pools has a right of care to its members.</p>
<p>As a regular swimmer for many years I think it would be absolutely insane to remove lifeguard cover between 7-9am. Not only is this service invaluable it provides much reassurance knowing that cover is there as some swimmers are not as strong as others. There is very much a health and safety issue here and to remove cover is like an accident waiting to happen. Lifeguard means what it says – guarding your life and should never be compromised.</p>
<p>I think I would like to see at least one life guard on duty at all times.</p>
<p>As I pay twenty one pound a month which adds up to £252.00 a year, whether I</p>

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attend or not, I would lose out on my exercise for my health, you would lose out on my monthly payments, also I would not swim without a life guard as it is dangerous people could be taken ill in the water, no life guard on hand could cause death. People from the pool would have to alert a member of staff. If they have to run from pool to reception.

No lifeguards is dangerous if anything happens and there is no life guards on duty it could be the chance of someone living until the ambulance arrives. Someone could have a heart attack or some other emergency I am sure the swimmer could not deal with the situation while life guards are trained. I also would have to think about my monthly payment which I pay 12 months at a time. By law I am sure pools had to have life guards at all times it has always been 2 life guards for safety as they say safety first.

I worry that my friends who have undergone heart operations or who are not 100% fit could find themselves in difficulties as has been my experience in the past.

This is an extremely short-sighted measure which will end up costing money. I suffer from rheumatoid arthritis and for the last 23 years I have been using Sefton swimming pools at least twice a week to help with joint mobility, stiffness and pain. It has meant that I have recovered from joint replacement operations very successfully and has been invaluable in keeping me in general good health. I am a wheelchair user and use the hoist at the meadows to get in and out of the water – the facilities are fantastic who would do this if no lifeguard were present? I come to early morning sessions because it is quieter – and therefore safer as a collision could be very damaging for me. I have heard that disabled people would not be able to use the pool during these sessions: surely this is discrimination and is illegal? The changes in NHS are said to be bringing public health into the provenance of local councils: removal of lifeguard is a retro grade step which will substantially damage the quality of life of people such as myself, but also discourage frail and elderly people and endanger those whose disability may be invisible: those with asthma or a hearth condition, obesity, poor mental health and chronic epton are massive problems in society. Swimming helps all three. This measure is just making it worse and discouraging the most vulnerable people from helping themselves

over 65s require a lifeguard present or are 65 and over as in the medical profession “expendable”

I have signed a contract with your facility to provide me with a safe and clean environment while I use your pool. If you remove lifeguards from the pool I would consider this as a breach of my contract and your facility would be unsafe.

OAPs swimming early – this may cause problem. Number of people in pool must be considered.

Feel safer when lifeguards are there

cost cutting at it's worse

Reducing cover is increasing risk for everyone who attends or works at the facility – it is not something I would be happy to endorse as I would not be able to sleep at night if the inevitable happened and somebody drowned. Even good swimmers get into difficulty and reducing cover doesn't encourage people to want to learn to swim. I hope you can live with yourselves should anything happen.

Stop putting people out of work to cut costs we pay more than enough

The removal of life guards would seriously make me think twice about the Leisure Centre being a safe place to take children to swim and even though I consider myself a good swimmer I would have to vote with my feet and go elsewhere where the life guards are available.

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<p>You can't take the chance</p>
<p>If customers with children were to use the pool I think they would feel at risk. Also the elderly may feel at risk also, if somebody was to bang their head or maybe suffer a fit or seizure or heart problems this could become fatal. I think lifeguards should be on duty at all times plus the centre may witness 'claims' if incidents were to happen.</p>
<p>Its nice to see that you value customers lives!! I pay a full membership and I do not think that it will be value for money. Surely there is a health and safety aspect here and it is leaving the Meadows Leisure Centre open to claims which could outweigh what you are going to save!! There is a cost of doing this paper exercise that's wasting money.</p>
<p>Don't take the risk! Safety First</p>
<p>During the 0700-0900 period Maghull pool is often used by a large number in the sixty plus range, myself being 66. It is always reassuring to know that any unforeseen circumstances can be challenged by a lifeguard with a sound knowledge of practical first aid. I think it would be very unwise to remove or reduce cover, especially during the morning period!</p>
<p>The presence of lifeguards is essential. They control order in the pool Their presence makes me feel secure, knowing that if any incidents occur, there is always someone there to take over and rescue the casualty. They keep the pool clean and tidy. They ensure Health and Safety is present. Fire drills are kept up to date. They make me feel secure and the people who accompany me too. The life guards are part of my pleasure of coming to the pool Don't do the proposal. Keep the lifeguards on duty at all times.</p>
<p>It would be the children and weak swimmers who would be at risk.</p>
<p>There should not be a price on safety. Removing lifeguards at these times is putting lives at risk if there is a risk of someone drowning or someone getting into difficulty and no lifeguard is there. I'm surprised that a council run fitness centre would even consider such a dangerous idea. If this goes ahead I may have to take my membership elsewhere.</p>
<p>Lifeguards are essential not just for myself, but for those who have children, children on their own and for those who come with disabled people.</p>
<p>I bring my niece swimming and as she's getting older she now waiting to go swimming on her own. If something happened to her something will happen to David Cameron</p>
<p>Safety is paramount. If there is a reduction or cover removed I feel somebody who has an accident, their lives could be more at risk. I don't think these cut backs are worth putting customer lives at risk.</p>
<p>This insane proposal to remove lifeguard cover must not go ahead. What's more important saving money or someone's life?</p>
<p>Yes you need lifeguard at all times of the day</p>
<p>I can't swim so good so I need them there</p>
<p>As well as safety monitoring, the lifeguards play an important role in monitoring the general behaviour of pool users and ensuring the right equipment and lanes are correctly laid out.</p>
<p>As so many older people use the pool early it's not only in the pool but also in the changing rooms that vigilance is needed so although I would swim I would prefer a lifeguard there.</p>
<p>My main concern is for the pool to still open at 7am each week day. If not, I will</p>

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<p>have to reconsider my membership (and possibly cancel it completely and join Liverpool City Council gyms instead).</p>
<p>I don't know if you have a legal responsibility to provide poolside cover but I do think you have moral responsibility to provide this service one accidental death is one too many</p>
<p>The lifeguards are there and reassure our safety. They control the over excited pool users. They make me feel comfortable when using the pool. They make all the difference whether I swim or not. Who will rescue a drowning casualty, should someone slip or fall? If someone has a heart attack, who will perform CPR? Call for help and ask for defib? If the lifeguards aren't there.</p>
<p>We have waited over 35 years for Sefton council to finally give something back to the people of Maghull and surrounding areas. This is a case of the Council give it and the Council take it away. Please tell me the person who has decided to reduce the safety in the pool by removing lifeguards, how often do they go swimming! You should be doing a survey on how many people have been helped by the life guards, the life guards have other duties around the pool. It is a matter of life or death. There is a million other things you could save money on!! Disgraceful!!</p>
<p>7.00am-9.00am is a very busy time in the pool with people of all ages using this facility. There are a large number of pensioners at this time of day who use small pool and many need the help and support that the lifeguards provide by helping them down the steps, giving them encouragement and helping them to the shower. In my opinion the lifeguards are vital to this facility. I also feel that general public who are swimming will feel that they will have to take on role of lifeguard if an incident occurs and that is unacceptable. I have used pool since the very first day it opened and have always found lifeguards to be professional, caring and helpful. It will be a great loss to this fantastic facility if hours of cover by lifeguards is reduced.</p>
<p>What a load of rubbish!! After waiting so long for a decent sports facility in Maghull and spending so much of our money on it to take away the lifeguards to save money over our safety is ludicrous. Money could be saved better by getting rid of the idiots who come up with these ideas!! It won't be long before we have to bring our own water to fill the pool (is that on the next questionnaire!)?</p>
<p>Not personally at risk but if I was a weaker swimmer, I personally would probably stop attending the pool for safety reasons.</p>
<p>Will still use the pool despite lack of cover as am a strong swimmer but if not as strong would think twice about using it.</p>
<p>When ever I go swimming there always seems to be a number of lifeguards present. This number could easily be reduced</p>
<p>It would make sense if the people earning huge salaries took a cut instead of always these who actually do the work</p>
<p>I swim because my doctor has convinced me that my disabilities will be helped. I have several problems and I would not feel safe to swim without lifeguards. I swim between 9am+11am because at this time it is not too busy. The staff here at Bootle leisure are all very professional, very friendly and very re-assuring. It would be very sad if my health suffered because I would not be able to swim, it is my only form of exercise beside walking.</p>
<p>I have 3 children,aged 10,7+5 my youngest has swimming lessons the other 2 are good swimmers, however my 10yr old has ADHD and will often do silly things without realising the consequences. I cannot go swimming with my 3 children and have peace of mind re: safety if lifeguard cover is removed. I believe the councillors should look at other areas to save money definitely not lifeguard cover</p>

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<p>I am a competent swimmer, but many people are not, of all ages who are not confident a lifeguard being there is an insurance with any insurance you hope you never need it but you have peace of mind knowing it's there WHAT PRICE A LIFE ?</p>
<p>I feel confident to swim due to a lifeguard being present</p>
<p>We have water all around us as a child one of 7 children money was not available for me to go to the baths .I made sure my own children learned to swim and now my grandchildren. For myself I am not totally at home in the water. The life guards are my security while in the water.</p>
<p>Always good to have them on duty in case</p>
<p>We would all be at risk without lifeguards. Its more enjoyable to see a friendly, welcoming face + know you are in a safe environment-All staff are invaluable + I would cancel my membership without doubt if lifeguards were removed...</p>
<p>I have a disability, limited mobility in both legs and the supervision of lifeguards make me feel safer using the swimming pool, which is the only exercise I can do. I always make them aware of my presence and they have very often helped me in difficult situations in and out of the water.</p>
<p>RIDICULOUS IDEA</p>
<p>I think it is disgusting that the removal of lifeguards on a swimming pool is even being considered Sefton you should be ashamed....</p>
<p>I had to check it wasn't April the first when I heard this proposal. Will the person concerned with coming up with this idea attend the funeral of that first person to drown and explain to the relatives? GET A GRIP AND COME TO YOUR SENSES...</p>
<p>you have obviously risk assessed the current lifeguard provision and the proposed move is only a revenue saving tactic it seems clear that to Sefton mbc money is more important than lives a disgraceful option..</p>
<p>I firmly believe reserving life is far more important than saving money</p>
<p>cancer, operation of lung vascular operation on both legs still under consultant for both</p>
<p>I am reassured to know lifeguards are present when my children use a local authority pool In west Lancs cuts to staffing has been avoided by transferring all staff and centres into a social enterprise- perhaps you could consider something similar</p>
<p>children always need to be supervised plus lifeguard cover</p>
<p>would not let my children go swimming on their own without lifeguards</p>
<p>I don't think you have given enough consideration to the elderly and infirm who use the pool, who because of their age/infirmity are reassured by the presence of a lifeguard. Please don't take a chance with our lives in the name of cost cutting.</p>
<p>What about health and safety regulations? Surely anyone using a pool without a lifeguard present should sign a disclaimer so they or their family couldn't sue if they were to be unfortunate to come to harm whilst swimming whilst a lifeguard is not on duty</p>
<p>Maybe I wouldn't be at risk but my child would. Lifeguards are there for a reason – safety and we need them.</p>
<p>If for example, if there was an emergency and the panic button was pressed, who would respond?</p>
<p>I feel the removal of a lifeguard from any of the pools is totally unacceptable. I usually swim between 7 and 8 am which can be a busy time with a lot of elderly people swimming. My concern is what would happen if there was an accident or a medical emergency. By the time professional help was summoned it might be too</p>

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late!
During peak times pool is busy so a lifeguard is a necessity. Even when a pool is not busy accidents happen. I swim when the pool is not busy but one can have a heart attack etc at any time and a lifeguard is essential for the initial 1 st aid. Lots of the public are unaware of dangers in pools particularly with young children and do silly things. It would be a big mistake to do away with lifeguards
Although I swim I am not a competent swimmer, therefore, lifeguard cover is essential
I'm a good swimmer but having twice suffered an asthma attack while swimming I would feel uncomfortable being in the pool knowing there was no immediate help if I (or anyone else) got into trouble. I also know lifeguards have in the past removed deliberately obstructive swimmers to make the pool a more pleasant place for others. I have also witnessed on a number of occasions lifeguards assisting a disabled swimmer to enter the pool with the help of a hoist.
Lifeguards are an essential part of safeguarding swimmers, and creating a safe environment for all. If I had non competent swimmers with me I would not use the pool without lifeguards present.
I cannot believe you are even considering reducing lifeguard cover you are gambling with people's lives in the name of cost cutting. Were no lessons learnt after the tragedy at the Adelphi pool where a life was lost due to the absence of lifeguard cover. God forbid a tragedy should occur at the Meadows because of a lack of lifeguard cover. I hope the Council has the funds to fight any ensuing litigation. Please be sensible and leave the lifeguards where they are.
I have been swimming in Sefton pools for over twenty years and know from experience that it is only the presence of the lifeguards that has prevented unruly behaviour descending into complete mayhem. The lifeguards reassure nervous and less able swimmers and the decision to cut their numbers seems short sighted and callous as the swimmers most deterred from taking part will be those in most need of the social and health benefits of regular exercise i.e. the elderly and disabled. As a carer I am very concerned about the withdrawal of vital assistance that enables us to maintain the health and fitness of my severely disabled partner.
I am not sure if I would swim if no cover. People who are disabled need the help of the lifeguards. Early morning most people are elderly, one person needs the hoist to enter the pool and the help of the lifeguards is essential.
I feel the need for a lifeguard to ensure the safety of pool users as they have training and are used for pool maintenance. Would the council provide safety briefings for pool users on request.
Lifeguards are invaluable as a resource. It is too late to admit you made a mistake once a serious accident occurs
Due to a disability I would not always feel confident about swimming without a lifeguard
I am not a competent swimmer and would not feel safe in the pools without a lifeguard
I would be reluctant to allow my eldest son(aged 12 yrs) to go swimming with his friends only if there were no lifeguards on duty as because there are no adults with them we rely on the lifeguards to watch out for there safety my son and his friends would be very disappointed if they had to wait for an adult to be free to go in the pool with them each time- especially during school holidays when they need activities
do not remove our lifeguards you would endanger the health+safety not just the

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children but the disabled, elderly and vulnerable people who need this support DO NOT REMOVE
I wouldn't but feel if as a parent with more than 1 child it is good to know there is an extra pair of eyes about
please keep the lifeguards in place to satisfy the needs and security of all pool users especially young children elderly and infirm THANKYOU
with a disabled child I wouldn't be able to entertain swimming with my child
I am a member of a scuba diving club which involves training adults and younger persons in the pool. Training can involve anything from learning to swim, using a mask+snorkel to wearing scuba equipment. We as a club are reassured by the fact that pool lifeguards are at poolside during these training sessions, as back up to our own capabilities, therefore I believe there should always be lifeguard cover at poolside. Unforeseen circumstances do happen
Lifeguards are essential at all times I know parents should be responsible for there children and most people are but if there were a serious incident lifeguards are trained to know what to do in a situation some parents cannot swim themselves so would be of no use to helping anyone
I would not bring any children swimming if ther was no lifeguards on the pool .I would not feel safe with it being my responsibility to know what to do if any first aid issue happened
How many lives will be lost before the government realise that they have made another of the already massive mistakes in relation to public services. What will happen to the parents, primary carers of people they support, look after who can't swim but take their chance swimming because they feel it is important that there charges know how to swim and they take them swimming knowing that there is a lifeguard there in case they get into difficulties .yet again the coalition government are discriminating marginalising and excluding the most vulnerable people in society
Accident waiting to happen
How much do the politicians think a life is worth ?
I would need an attendant to help me in and out of the water
There should always be a lifeguard on duty safety is the most important thing
Feel safer if lifeguards were available
lifeguards are there for a reason- IE prevention
awful suggestion you need to encourage people not discourage. Start making cuts were it counts. AT THE TOP...
Q 4+5 If no lifeguard there is no option if I still like to swim but still not safe for poor swimmers
Parents should be allowed to supervise there own children in the learner pool. Previously I have been unable to use the learner pool with my children because of no lifeguard cover. It is important to ensure there is robust lifeguard cover when children + vulnerable adults are using the pool. If cover is there in the form of teachers/ swimming coaches the life guard cover could be reduced. It should all be risk assessed
I personally can swim very eften s ly.My children have swimming lessons with a teacher. We do use splashworld on a regular basis, I would be reluctant to use this if there were insufficient lifeguard cover. I am not against reducing lifeguard cover at quiet times as long as it does not put anyone's life at risk

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<p>Bit like having an F1 race with no refon s.very dangerous lifeguards are not for good swimmers usually. They are for people who could get into difficulty+ mainly who are not very good swimmers They also act as police stopping people from jumping, running etc which is also dangerous I cannot see how quiet time can be predicted on a facility that is open all hours</p>
<p>lifeguards should be present for learner swimmers, children and people with health conditions in case of an emergency and the number of lifeguards should NOT be reduced</p>
<p>lifeguards are there for reason safety especially for children is an important factor when choosing a swimming pool and should not be compromised</p>
<p>All of the above would need to operate on a safe basis That is NO CHILDREN below a safe age (to be determined) xxxx A parent in the water .Somebody needs to be around at busy times when rowdy teenagers are present.</p>
<p>Removing lifeguards is not an option. Nobody can know when they may be in need of a lifeguard. Will it take someone losing their life to make the council see sense??</p>
<p>I have concerns over the need for emergency evacuation from pool areas in the event of a incident occurring Absences of lifeguards could lead to injury or fatality</p>
<p>cannot believe this is even being considered peoples safety is paramount and to reduce lifeguards is putting peoples lives at risk I would like to know who would take responsibility if an accident did occur or someone lost their life</p>
<p>The learner pool requires there to be a lifeguard on duty at all times due to the amount of children in the pool. It reassures the children+ parents and gives an extra pair of eyes. I no longer use the learner pool as my children are now proficient swimmers. But feel that I and they were more confident doing their early years swimming it also covers the teachers were police and procedures are concerned</p>
<p>although im competent on my own I could be put in danger by putting myself at risk by helping someone who was in difficulties which I would feel obliged to do due to the absence of a lifeguard</p>
<p>I don't use the learner pool any more but I do think it's important for that pool to have lifeguard cover at all times.</p>
<p>I also bring my disabled daughter swimming I feel there is a greater risk for her if there is no lifeguard cover.</p>
<p>Due to the objective nature of the questions these are impossible to answer. If instructors are taking a session lifeguards are not necessarily needed. I public swimming is on then they are most definitely needed as there are no instructors to oversee</p>
<p>I use the pool on my own and I have a young child and a baby my concentration would be concentrated on my babies safety without a lifeguard present I would be very unhappy bringing both my children</p>
<p>This is a disgrace in a society that is struggling with an increasing obesity problem to withdraw lifeguards from one of the best forms of exercise. The council should be increasing the swimming facilities and encouraging more people to use it .This would reduce increased pressure on the NHS with obesity related illness therefore saving them money in a pro-active way</p>
<p>The amount of time I've been and seen all the children that have gone to dunes on their own with no lifeguards about who is going to help these children if anything occurs. Whose problem will it be then if we loose a child just reading one of your questions that I had to mention this one. I have epilepsy many others have the same what happens if I go into a fit who is going to help me the swimmers around me don't know what to do ?????</p>

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<p>I feel lifeguard cover is needed in splashworld due to the nature of the environment. Also am aware of a previous event that happened where a lifeguard rescued a child from the bottom of the pool –in splashworld</p>
<p>I have two children who I bring swimming with me and I feel the safety of my children is far more when there is a lifeguard on duty .There are times when I cannot watch both children at the same time</p>
<p>Adults with children would feel responsible for others children. But would not be able to prevent bad behaviour in others would feel responsible if someone got into difficulties with no expertise putting people at risk of serious injury or death. Even reduced cover for adults cardiac arrest etc</p>
<p>Swimming is an excellent pastime for all ages & abilities it is also a very important skill.I feel many families will be discouraged from attending sessions at the pool if lifeguard cover is reduced</p>
<p>might be at risk you can never tell when something is going to happen until it's to late</p>
<p>I think it is very important to have lifeguards on the pool side ,it only takes a second to get into trouble</p>
<p>is the price of a life worth losing lifeguard cover</p>
<p>I feel a reduction in lifeguard cover on poolside was cause</p>
<p>will not bring my children if no lifeguards</p>
<p>If there is no lifeguard between 7-9am and an elderly swimmer gets into difficulty that requires life saving, then who is expected to do this!! I know there is no legal obligation to provide a lifeguard, but being a council operated facility (with a pool of varying depth) you have a moral obligation to provide this service.</p>
<p>How would this affect insurance ?</p>
<p>I wouldn't feel safe without a lifeguard</p>
<p>trouble can come to anybody in a pool at anytime they need a lifeguard</p>
<p>I would not feel safe without the lifeguards</p>
<p>I don't think I would be at risk despite the lack of lifeguards however this might cause more people to mess around and disrupt people who want to swim also some people aren't strong swimmers and this would put them off swimming, it would make them feel unsafe and less confident.</p>
<p>I would be more concerned about my 8 yr old daughter and other children in the pool</p>
<p>I feel many children would be at risk</p>
<p>If you vote tory or lib dems you vote for cuts</p>
<p>learner children would have no chance</p>
<p>without safeguards in place i.e. lifeguards members of the public will die</p>
<p>children need qualified lifeguards to be confident and allow parents to be confident in the water with 3 children I would have to bring them one at a time without the guards</p>
<p>I think that people will be in too much danger without a lifeguard, I chat with lifeguards often and they bring a sense of safeness to the pool and would not like to attend without them</p>
<p>People with disabilities e.g. epilepsy use the pool. Also older people who may trip, slip or have an illness e.g. stroke. On one occasion I had bad cramp luckily I was in</p>

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shallow water and able to stop. I would have thought a minimum risk assessment would require pool supervision and that health and safety regs would not allow care. Litigation follow incidents in other pools would need consideration.
Even though I am a competent swimmer I would not feel confident swimming with no lifeguard on duty
I would not be as confident using a pool without the use of lifeguards.
I panic easily and I like to know there are people there to help at all times
In my experience the lifeguards at Dunes are very helpful, I often talk to the lifeguards and enjoy their interaction, also the risks of not having lifeguards makes me not want to return to this pool
Health & Safety risks are great
SWIMMING POOLS NEED LIFEGUARDS ! NOT DIFFICULT REALLY !
Health & safety risk. Should not be up to the public to deal with any problems if they arise.
Shocking enquiry, lifeguards are essential. You will see you are wrong when a young child drowns!
I don't want my life and other swimmers at risk when coming to use the pool.
Lifeguards are the most important people in this building, would be a shocking decision if happened.
Would feel like I couldn't bring my children for safety reasons.
I believe as it is by law in my country that there should always be a lifeguard present when people are swimming
Would not feel safe in the water and leaving my stuff in lockers if there was no lifeguards.
Why remove the cover at 7-9am and 20.00 – 22hrs when you have pensioners and disabled people swimming who probably need the lifeguards most but only reduce the cover at other times? Totally unfair. Are you doing this at Bootle also?
They do a very good job and are very important to the health and safety to all
It's very dangerous
I think if there are any cuts to be made I think the general safety of the public should not be put at risk It's horrific to think what would happen with out lifeguards on pool
Because you never know what could happen sudden illness cramp attacks etc
Disgusting proposal make cuts higher up and not front line staff we need them
water has to be inspected and the public should be watched
other people don't always know how to behave and can cause an accident
only take 1 minute for an accident to happen then it could be to late
Appalling that lifeguards who be removed from swimming pools
Re: question 8 not personally but I do think it's a tragedy waiting to happen
I thought there was a legal obligation to provide qualified staff during school swimming lessons my child will not be attending if lower graded staff are supervising training sessions for school kids. I speak to other parents who believe pools will become a solicitors playground. How much will it cost in litigation fees and higher insurance premiums. Cutting the hours is one thing. Destroying the quality of the staff is another.
Lifeguards play a very important part in a swimming environment

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The place isn't clean enough as it is !
Safety should be paramount
All the lifeguards are very good at there jobs and they need to be here
some of the questions on the back are as stupid as not having a lifeguard
need lifeguards not just for emergency but for personal safety
unbelievable to have a public swimming pool with out lifeguards
lifeguards are more important than cost cutting
Disgrace to even consider removing lifeguards. Would certainly take children elsewhere
The answers to five and seven are coloured by the fact I am a trained life saver and do not fear for myself. However, I think it is undesirable for public swimming not to be properly supervised.
I cannot believe that no lifeguard is even under consideration – just to save money. They are there to save lives. I feel much more secure knowing a guard is present when swimming. This idea should be shelved.
Lifeguards on both pools are essential to ensuring peoples safety while they are in the pools especially to ensure the safety of young children and babies
I've been a good /professional swimmer so, personally the lack of lifeguards do not effect me however it may be significant for learners
I am ex competitive national level swimmer so that's why my answers are as such I do feel that lifeguards are essential if I take the ability & age of a lot of the swimmers sharing the pool at same time I'm in there
I don't use the pool but my grandchildren do and I wouldn't like to think of them without a lifeguard particularly as I was pulled out of a pool myself when I was 7yrs old
do not swim much now but think the protection is needed particularly for learners
you are putting lives at risk if you reduce lifeguard cover at the swimming pool
disagree with the removal of lifeguards completely ! I personally may feel safe but when swimming with children I think a lifeguard is essential
lifeguards are required in any swimming pool safety is always needed
lifeguard cover is a necessity even the best swimmer could run into difficulties cramp,injury,illness ets.
The pool is predominately used by children at the times I visit and the fact that there is a lifeguard present gives me peace of mind that if a child got into difficulty there is a trained member of staff who knows what to do
- I find it disgusting that you are considering removing lifeguard cover it is a necessity and if this occurs I will be sure to take my business elsewhere
I answered no to question 7 however you do not know when and if you will need assistance and their should be staff on incase you do need assistance
if a suitable and comprehensive risk assessment is conducted its possible to run swimming lessons and class sessions without the need for a lifeguard for public swimming sessions that is more difficult
lifeguards are in place in pools to ensure safe swimming for all whether you are 108 or 8 years of age To take away the lifeguards means you are putting life at risk and to cut the services the same applies The pool is a great place to come for pleasure, family time, fitness and wellbeing and opportunities provided for future potential of

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our Olympians please do not cut our lifeguard services(Family Name provided)
I understand there were 'laws with regard to pools' being guarded anyone could become ill during a session having someone on duty at all times is essential
I would feel very unsafe without lifeguards being on duty and would stop using the centre if they were taken away. Part of the service is to have lifeguards on duty
As an epileptic I come to dunes because of the fact that there are always lifeguards on duty (which you don't always get in private gyms/pools) I would feel much more at risk if the lifeguards weren't there to keep an eye on me and keep me safe if I had a seizure in the pool
safety at the swimming baths is absolutely paramount and the removal of a lifeguard will not improve safety or the confidence of the patrons should there be any issues The role of a lifeguard is essential and should not be viewed as a viable of acceptable to ' save money'
I consider the cost I pay to include aspects of health and safety. If this is removed then I would have to consider an alternative venue where there is no lifeguard but costs are cheaper
I think it is disgraceful to be honest someone will lose a life just to save some money. When going swimming with children when it makes you feel safe knowing there is someone watching over everyone, in case of an emergency many people will think twice before coming swimming with no lifeguards please remember that
Public pools cover all age ranges & allow children 8yrs of age in alone .Discipline would suffer if there was no control is wanting to run like private pools then age restrictions should apply IE all under 16s should be accompanied by a responsible adult
I am not a good swimmer but come for exercise Also I bring grandchildren for exercise also splashworld I think that lack of lifeguards is atrocious!!
There are so many young children and they need to have lifeguards also in splashworld
As someone with epilepsy the proposed cuts would mean I would not be able to swim on weekdays The level of the cuts disproportionately affect people with a disability In proposing these cuts did you assure anyone with a disability is not at work during office hours?
It will only be a matter of time before the removal of a lifeguard results in a fatality. Once one lifeguard is removed then next time it will be another lifeguard & something else The council will be sued if someone dies as a result of the lifeguards being removed .The council has a duty of care why not shut down the entire swimming pools complex & the leisure centres as well whilst your at it under no circumstances should lifeguard level be tampered with why not look at voluntary redundancy early retirement the 50+age group??
What next? Start making cuts where it matters and not on the people and services we really need you have already cut back on reception which is a disgrace
I think lifeguard cover is more important when there are children (16yrs + under) in the pool Adult swimming early morning and at lunch time do not really need to be supervised as such
A pool needs the safety and expertise of lifeguards as anyone can have a medical emergency whilst in the pool you also do not know how the public can swim when they enter the pool and can quickly get into difficulty
Although as an adult the removal of lifeguards would not adversely affect my using the pool It would have a major impact on the use my daughter has of the pool I

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<p>would not be happy to allow children to swim unsupervised without lifeguards being present If lifeguards were removed I would use dunes facilities far less as swimming is the only activity available for children most of the time whilst I am able to use other facilities</p>
<p>I would be concerned about the safety of junior phab members if a lifeguard wasn't present during their session (Mondays)</p>
<p>The lifeguards do make me feel safer. I think that if there were any kids misbehaving, a lifeguard can help. Also if anyone became ill / passed out / heart attack- obviously a lifeguard could save someone's life.</p>
<p>I have two children age 8 +9 who go swimming on their own. We would not go if there were not lifeguards, as although I am watching from the side I would not be able to get them in time if there was an issue as I am not a strong fast swimmer</p>
<p>I disgrace to even consider this action as are some of the questions on this form</p>
<p>LIFEGUARDS= NO ACCIDENTS NO LIFEGUARDS= ACCIDENTS Can someone within epton please use your brain, and realise the amount of incidents lifeguards must prevent by their intervention or just by their being on the pool please have some sense</p>
<p>Any compromise of any safety is totally unacceptable</p>
<p>simply a health and safety issue</p>
<p>UNBELIEVABLE DECISIONS TO HAVE NO LIFEGUARD</p>
<p>I feel that the removal of lifeguards at any point of when the pool is open to the public would be endangering all of the people that use the pool as an accident can happen at any time and the lack of lifeguards could result in serious injuries</p>
<p>As I am studying law .I believe it is a legal requirement for a lifeguard to be at the pool side at a public pool whenever there are people present within the pool</p>
<p>This is very dangerous everybody whom comes swimming is in danger of death</p>
<p>lifeguards are in place for a reason to ensure the safety of occupants in a body of water at all times</p>
<p>I think the removal of lifeguard cover at pools would be irresponsible as the risk to the public on health and safety would be greater</p>
<p>Cancel membership</p>
<p>Being a swimming instructor myself I recognise the importance of lifeguard cover at all times Who would spot the casualty in the water if a lifeguard wasn't there Who would spot the hazards that could endanger a swimmer in or around the pool ? LIFEGUARD COVER IS PARAMOUNT AT ALL TIMES !!!</p>
<p>The removal of lifeguards would not have any effect on my swimming as I generally swim with epton lifesaving and swimming club As a person with some lifesaving experience I would be concerned if cover was to be removed from pools (especially those with flumes and other play areas) When children are present. It is possible for accompanying adults to lose sight of children and it only takes an unguarded moment for a child to get into difficulty. I write this from the perspective of a parent – even though my children are now grown and competent swimmers</p>
<p>I think it is totally irresponsible act to remove lifeguards whether you are a competent swimmer or not .It is almost like a comfort blanket knowing that if you have any difficulties they are there to help</p>
<p>I go swimming by myself at some sessions. I can swim but if I got into trouble I would expect a council run swimming pool to have adequate cover. When I go with my two children I would expect appropriate staffing to be available</p>

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I thought it was a legal requirement to provide lifeguard provision when people were in the swimming pool under the health and safety act if no lifeguards were in attendance this would be a high risk strategy if an emergency arose with no staff available to provide first aid & life saving skills If no lifeguard provision was available it would be better to close the pool but this would be a regrettable action

You have a duty of care to provide lifeguard cover at the pool & gym. Signs are discriminating against persons unable to read or understand signs Also signs can't give first aid or assist people from the water who are in distress

Water safety needs to be of paramount importance at all times. When I teach I feel I need the support of the lifeguards as I cannot keep my eye on all sections of the pool. If I do have to spend more time focusing on the safety of the people in the pool this will have an emphasis on the quality of my teaching. Custom may be lost as parents will not be willing to allow their children to be left unsupervised. As a parent I would not allow this myself As an ex lifeguard and a teacher, I feel that the safety of the proposed idea will go against everything I have taught about water safety and will have an immense negative impact on the success of the swimming pools. Swimming lessons take place to ensure children are fully aware of water safety and taking lifeguards away from the pools will go completely against this and put peoples lives at risk

Although I'm pretty confident in the water I had a bad experience as a boy in the swimming pool and feel the lack of lifeguards would seriously affect my confidence would like to add my disgust in some of the questions asked on the reverse of this form and will be seeking any possible further action in the offence taken by reading these disturbing questions

I am worried for the safety of my child while swimming with no lifeguard. I would not use the swimming pool if it had no lifeguard

Although I am able to swim fairly confidently I would not be happy to swim without lifeguard cover because of the responsibility that would be placed on all swimmers should someone become ill or have difficulty in using the pool

I find the fact that you are even considering removing life-guards astonishing! Surely the amount of money you would save would be used in compensation when inevitably people have accidents. I would not use the pool if lifeguard cover was reduced

I feel safer knowing the lifeguards are there in case of emergency and can't believe you would even think of removing them! I would no longer use the pool if there were no lifeguards .Yes people in the learner pool are always with adults however sometimes with grandparents who are at a higher risk. Lifeguards also maintain law and order imagine what the children would behave like without lifeguards When the inevitable death occurs from this legislation happens I hope you will feel ok with having blood on your hands

Although I am not personally at risk I would be extremely concerned to have public swimming without a lifeguard. Every year children die in public swimming pools even with lifeguards present . To remove lifeguards would only increase the numbers of children at risk

I am a strong swimmer, with a background in competitive swimming. However, I believe the withdrawal of lifeguards from pool is a disgraceful and disgusting way of cutting back expenditure. Even the best swimmers in the world are at risk of drowning. What if someone gets injured during a swim or suffers a heart attack with swimming? No lifeguards on duty would mean the potential for drowning is much higher. It's diabolical that Sefton Council are willing to put lives at risk for the sake of cutting back a few pounds. Why not cut the opening times of leisure centres instead? I would refuse to swim in a pool without a lifeguard out of principle. I'm

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<p>athletic but I feel that you're putting my life at risk by removing lifeguards. If Sefton were to go ahead with this ridiculous option, I will be switching my membership to Liverpool or Knowsley. You're endangering lives with this absurd notion.</p>
<p>We are a school who use the pools (Learner and large pool) weekly throughout the year. As safeguarding children is something we as a school take seriously – lifeguard cover is important to us.</p>
<p>I would be reluctant to send my classes without a lifeguard being present – Headteacher.</p>
<p>Even if it was the slightest chance of one of our children being at risk, we feel that lifeguards should be present at all times in our swimming sessions.</p>
<p>Ridiculous suggestion.</p>
<p>Has this suggestion been forwarded to Sefton Association of Primary Heads via CV @ St Benedicts?</p>
<p>Would not swim due to health and safety might hurt yourself or drown.</p>
<p>I would want lifeguards to be there.</p>
<p>I think that this option is stupid and someone might drown.</p>
<p>You can't not have lifeguards but can't you be a bit more imaginative like giving away an annual membership to someone who is prepared to be a life guard for the times you are looking for.</p>
<p>As a parent I have been at the Dunes swimming pool whilst my child had swimming lessons. In my opinion there is no need for a swimming instructor AND a lifeguard to be in attendance for 6 children. Half the learner pool is open to the public but this is not well use, and therefore not value for money for the local government. I put my name down for swimming lessons for my child and was told that the classes were full. This was not the case and my child swam at the lessons and paid for many weeks before I was telephone and advised there was a vacancy! I know some parents that have not paid for the swimming lessons, it seems to be optional and payment not chased. In my opinion the business skills at Dunes are weak and the staff have never been encouraged or incentivised to increase income or footfall. I run a small 3 rental property business and I need all my properties to be filled to break even and make a profit. These basic business skills apply Dunes.</p>
<p>I am shocked to hear about this proposal. I appreciate savings have to be made but I feel the council has a duty of care to residents using the pool. I also feel part of the fee paid for the use of the pool should cover the lifeguards costs. Once people use the pool less because of the lack of cover, then it is likely that use of the facility will reduce and will ultimately end in the closure of the pool which is an important amenity(especially for children who need to take regular exercise). I feel this is a short-sighted cut and the wider implications need to be considered.</p>
<p>What would be the responsibility of other users in the event of an incident? What if only 1 user who had a medical problem in the pool? What about disability discrimination? (i.e. those who would feel unsafe due to their difficulties) We need longer swimming hours</p>
<p>In my 60 odd years of regular swimming in various parts of the country, I have seen accidents such as concussion to a back stroke swimmer who misjudged a turn, trapped limbs behind pool ladders, falls and heart attacks. In each case, swift action by lifeguards prevented potential fatalities. I think that lifeguard cover is essential for all public sessions, apart from club or school groups with their own supervisor. I have had basic life saving training myself and would continue to use the Meadows pool regardless of lifeguard cover. How would reduced lifeguard cover affect the council's public liability insurance cover?</p>

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Accepting that cuts may be made at council level, I think it is quite diabolical to think of cutting down lifeguards. Even the elderly have to be looked after besides the safety of young children in a pool. Who are these councillors who would even think of reducing the risks and safety of all when swimming. The last question on this questionnaire is quite unnecessary; see remarks on last page (Comments on last page next to current gender – What is the reason for this weird question. Nothing to do with the subject matter of this questionnaire. Have we some 'queer' people amongst the council? What are we coming to?)

As a primary school, we would not wish for our staff to be qualified and deal with a rescue if required. Even if our staff member is trained, we supplement, charge staff at a minute's notice due to staffing shortages and different staff members regularly escort pupils. Rescue and training is something which we feel is for ???? staff whose main job and purpose is that reason. Not school teaching staff.

After speaking to staff who go swimming at school would not be happy to be lifeguards

Appendix 2 – Other Documentation Representation

Officers of Sefton Council facilitating on the 'Have Your Say Day' on 19th December 2011. Consultation Event for adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health Issues.

The day was arranged to allow people who needed additional support to be fully part of the consultation and to be assisted to be so.

All of the areas under consultation that were being offered to the general public through questionnaires were covered. Each area had an easy read questionnaire devised that allowed the officers to explain what the ideas were and to ask the individuals what they thought.

The officers who attended on the day and their roles are -
Michelle Green - Learning Disabilities Information Officer – Adult Social Care.
Organiser of event and support for individuals. Converted questionnaires into Easy Read.

David Seddon – Research and Information Assistant – Adult Social Care
Role as facilitator and support for individuals to be involved in the consultation.

Marie Rimmer - Tourism Services - Tourism Assistant – Support for Individuals.

Graham Mussell – Manager Specialist Transport – Support for Individuals.

Zoe Clarke - Libraries - Principal Development Manager, Community Cohesion – There to support Individuals.

Nicola Beattie - Principal Development Manager Leisure Inclusion - Leisure Services – There to support Individuals.

Carol Cater – Contracts manager – Support for Individuals, Neil Watson – Contracts Officer – Support for Individuals.

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Lesley McCann - Manager Supporting People Team and Sue Kearney - Supporting People Assistant (who also converted consultation questionnaire into easy read) Supporting people there.

Dave McLeavy – Ainsdale Discovery Centre – Parks and Gardens and Coast and Countryside. Support for Individuals.

Lou Fashoni – Business Manager Adult Social Care

Marcus Roberts – Business Manager Children’s Services

People First Sefton. Promotion and Refreshments.

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Excerpt from Meadows Community Forum meeting minutes. Meeting held on 21st November 2011 at Meadows Leisure Centre & Library

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Any Other Business

Review of lifeguard cover –it was explained to the group of this savings proposal for 2012-13 and the non-life guarding of swimming pools during specific times. This proposal had now gone to public consultation and questionnaires are currently on reception.

Full minutes of the meeting are available on request.

Excerpt relevant to this option from the Consultation Event held by Sefton Young Advisors on 3rd December 2011

Introduction

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) is aiming to make around £20m of cuts. Inevitably, many of these transformations will impact upon young people, whether it is through their health care, education, sport or leisure facilities (and many more). SMBC has made proposals of around £25m of reductions in spending, this is to allow flexibility in the changes to budgets and that local councillors are able to recognise where the cuts would be best placed. If £20m of the £25m proposed cuts are to go ahead as predicted, this entails 20% of the proposed reductions in spending being removed from the proposal.

The Sefton Young Advisors designed an event to hear the views and thoughts of young people from across the borough. The event was aimed at 13 – 19 year olds and information about the consultation was distributed across the borough, through various partner agencies and outlets, to try and obtain the widest possible range of young people, as a fairer representation of the young people within Sefton. Posters and flyers were designed by colleagues in Sefton Council.

The event aimed to consult with young people about their views on specific portions of the proposed cuts, totalling £1.1m, which were mainly orientated around green spaces and leisure. These included proposals to reductions in expenditure on parks, lifeguards, flower baskets, park rangers and several others.

Different methods and activities were used within the event to obtain lots of comments and views from the participants without it becoming boring or monotonous. The event took place at SING Plus in Waterloo from 2-4pm on Saturday 3rd of December 2011, and plenty of refreshments were available. Travel reimbursement was also offered for groups who organised transport, to encourage different groups to participate.

Less lifeguard cover in Sefton's pools

- Having all swimming instructors lifeguard trained so that an extra lifeguard is not necessary.

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- Have a volunteer lifeguard scheme, here you could train people for free (or minimal cost) in exchange for an amount of lifeguard volunteer hours e.g. 200 hours
- you could also advertise volunteer positions through volunteer organisations like the Volunteer Centre.

Rank/ order game

Young people were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important

- Life Guards – 50% of the young people ranked Lifeguards as number 1, meaning it was the most important to them. Numbers 1,2,3,4, 5 & 9 all received one or 2 votes, but overall the majority viewed lifeguards and highly important.

Full minutes are available on request

Excerpt from meeting of Sefton Access Forum: 22nd November 2011 and Ability Network – 8th December 2011

Below are the comments from members of the two above networks for disabled people regarding the Transformation Option E3.6 Lifeguard cover

E3.6 Lifeguard Cover – Network reps commented on how this option encompassed a number of changes which really should be allowed for comment individually, as the option to give a yes or no answer on all the different changes within the larger proposal will give misleading results. Members on the whole agreed with the individual sections regarding the removal of cover for club sessions and the reduction in staff for school sessions only on the basis that club /school staff would receive adequate training. Members also supported the reduction on staff at Splash World at quieter times.

However the group did not support at all the two proposals to remove cover in pools during the early morning sessions and in the learner pools. Members raised significant objections to these two proposals on the ground that they will pose serious health and safety hazards to older people and disabled people. Specifically the proposal on removal of cover within the learner pools members who were parents and grandparents raised serious issues, as there have been cases in which children have drowned within pools whilst being with parents and parents attending with more than one child, disabled parents or parents without sufficient training would be left without assistance should a situation require it. It was strongly emphasized by all members that on safety grounds and that these changes would dramatically impact on the choice or confidence of disabled people and disabled parents attending who rely on the support of trained staff these two elements of the proposals should not be taken forward. It was raised that the possibilities of increased legal costs resulting from increasing accidents could negate any savings made.

Overall

For all of the above options members highlighted how important thorough and robust monitoring will be of the impact on service users. Monitoring any falling in the numbers of people using the service, particularly disabled or older people, as this can highlight how the implementation of these

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Full minutes are available upon request

Equality Analysis Report E3.6

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference

E3.6

Details of proposal: Reduce life guard cover at all swimming pools.
It is proposed to implement the following change –

Reduce life guard cover at all swimming pools which will include:-

- No cover for public sessions between the hours of 07.00 – 09.00 & 20.00 – 22.00.
- No cover in the learner pool at Dunes during weekdays.
- No cover for clubs sessions.
- Reduced cover during school swimming lessons.
- Reduced cover in Splash World.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': NO

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

Recorded Pool Incidents

Bootle Leisure Centre

There have been 5 pool incidents in the main pool in the past year, 7am - 9 am requiring Lifeguard support. All of these incidents were minor (cuts / sprains / asthma attack) and could have been treated by a member of staff from elsewhere in the building. There were also approximately 5 - 6 incidents recorded for the rest of the building including wet Changing rooms where Lifeguards administered first aid.

At Bootle Leisure Centre the majority of lifeguard incidents occur during school swimming sessions (9.00 – 3pm, Mon - Fri), life guard making 1-2 rescues per day.

Dunes

There have been 2 pool incidents in the past year where support was required by the Life Guard, 7am – 9am. The general age of the swimmers in the morning is over 50 years old.

Meadows

There have been no incidents during the specific times but leisure attendant assistance with the pool hoist is needed most mornings for disabled persons.

Proposed change	Mitigation
No cover for public sessions between the hours of 07.00 – 09.00 & 20.00 – 22.00	Most swimmers during these times are adults, who are fit and capable swimmers and using the pools as part of an exercise programme
No cover in the learner pool at Dunes during weekdays	All users of the learner pool at these times are adults accompanying children. Therefore they already

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	provide supervision.
Cover for clubs sessions that still have cover (several sessions had life guard cover removed last year as part of management efficiencies, this has been partly introduced without any implications)	Clubs are delivering swimming development and use highly trained coaches. All members are highly competent. Coaches would be trained to be able to effect a pool rescue.
Reduced cover during school swimming lessons	Swimming teachers are present during the lessons and could be encouraged to be trained up to provide rescue cover. Additionally schools could purchase Life guard cover.
Reduced cover in Splash World.	By altering the way lifeguards operate and reorganising their working hours it is possible to reduce the number.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes (give evidence and list details of how this can be mitigated)

Disability and Age (older people) – Disabled users and older people may have issues accessing the pool facilities or related medical conditions which may make them less likely to use the pool when a life guard is not on duty between 7am – 9am & 8pm – 10pm. Other centre staff such as Duty Managers, gym staff and receptionists will be available to assist users who require additional support to access the pool such as using pool hoist. These staff will also be available to administer first aid or assist with pool evacuations as required. Additional staff can be called by the activation of the pool emergency alarm, signposted at several points around the pool sides which sound and illuminated around the centres.

Age (under 5's) – Parents with young children may be less likely to use the learner pool during the week daytime if a lifeguard is not on duty. Mitigation as above.

Age (Children & young people) – Parents may be less likely to use or allow their children to use Splash World if there is a reduction in lifeguard cover due to the nature of the facility. Lifeguard cover will meet but not exceed the required recommend level for the facility and bather load.

Age (Children & young people) – Schools or swimming clubs may choose not to use the pool if a lifeguard is not on duty during their session. A reduced lifeguard cover will be available during these sessions and other staff such as swimming teachers / coaches will also hold the required qualifications to ensure safety is maintained during the sessions, such as RNLI teachers rescue certificate. There is the option for schools to purchase additional Life guard cover.

Pregnancy – Pregnant women may have related medical conditions which makes them less likely to use the pool without a lifeguard on duty. Mitigation as above.

Gender reassignment – No impact

Marriage and civil partnership – No impact

Race – No impact

Religion and belief – No impact

Sex – No impact

Sexual orientation – No impact

Consultation

Consultation was carried out using the methods outlined below and results / analysis are available in the related consultation report.

Gym member / pool user questionnaire – October to January – Survey data

E-consult – October to January – Survey data

User Forums – November - Minutes

Sefton Access Forum – November – Agenda & Minutes

Swimming Clubs – October – Copy of letter & meeting

Schools – December – Copy of letter & attendance at primary school heads quarterly meeting

Results of consultation

Young Advisors event:

Less lifeguard cover in Sefton's pools

- Having all swimming instructors lifeguard trained so that an extra lifeguard is not necessary.
- Have a volunteer lifeguard scheme, here you could train people for free (or minimal cost) in exchange for an amount of lifeguard volunteer hours e.g. 200 hours
- you could also advertise volunteer positions through volunteer organisations like the Volunteer Centre.

-

Rank/ order game

Young people were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important

- Life Guards – 50% of the young people ranked Lifeguards as number 1, meaning it was the most important to them. Numbers 1,2,3,4, 5 & 9 all received one or 2 votes, but overall the majority viewed lifeguards and highly important.

Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY Network

E3.6 Lifeguard Cover – Network reps commented on how this option encompassed a number of changes which really should be allowed for comment individually, as the option to give a yes or no answer on all the different changes within the larger proposal will give misleading results. Members on the whole agreed with the individual sections regarding the removal of cover for

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club sessions and the reduction in staff for school sessions only on the basis that club /school staff would receive adequate training. Members also supported the reduction on staff at Splash World at quieter times.

However the group did not support at all the two proposals to remove cover in pools during the early morning sessions and in the learner pools. Members raised significant objections to these two proposals on the ground that they will pose serious health and safety hazards to older people and disabled people. Specifically the proposal on removal of cover within the learner pools members who were parents and grandparents raised serious issues, as there have been cases in which children have drowned within pools whilst being with parents and parents attending with more than one child, disabled parents or parents without sufficient training would be left without assistance should a situation require it. It was strongly emphasized by all members that on safety grounds and that these changes would dramatically impact on the choice or confidence of disabled people and disabled parents attending who rely on the support of trained staff these two elements of the proposals should not be taken forward. It was raised that the possibilities of increased legal costs resulting from increasing accidents could negate any savings made.

Overall

For all of the above options members highlighted how important thorough and robust monitoring will be of the impact on service users. Monitoring any falling in the numbers of people using the service, particularly disabled or older people, as this can highlight how the implementation of these

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes – service provision is delivered in light of the equality act and the three public sector equality duties.

- Eliminate discrimination – we will continue to monitor standards of service to ensure none of our service users are treated less favourably due to a protected characteristic
- Advance equality of opportunity – we will continue to provide services in a way that meets needs of service users in relation to their protected characteristics.
- Foster good relations between different protected characteristics – we will continue to provide services in a way that is supportive of service users' differences
- This report links to our current EIA for Health & Wellbeing in compliance with legislation (published January 31st 2012)

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.6:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E3.6 and recommend to the Council that

1. the approval of a limited reduction in life guard cover during the low risk periods identified

2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.

Proposal Reference: E3.12

**Service Description: Library Service – Local History/Information Service
Categorisation, Frontline**

The Local History and Information Service is based at Crosby library. It provides a specialist unit for people researching local and family history service, and for more detailed specialist enquiries for information. Although based at Crosby it is a borough wide service providing specialist support and advice for all the libraries in Sefton. It houses the historical archives of Sefton Council. The annual number of local history enquiries = 12,500. There were two such units in Sefton – one at Southport library service and one at Crosby. This was reduced to one unit at Crosby for the whole borough with effect from 1st July 2011. The impact of this reduction is currently under going assessment.

The costs of the unit for 2011/12 = £174,000 (£280,000 2010/11).

Where local authorities have accredited archive services, with archivists there are national surveys that result in comparable data. However, Sefton is one of a handful of local authorities nationally that does not have an accredited archive service.

Consultation has closed on the following option - To restructure the Local History and Information Services team, deleting 2 posts: 1 X Local History Librarian, 1 X Lifelong Learning Assistants (18 hours).

Original rationale for service change proposal – The need to reduce the costs of the service to deliver savings for the Council, whilst delivering and maintaining a minimum level of service. See additional information.

When the unit at Southport closed there was a reduction in staffing but both of the Local History librarians and all the lifelong learning assistants were retained and those in Southport transferred to Crosby. This was to ensure a smooth transition and maintain the specialist knowledge and expertise. It was hoped to retain the level of specialist knowledge for another year but the need to deliver savings results in the proposal for the local history service to be at the same reduced level as the information service.

Legislation Considered - Our statutory obligation under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 is to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it (section 7) ; lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (section 8).

The Local History Service fulfils part of the Council's responsibility for its historic documents, as laid out in the Local Government Act 1972.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users -

- Reduction in the ability to provide access to information to members of the public.
- Loss of specialist knowledge.
- Reduced service provision of historic archives.

Partners –

- Reduction of partnership working/reduction in services to all departments.
- Negative impacts particularly on schools as local history forms part of the national curriculum.

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- Negative impact particularly on the Planning Department who require local historical information for development and conservation work.
- Reduced service provision of departmental historic archives.
- Reduced ability to provide council information to the public.
- Overall delays in service to other council departments and loss of specialist knowledge.

Council - The Local History section fulfils the council's statutory responsibilities towards the council's historic documents as laid down in the Local Government Act 1972.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A questionnaire was produced and available to all users of the service. The aim of the consultation was to seek information and views that would help to support managing the service in the future.

Letters were written to local history societies, they were asked for their views and invited to attend 1 of 2 meetings held with local authority officers.

Discussions were held at meetings of the Sefton Access Forum and the Ability Network.

In addition, the questionnaire was included in the online consultation process.

In total, 32 responses were received from the questionnaires. 22 of these were completed on-line and 10 completed the paper questionnaire.

24 of the responses were from people who had used the service in the past 12 months.

The results have provided some useful information about how the service can be managed in the future and indicate where the community could support the service in the future.

A significant number of attendees at the Access Forum and the Ability Network use the local history and information service, and found staff assistance invaluable. However, they felt that this service should be reduced before other more vital services were cut. They supported the move to encourage volunteers.

See full consultation report E3.12

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR 3.12

Risks & Mitigating Actions – There is a risk of not being able to fulfil the Council's statutory obligation (as laid down in the Local Government Act 1972) with regards to historic archive. The relevant parts of the legislation are below, including definitions. The Local Government Act 1972 (s.224) requires local authorities to 'make proper arrangements with respect to any documents that belong to or are in the custody of the council of any of their officers' but does not oblige them to provide archive services. In 1999 the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (now the Department for Communities and Local Government) issued guidance on the interpretation of the term 'proper arrangements'.

'Proper arrangements' for the current or recent records of a local authority should involve the skilled supervision of their management by an appropriately trained member of staff.

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Proper arrangements should also involve the provision of adequate storage for the records in conditions where they will not deteriorate and with protection from unauthorised access. Provision should be made for consultation by the authority's staff and, where appropriate, by members of the public. Guidelines should also be drawn up, and implemented, for the safekeeping of records retained directly by staff of the authority. Records identified by retention schedules as having long-term or vital significance should be treated accordingly during this period.

Mitigating actions will be to work closely with local history groups and societies, and investigate how they can help to support the service.

Mitigating action will be to ensure that such collections are retained and staff are aware of them.

There is a risk of a lack of specialist knowledge. This will be mitigated by training and supporting the remaining staff prior to April 2012.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will stop:

- Local History lecture programme to older people.
- Local History publication programme.

There may be a reduction in the following:

- Speed of response to information enquiries.
- Local history provision in libraries.
- Partnership work.
- Level of specialist knowledge for one (North or South Sefton) area.
- The ability to reply to specialist archival enquiries.
- The ability to provide council information to the public.
- The ability to fulfil the council's responsibilities towards historic archives in the Local Government Act 1972.

Cost of Local History and Information Service: £174,000
Staffing:
Other Resources: Local History sources and information £24,000

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £137,000
Budget Reduction 2012/13: £37,000
Council Staff at Risk: Yes
Number of Posts at Risk: 2

Consultation Report E3.12

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to reduce staffing and service levels at the Local History/Information Services Unit at Crosby Library (Ref: E 3.12)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions.

The consultation on the budget options closes on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option on **to reduce the level of staffing and service for the local history/information unit at Crosby Library**. The consultation was targeted to all users of the service.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A questionnaire was produced and available to all users of the service. The aim of the consultation was to seek information and views that would help to support managing the service in the future.

Letters were written to local history societies, they were asked for their views and invited to attend 1 of 2 meetings held with local authority officers.

Discussions were held at meetings of the Sefton Access Forum and the Ability Network.

In addition, the questionnaire was included in the online consultation process.

The option proposal was also included in the telephone survey community consultation.

Executive Summary

In total, 32 responses were received from the questionnaires. 22 of these were completed on-line and 10 completed the paper questionnaire.

24 of the responses were from people who had used the service in the past 12 months.

The results have provided some useful information about how the service can be managed in the future and indicate where the community could support the service in the future. The monitoring information is contained at Appendix 3 but there is no indication in the responses that this influences any of the responses.

There was a poor response rate to the question about the frequency of use of the service, but the most popular response was once a month. This reflects how people use the service – that it is often for more intense research, rather than everyday use.

The most popular method of accessing the service was in person, followed by telephone enquiry. This reflects how the service is used, and that people have to visit in person to access the material they need. There is little available digitally. People need help from staff when conducting research. About half of the respondents were aware of the on-line resources which indicates that further publicity is needed about their availability. The most common use of the service was for local history material, microfilms for local/family history research. A few people were prepared to volunteer to help the service. However, only one was interested in dealing with the general enquiries. The others were interested in helping to catalogue and digitise the collection, so they were more interested in helping to develop the service, rather than helping to run it. The interest in volunteering will be followed up.

Two meetings were held with representatives of local history societies in Sefton to discuss the affect of staffing reductions. They felt that it was inappropriate for members to run the local history unit due to the complex nature and variety of enquiries, which required specialist training. They felt it was important to have 'experts on hand' and that the necessary knowledge base required to run the local history section was too great for their members. However, they did feel members may be interested in volunteering to help support some functions of the section by listing archives and providing occasional help desk support. They also felt that the

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local history collection was best kept in one place, with specialist staff on hand to assist with enquiries. With reduced staffing, they felt access to materials may become a problem, and they cautiously welcomed the idea of digitising parts of the collection to improve access. They felt some members may be interested in helping with this project by volunteering to do some of the inputting required.

A significant number of attendees at the Access Forum and the Ability Network use the local history and information service, and found staff assistance invaluable. However, they felt that this service should be reduced before other more vital services were cut. They supported the move to encourage volunteers.

The respondents to the telephone survey community consultation were asked their view on reducing the Local History lectures and publications programme. 60% agreed to the reduction, whilst 28% disagreed.(12% neither agreed or disagreed).

The consultation analysis

A questionnaire invited responses from users on the following aspects:

- How often and what method they used to access the service
- .What services they used
- How often they needed staff help
- Whether they were aware of the on-line reference services, and if so, which ones
- Whether they were interested in volunteering to help run the service

Evaluation – local history/information service

Question 1

Have you used the local history / information service in the past 12 months?		
Yes	24	
No	7	
Incomplete	1	

Question 2

How often do you use the local history / information service?		
Every day	0	
Once a week	3	
Once a month	8	
Incomplete	21	

Question 3

How do you access the local history/information service? (Tick all that apply)
--

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In person	25	
Telephone enquiry	10	
E-mail enquiry	3	
Incomplete	5	

Question 4

What services do you use at the local history/information service unit? (Tick all that apply)		
Read newspapers/magazines	12	
Look up information in reference books e.g. directories, encyclopaedias	18	
Council information	6	
General information enquiry	6	
Use microfilms/microfiches for local and/or family history	22	
Use local history material that is not on public display	19	
Use ancestry.co.uk	8	
Detailed research	12	
Incomplete	5	

Question 5

How often have you needed help from staff with these services?		
Every day	0	
Once a week	4	
Once a month	5	
Only when researching. Please state how often	16	
Never	3	
Incomplete	4	

Question 6

Are you aware of the on-line reference service available via Sefton's website that can be used at home? This includes Oxford Reference, Oxford Dictionary or National Biography, Theory Test Pro, Newsstand		
Yes	13	
No	15	
Incomplete	4	

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Question 7

Yes - if so which ones have you used? (Tick all that apply)		
Oxford Reference Online Premium	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oxford English Dictionary	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theory Test Pro	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsstand	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incomplete	9	

Question 8

Are you interested in volunteering to help run the local history / information services unit?		
Yes	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incomplete	3	

If yes, these are the areas of service to consider. Please tick any that you are interested in volunteering:		
Staffing a helpdesk to help people learn how to research their family history	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dealing with general, routine enquiries	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Displaying information	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help to digitise the local history collection (the service has a wealth of material such as photos and postcards that are not accessible for the public but could be converted into a digital format and made readily available)	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help to catalogue the local history collection	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
incomplete	3	

Question 9

Are you a member of a Local History Society or Group in Sefton?		
Yes	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incomplete	4	

If so, which one?

- North Meols Family History Society, Southport
- Bootle Expressions Trustee
- St Johns History Group
- Queens Road Neighbourhood centre Family History Group
- Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS Group
- Crosby and District Historical Society
- Maghull & Lydiate Local History Society
- Birkdale & Ainsdale Historical Research Society.
- Formby Civic Society History GP

Question 10

Additional comments

- Liverpool & SW Lancashire FHS Group members have always found all staff members extremely helpful and patient with our requests. We wouldn't wish to lose the knowledge and expertise of the local History Librarians
- As a Senior Lecturer of Edge Hill University (now retired) I regularly brought groups of final year undergraduates to Crosby Library to advance their understanding of archives and research methods. This service is something of which Sefton should be proud. It is extremely good and while recognising current financial restraints, I do not believe it should be handed over to be run by enthusiastic (albeit, well meaning) amateurs.
- I believe there are family/ local history groups and individuals which get together locally and were concerned when the service was centralised at Crosby. In view of their keen interest in the subject, one would have thought they would now be willing to volunteer to help or provide their contact information to the general as well as specialist Sefton library staff to deal with enquiries from out of town. A huge amount of local history information could be put on a specific Sefton council web site for anyone to get access to and perhaps the existing experienced staff could help do this so that their knowledge is not lost.
- The staff are always helpful on my visits. The knowledge and expertise of the local history librarians is invaluable and I would not wish this to be lost
- Need specialist and trained staff in local/family history library. Need staff to have relevant Customer Service skills. Need dedicated staff who are consistent and reliable. Do not think that volunteers would be able to provide the high standard that is available at the moment. Also need specialist staff for information services
- Would very much like to see some of the uncatalogued material fully catalogued. The facilities for research at Crosby would be a lot better - too much bustle and noise at times, not always very warm either

Other responses

Meetings held with local history societies are contained in the executive summary

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Alternative options proposals

None proposed

Monitoring Information

See Appendix 2

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Monitoring information

Completion of this form was not compulsory and in some cases, part completed

Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Yes	5		26.32
No	14		73.68

Disability: Do you have any of the following? (please select all that apply)			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Physical impairment	3		33.33
Visual impairment	1		11.11
Learning difficulty	0		0.00
Hearing impairment/deaf	4		44.44
Mental health/mental distress	0		0.00
Long term illness that affects your daily activity	1		11.11

Which of these options best describes your ethnic background? Please select one option (the options are listed alphabetically)			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Asian - Bangladeshi	0		0.00
Asian - Indian	0		0.00
Asian - Pakistani	0		0.00
Asian - Other Asian Background	0		0.00
Black - African	0		0.00
Black - Caribbean	0		0.00
Black - Other Black Background	0		0.00

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Chinese - Chinese	0		0.00
Chinese - Other Chinese Background	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Asian & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black African & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black Caribbean & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Other Mixed Ethnic Background	0		0.00
White - British	8		38.10
White - English	10		47.62
White - Irish	1		4.76
White - Scottish	1		4.76
White - Welsh	0		0.00
White - Polish	0		0.00
White - Latvian	0		0.00
White - Gypsy/Traveller	0		0.00
White - Other White Background	1		4.76

Do you have a religion or belief?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Yes	15		75.00
No	5		25.00

If 'Yes', please select one of the options below:			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Buddhist	1		6.67
Christian	14		93.33
Hindu	0		0.00
Jewish	0		0.00
Muslim	0		0.00
Sikh	0		0.00

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How would you describe your sexual orientation?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Heterosexual	17		100.00
Gay	0		0.00
Lesbian	0		0.00
Bisexual	0		0.00

What is your age?			
Answer Option	Response		
Under 55	5		
55 and over	15		

What is your gender?			
Answer Option	Response		
Male	11		
Female	12		
Incomplete	9		

What is the first part of your postcode?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
L9	0		0.00
L10	0		0.00
L20	3		14.29
L21	0		0.00
L22	3		14.29
L23	4		19.05
L29	0		0.00
L30	0		0.00
L31	0		0.00
L37	1		4.76

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L38	0		0.00
PR8	6		28.57
PR9	4		19.05

Appendix 2 – Other document representation

Appendix 2A – Letter to Local History Societies



People Directorate

Library and Information Services
2nd Floor Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle

Date: 17th November 2011

Our Ref: CH/bh

Please Contact: Christine Hall

Contact Number: 0151 934 2376

e-mail: christine.hall@sefton.gov.uk

Dear

Re: Consultation Meeting for Sefton's Local History Service

You may be aware that there is a savings option as part of Sefton Council's budget 2012/13 that will impact on the Local History Service if it is accepted. This option is to reduce the staffing level of the unit.

As part of the consultation process we have produced a survey that is available on-line or in paper format. The survey is aimed at people who use the Local History and Information Service. I attach a copy for your information. It provides more detail about the proposed savings option and the information and views that we are seeking.

In addition to the written surveys, we are holding a meeting with 1-3 representatives from each of the local and family history societies in Sefton.

There will be two meetings:

- Tuesday 29th November – Formby Library meeting room 2.30 -
3.30pm
- Thursday 1st December – Crosby Library small hall 2.30 -
3.30pm

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries in the meantime.

Yours sincerely

Christine Hall

Head of Library & Information Services

Please respond to my secretary, Brenda Harcombe, either by email or telephone at Brenda.harcombe@sefton.gov.uk or at 0151 934 2125 stating how many people from your society will be attending, and which date and venue.

Appendix 2 B - Notes from meetings with local history societies

Sefton MBC Transformation Programme 2011

Consultation with local history societies

**2 meetings held at Crosby Library and Formby Library – 29th November/
2nd December 2011**

**3 participants, representing Formby Civic Society – Local History Group;
Maghull Historical Society; Liverpool and South West Lancashire Family
History Society; Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre Family History
Group, Bootle**

Below is a summary of the comments made at these two meetings.

Staff expertise

Comments:

A quick resolution to enquiries by an 'expert on hand' is important. Staff expertise is needed to deal with the range and breadth of enquiries that they receive.

One representative considered that it was a shame that the axe has fallen on one of the two Local History Librarian posts, and that it is wrong to lose such valuable expertise. Once a service is lost, it will take years to rebuild. The Local History groups that she had spoken to with regard to this were 'horrified' at the prospect of this decision.

Digitisation

Background:

Digitisation of the collections is time consuming but would make the collection far more accessible. The priority would be the photographs

Comments:

Generally speaking, only 17% of one society's members use email. This low usage of computers could be a confidence issue, and perhaps this is something that the library service could support. It would affect people's ability to be able to help with a digitisation project.

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One local history society has its images available via “Flickr”. Maps and newspapers would also be useful. Agreed that Sefton’s local history pages could have a link to this.

Volunteers with technical leanings would be interested and two community groupings of people would be suited – recently retired and people placed by eg colleges or employment centres.

All agreed that digitalisation has a big budget implication

Indexing of archives

Background:

Transcribing archives is time-consuming and work-intensive, so dedicated volunteers who stick at the task in hand are very important. This is what the service would like the community to help with, especially in the light of having less staff available.

Comments:

Training and expertise critical with this

One representative stated they could help and could canvass for volunteers.

Sourcing appropriate volunteers is important; an initial interview procedure is key.

Enquiry helpdesks in libraries:

Background:

Would people be interested in working at enquiry desks?

Comments:

No. Too much knowledge required, outside of own local area.

Interested in staffing enquiry desk in local environment e.g Meadows/Maghull as a helpdesk for local people. This already takes place in several libraries.

One society felt that they could also deal with some enquiries outside of the library.

Appendix 2C – Excerpt from Notes from Sefton Access Forum, 22nd November 2011 and Ability Network 8th December 2011

Sefton MBC Transformation Programme 2011
Disabled Community Consultation

Below are the comments from members of the two above networks for disabled people regarding the Transformation Option 3.12 Local History Information Service

E3.12 Local History/Information Service - A significant proportion of both Ability and SAF members use the local history / information service, using on a regular monthly and some weekly basis accessing it in person. As a result they all felt that this service was valuable with staff assistance being invaluable. However all members felt that when faced with budget reduction choices of services such as the local history or lifeguard cover or cuts to social

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care, it was felt that this service although providing an excellent service should be reduced first before other more vital were cut.

The group supported the move the encourage volunteers, particularly those people who have used the service for a number of years to become more involved in running the service in an attempt to help the service in possible a smaller form to still exist.

Overall

For all of the above options members highlighted how important thorough and robust monitoring will be of the impact on service users. Monitoring any falling in the numbers of people using the service, particularly disabled or older people, as this can highlight how the implementation of these

Full minutes of the meeting are available on request

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Equality Analysis Report E3.12

Equality Analysis Report Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E3.12

Details of proposal: Library Service – restructure Local History and Information Services Team.

To delete one full time post of Local History Librarian and one part time (18 hours) post of Lifelong Learning Assistant at the combined unit at Crosby.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': **NO**

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': **Yes**

Reduction in specialist support and the ceasing of Local History Lecture and publication programmes.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No All service users will be affected

Consultation

Consultation with staff in accordance with HR procedures. Consultation has taken place with individual members of staff directly affected; 2 team meetings (30th Sep 2011/3rd October 2011) followed by a further meeting with all library staff potentially at risk (2nd November 2011). This has resulted in suggestions about increasing income but not sufficient to make the saving. There have also been suggestions about how to avoid one of the two potential compulsory redundancies. This will be further investigated and decisions made as part of the recruitment process following Council's decision. Trade Union consultation has been part of the general trade union consultation.

Consultation has taken place with Local History societies and from e-consult and written surveys. The consultation has been concerned with how the service could operate following Council Decision, including use of volunteers and this will be built into managerial decisions about staffing the service.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Reduced services will continue to be provided. There will still be local history and information service provided but service users may have to wait longer for their enquiries to be dealt with, the staff will not have as much in depth knowledge or be able to spend as long on enquiries as before. Also "back room" tasks will be affected such as indexing the collections.

- Eliminate discrimination – we will continue to monitor standards of service to ensure

non of our service users are treated less favourably due to a protected characteristic

- Advance equality of opportunity – we will continue to provide services in a way that meets needs of service users in relation to their protected characteristics.
- Foster good relations between different protected characteristics – we will continue to provide services in a way that is supportive of services user’s differences
- This report links to our current EIA for Health & Wellbeing in compliance with legislation (published January 31st 2012)

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

1. Plan staff restructure
2. Monitor progress

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.12:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E3.12 and recommend to the Council that

1. the restructure of the Local History and Information Services team resulting in a reduced service be approved
2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference: E3.13

Service Description: Library Service – Mobile Library Service

Categorisation: Other Tier 1

The Mobile Library is provided for people who have difficulty in accessing a static library. It is open for 22 hours per week, and has a number of stops across Sefton. The time at these stops varies from 30 minutes to half a day. 213 people used the Mobile Library in 2011/12. Of these, 153 did not use any other Sefton library. The mobile library issued a total of 4,946 items. This is very low compared to the number of items issued in other Sefton libraries per annum (lowest = 35,426 per annum; highest = 207,396).

The costs of the mobile library per annum are an average of £44,000. The vehicle is leased and it is staffed with one driver/assistant. The lease expired last year and it being renewed on an annual basis. The maintenance costs will increase as the vehicle ages. The cost of a new mobile library will be significantly higher, and once there is a new lease there will still be significant costs still to pay, even if the service is withdrawn at a later date. The cost per issue for the mobile library in 2010/11 was £9.28 compared to the lowest of 70p and the highest of £2.61 in Sefton's other libraries.

There is no specific comparator data for mobile libraries. However, there are a number of facts and figures that are known about the level of provision of mobile libraries in other local authorities. Within the 5 Merseyside authorities, Liverpool and Sefton have a mobile library. Warrington ceased to operate its mobile library as of 1st April this year, alongside closure of 2 smaller libraries. Many metropolitan authorities similar to Sefton ceased their services some years ago e.g. Bolton. Many rural library services are reducing, and in some cases halving the number of mobile libraries.

Consultation has closed on the following option – To cease the mobile library service.

Original rationale for service change proposal –

- There has been a significant reduction in demand for the Mobile Library over the last 5 years. Usage has declined 31% between 2006/7 and 2010/11 from 7149 issues per annum to 4946 issues per annum.
- There are alternative options for users i.e. the 13 static libraries in Sefton plus the Home Visits Library Service for those with mobility issues.
- In the current economic climate the retention of a service with such high usage costs and low demand is hard to justify, especially when more efficient and high performing areas of the Library Service have already been reduced to make savings.
- Other library services have stopped providing a mobile library service over the past few years.

Our statutory obligation under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 is to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it (section 7) ; promote the service (section 7); lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (section 8). The Act has a number of regulations including what services can be charged.

There is no legal obligation to provide a library service via a mobile vehicle.

Legislation Considered - Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users -

- Current users of the mobile library service will need to use a static library to receive a library service.
- There will be some users who are unable to access a static library. In these instances the alternative will be to receive a visit from the Home Visits Service.

Council – The lease for the Mobile Library has expired and is being renewed on an annual basis. The transport service will no longer be responsible for or receive an administration fee (£1223 in 2010/11) for the mobile library.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

Although the consultation was open to all residents, it was primarily aimed at those people who use the Mobile Library Service.

A questionnaire was placed on the mobile library and handed out to all people who visited the mobile library (a total of 67 were handed out). A letter was sent to all people who had used the service within the past 12 months, for whom the service had details, informing them of the consultation and letting them know how they could let their views be known. Questionnaires were also available in all of Sefton's libraries and other Council facilities.

Letters were sent to all Parish Councils where there is a mobile library stop within their boundary and that had been visited in the past 12 months. This letter notified them of the consultation process, and sought their views about whether they would be interested in part funding the service.

Local Authority officers attended a meeting of Sefton's Access Forum, Ability Network and a Learning Disability Forum to seek views on this option.

In addition, the questionnaire was included in the online consultation process.

See full consultation report E3.13

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E3.13

Risks & Mitigating Actions – Current users, including disabled, older people and or people with medical conditions may no longer able to access a library service.

Mitigating actions are that they would transfer their usage to 13 static libraries, unless they have mobility issues in which case they would register for the Home Visits Library Service. A volunteer home visit service is available for residents who are unable to physically visit a Sefton library, this service involves volunteers who bring books to peoples homes on a fortnightly or monthly basis; additionally they reserve titles at libraries as requested. By using the home visit library service users would not have to pay over due or reservation charges as they would on the mobile library and would have access to more titles across the whole of the library network. An on line / telephone reservation service is available which means that people can reserve books / other materials and make a visit to the library only when the titles are in stock, avoiding unnecessary visits. Additionally materials can be renewed on line or by telephone so again people do not need to make trips to the library unnecessarily.

That the Home Library Visits Service may not have sufficient capacity to deal with the demand. Mitigating actions will be to plan to increase the number of volunteers and work with the voluntary sector.

Melling Parish Council wanted the option of collection of books in a local community facility. This will be considered as part of the future library review as there is a cost to

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this, particularly if other communities also wish to do this.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will stop:

The Mobile Library Service will no longer operate.

Mobile Library stops and frequency:

Place	Time and frequency
Edge Lane, corner of Water Street, Thornton	45 mins once a fortnight
Brownmoor Close, Crosby	1 hour once a fortnight
Delph Road, Little Crosby	30 mins once a fortnight
Ince Blundell Village Hall, Lady Green Lane,	45 mins once a fortnight
Wingfield Close, Lunt	15 mins once a fortnight
School Road, Hightown	3 hours once a week
Park Lane, near Jubilee Drive, Thornton	2.5 hours once a fortnight

Pendle Drive, near Bowland Drive, Ford	2 hours once a week
Captains Lane, near Captains Close, Netherton	1.75 hours once a fortnight
Homestead Avenue, Prospect Way, Netherton	2 hours once a fortnight
Castleton Drive, Copy Lane, Netherton	1.75 hrs once a fortnight
Buckingham Close, near Simonscroft	30 mins once a fortnight

North Road, near Rufford Green, Crossens	1.5 hours once a week
Marshside Road, near Fleetwood Road, Marshside	1 hour once a week
Cobden Road, off Wennington Road, Southport	2 hours once a week
Ovington Drive, Ingleton Road, Kew	2 hours once a fortnight
Folkestone Road, Kew	1 hour once a fortnight

Northway, Dover Road, Maghull	2 hours once a fortnight
Woodleigh Close, Moss Lane, Lydiate	1.5 hours once a fortnight
Pygons Hill Lane, opposite Jacksons Bridge Farm, Lydiate	30 mins once a fortnight
Spurriers Lane, Outlet Lane, Lydiate	15 mins once a fortnight
School Lane, near Tithebarn Lane, Melling	15 mins once a fortnight
Rock Lane, off Bedford Avenue, Melling	15 mins once a fortnight
Sefton Village	15 mins once a fortnight
Station Road, near Wheeler Drive, Waddicar	2 hours once a fortnight

Westminster Drive, Ainsdale	2.5 hours once a fortnight
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Total of 22 hours per week

Cost of Mobile Library Service: £50,000
Staffing: 1 Mobile Library driver/assistant £23,907
Cover required when driver is on leave or

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £6,000
Budget Reduction 2012/13: £42,000
Council Staff at Risk: Yes
Number of Posts at Risk: 1

<p>sick. Other Resources: leasing cost - contract for vehicle lease committed to June 2012 (£8,000 per year) = £2,000, maintenance of vehicle: fuel, servicing, MOT, insurance, repairs.</p>	
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Consultation Report E3.13

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to review the Mobile Library Service (Ref: E 3.13)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity continues with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions.

The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report analyses the responses for the option to **review the future of the mobile library service**. The consultation targeted all users of the services.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

Although the consultation was open to all residents, it was primarily aimed at those people who use the Mobile Library Service.

A questionnaire was placed on the mobile library and handed out to all people who visited the mobile library (a total of 67 were handed out). A letter was sent to all people who had used the service within the past 12 months, for whom the service had details, informing them of the consultation and letting them know how they could let their views be known. Questionnaires were also available in all of Sefton's libraries and other Council facilities.

Letters were sent to all Parish Councils where there is a mobile library stop within their boundary and that had been visited in the past 12 months. This letter notified them of the consultation process, and sought their views about whether they would be interested in part funding the service.

Local Authority officers attended a meeting of Sefton's Access Forum, Ability Network and a Learning Disability Forum to seek views on this option.

In addition, the questionnaire was included in the online consultation process.

On the printed questionnaire, a follow up question for question 7, asking people whether they would use the Home Visits Service, was incorrectly printed as: 'If no, please tell us why you would not use another library'. The correct version, which was used on the online form is: 'If no, please tell us why you would not use this service'.

A number of responses had already been received by the time this error was discovered, and it was decided not to change it. It is clear from the responses that it did lead to misunderstanding of the question in a few cases, but not significant enough to make a difference to the overall response.

The option proposal was also included in the telephone survey community consultation.

Executive Summary

In total, 54 responses were received from the questionnaire. Of these, 12 were completed on-line and 42 completed the paper questionnaire.

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Of these, 33 had used the mobile library service within the past 12 months. Those people who responded 'no' – that they had not used the service within the past 12 months were asked to go to the end question and complete comments. However, it is clear from the responses that some completed some of the questions that were only intended for those who had used the service. In the detailed analysis of the questions, the responses have been cross referenced against those who said they had used the service.

The responses about the stops used, postcodes and other libraries used matched the use of the service, and the nearest library to which people lived. There was a spread across the different stops used but the highest responses came from Westminster Drive, Ainsdale (1.16 miles from Ainsdale library, and Hightown (3.41 miles from Formby library; 3.54 miles from College Road library).

From the 33 who had used the service, 7 had used another library in the past twelve months, and 26 had not. Of those 26 who said they had not:

- 14 had a disability and 22 were over 55.

When asked whether they would use another library if the mobile library closed, 10 said they would, and 21 said they would not. Of those 21 who said they would not:

- 12 had a disability and 16 were over 55.

The problems already outlined about the question asking about the Home Visits Service mean that the figures are difficult to interpret. However, the comments give a good indication about why someone might not wish to use the Home Visits Service.

The results from the questionnaire show that there are people with disabilities and older people who do not use another library and would not want to use another library if the mobile library closed. There are more females than males who would not want to use another library, and this reflects the usage and age of those who use the mobile library. Some of the reasons given are because of difficulty walking, mobility difficulties. For these people, there is the Home Visits Service but there is some resistance to using this service from some of them. The main reasons given are the reluctance to have someone in their own home, it takes away their independence and there would not be the same choice of books. If they did use the Home Visits Service they would still be able to retain some independence, they would have a choice of books, and in reality they actually have access to the whole of Sefton's library stock with no charges to pay for reservations, overdue items etc. It would be the duty of the library service to identify these people, visit them and explain in more detail about what the service could do for them. Although it is not the normal method of delivering the service, an arrangement for those people who do not want anyone in their home, to meet a volunteer in a location near to their home.

At the Learning Disability consultation event (19th December 2011), individuals completed the questionnaires with support from Local Authority officers. Their responses have been included as part of the analysis of the returns from questionnaires. . No one who completed the questionnaire used the service and there were varying views of the service.

At the Access Forum on 22nd November 2011 and the Ability Network on 8th December 2011, the option was discussed with local authority officers. Attendees recognised the high cost and low use of the service. They considered that the Home Visits service provided a more appropriate option for those people unable to visit a static library, and that the library service needed to ensure that it was promoted and available.

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Two responses were received from Parish Councils (Melling and Thornton). Although there has been one query, no Parish Council has offered to pay towards the service. Melling Parish Council wanted the option of collection of books in a local community facility. This will be considered as part of the future library review as there is a cost to this, particularly if other communities also wish to do this.

The facilitator of Sefton Older Peoples Forum sent a response to the CEO about a few of the Council's options included in the consultations and included a comment about the mobile service. They were concerned about help for people to remain independent and concerned at some of these proposals such as abolishing the mobile library service will have an impact on isolated and vulnerable older people and reduce their quality of life. The actions to be taken for this are the same as those outlined above.

Respondents to the telephone survey community consultation were asked their views on the stopping of the mobile library. 67% disagreed to this option. 89 (75%) who disagreed were over the age of 55 years, 73% of these were retired and 49 (70%) were Bootle residents.(7% neither agreed or disagreed).

The consultation analysis

A questionnaire invited responses from users on the following aspects:

- How often they used the service, which stops and their postcode
- Whether they used another library
- If the mobile library closed, whether they would they use another library
- If they could not visit another library due to mobility difficulties, whether they would use the Home Visits Service
- Any other comments

In total, 54 responses were received and of those, 33 had used the service within the past 12 months.

Evaluation – mobile library users

For the purposes of evaluating and reporting on the responses:

Users = those people who replied 'yes' to Question1 i.e. that they had used the mobile library service within the past 12 months

Non-Users = those people who replied 'no' to Question1

The monitoring information for specific questions has been included where relevant. After question 1 it is only the information about users of the service that is included. Age, disability and gender have been included. The other equalities monitoring data does not provide sufficient difference or numbers to be able to draw any conclusions.

11. Have you used the mobile library service within the past 12 months?

Yes	33
No	20
Blank	1

Users of the mobile library service:

Disability	Age	Gender
------------	-----	--------

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Yes	14	Under 55	4	Male	8
No	12	Over 55	26	Female	22
Incomplete	7	Incomplete	3	Incomplete	3

Non-users of the mobile library service:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	9	Under 55	5	Male	9
No	7	Over 55	3	Female	10
Incomplete	4	Incomplete	12	Incomplete	1

12. How often do you use the mobile library?

Once a week	2
Once a fortnight	25
Once a month	4
Every few weeks	1
Once or twice a year	0

13. Which stop do you use?

Ainsdale – Westminster Drive	7
Buckingham Close, Litherland	2
Cobden Road, Southport	2
Dover Road, Maghull	1
Folkestone Road, Southport	2
Hightown	4
Homestead Avenue, Bootle	1
Marshside Road, Southport	2
Wheeler Drive, Melling	1
North Road, Southport	3
Ovington Drive, Southport	3
Park Lane, Netherton	1
Peel Road, Southport	1

Pendle Drive, Southport	2
-------------------------	---

14. What is your postcode?

L9	0
L10	0
L20	2
L21	1
L22	1
L23	1
L29	0
L30	4
L31	3
L37	0
L38	4
PR8	13
PR9	9

15. Have you used any other library in Sefton in the past 12 months?

a) Overall response

Yes	13
No	26

b) Response from users of the mobile library service

Yes	7
No	26

Of those users who answered Yes:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	0	Under 55	2	Male	1
No	5	Over 55	4	Female	5
Incomplete	2	Incomplete	1	Incomplete	1

Of those users who answered No:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	14	Under 55	2	Male	7
No	7	Over 55	22	Female	17
Incomplete	5	Incomplete	2	Incomplete	2

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If yes, which one(s)?

Ainsdale, Aintree, Crosby, Formby, Netherton

If no, please tell us why you do not use another library?

Users of the mobile library service:

- The mobile library satisfies all my needs
- The mobile library satisfies my needs
- Cannot walk far and nearest bus stop is too far
- I can't get to any other library
- Difficulty of access
- It suits me to use the mobile, I can park nearby and do not have to carry heavy books a long way.
- Not Convenient
- Convenience and availability
- Age - problems walking a distance and eyesight difficulty, I use the Talking Books now. Until the deterioration in my eyes I enjoyed many good reading books from the mobile
- No transport
- Travel difficult
- No transport
- I have major problems walking
- The mobile library is more convenient closer to my home
- I am very happy with our mobile library
- Mobility problems i.e. distance is too great
- Too far and not easy accessing
- No transport
- Lack of transport
- Too far away
- Because the mobile library is convenient and always has a changing selection for the children
- The library is handy Graham is helpful and pleasant
- Hightown much handier and more accessible
- Hightown is a lot handier
- Too many physical problems

16.If the mobile library closed would you use another library?

a) Overall response

Yes	14
No	21
Blank	19

b) Response from users of the mobile library service

Yes	10
No	21
Blank	2

Of those users who answered Yes:

Disability	Age	Gender
------------	-----	--------

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Yes	2	Under 55	2	Male	1
No	6	Over 55	8	Female	9
Incomplete	2	Incomplete		Incomplete	

Of those users who answered No:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	11	Under 55	2	Male	7
No	5	Over 55	15	Female	14
Incomplete	4	Incomplete	3	Incomplete	1

If no, please tell us why you would not use another library Users of the mobile library service:

- Not convenient
- Not convenient
- Can't get to another one as I am disabled. The mobile library is the only place I go all week
- Too far away
- Too far to walk
- The difficulties already mentioned on previous page
- No transport
- Travel difficult
- No transport
- Can not get there
- Lack of mobility
- No other library would be as obliging as the one I have
- See answer to question 5
- 90 years old and no car
- Have no transport
- Lack of transport
- Because they are in Churchtown or Birkdale and would take time to get to in a busy working schedule, plus children couldn't go on their own
- Formby and Crosby not easy to get to
- Inconvenient
- Physical and financial problems would make it impossible to go anywhere else.

17. If the mobile library closed and you were unable to visit a library due to mobility difficulties, would you wish to receive a service from the Home Visits Service?

a) Overall response

Yes	10
No	29
Not applicable	3

b) Response from users of the mobile library service

Yes	8
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No	24
Not applicable	1

Of those users who answered Yes:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	3	Under 55	2	Male	1
No	4	Over 55	8	Female	7
Incomplete	1	Incomplete	0	Incomplete	0

Of those users who answered No:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	10	Under 55	4	Male	7
No	8	Over 55	17	Female	14
Incomplete	6	Incomplete	3	Incomplete	3

If no, please tell us why you would not use this service Users of the mobile library service:

- The question is would I use home visits services and is therefore not relevant
- There would not be enough books to choose from as I read quite a lot
- Too far away
- No is my preferred answer, I am very slow now, and would hesitate to keep someone standing while I look through what I want to listen to.
- No transport
- Travel difficult
- No transport
- Lack of choice in books
- See answer to question 5
- I wouldn't like strangers coming into my home
- Don't want to have people coming to house want to choose when to go to the library
- Same answer as above
- Inconvenient

18. Please use this space to add any further comments

Users of the mobile library service:

Comments

- The mobile library is very convenient and ensures I regularly change my books.
- The mobile library is an excellent service which I appreciate
- The children look forward to their visit to the mobile library has good choice also the gentleman very polite and helpful with the children.
- I have answered the questions on page 4 and 5 but find them obtrusive - what have they got to do with my reading matter??
- Have been using Bootle library books since I was a little girl, except when I was at work and other demands. have used the mobile for a number of years, and would be sad if it didn't come.
- Excellent service should be kept
- My life would be changed by the removal of the mobile. I am mainly stuck at

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home and reading is one of the few pleasures I have.

- Please do not close the mobile library as I look forward to it coming.
- I have been a member of the mobile library for over 30 years. I joined on 19/3/1980 and I still use the same card I don't see why I should be forced to use another library as this is perfect for me. If it closed it would be sorely missed.
- Mobile library also acts as a safe sociable meeting place (can't put a price on that)! I would become more isolated and dependant on other people. I would be happy to, with your blessing, encourage others to use the service.
- The mobile library is fantastic and had advance the books my children read also due to dyslexia reading a varied selection has improved their reading skills.
- I have lived in Melling for the past 11 years. Since my child has entered school (Melling Primary) we have used the mobile library each 2 wks. It would be a shame to lose this good service. The gentleman who brings this service to Melling each fortnight is a very pleasant and good knowledge if required. Please keep this service for when it's gone it's gone forever.
- We have very few amenities in Hightown
- The library service (including mobile) is vital, particularly to older people in Hightown or people with mobility problems. I am against any library cuts, it provides free education and entertainment for all people of all ages.
- I feel that the mobile library is a must for those not able to travel, for whatever reason, to their local library. This service must be kept.

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Non- users of the mobile library service:

Comments

- Reading is very important to me. I am never without books to read I use the library regularly
- Think we should keep it as no library nearby when Netherton closed.
- Close it down. Don't need it. The mobile library blocks the road.
- likes having a library van
- Keep libraries in buildings
- Nice to keep the van
- Sufficient to have libraries in buildings
- Good idea to have a mobile library
- Would like to keep the mobile library
- The number of users and issues does not represent value for money and there are alternative, cheaper methods of providing books for people who cannot access the library buildings. For example e-readers or kindles which can have books downloaded onto them for a set period of time using the internet. It would save money on books for the mobile, staff, vehicle costs and repair and maintenance. I think that the library service in Sefton needs to move with the times and make good use of new technology to reduce its costs.
- Scrap the mobile library. no one uses it.
- Would volunteers not go to the local library for people rather than having to fund a vehicle? Even paying mileage would probably be cheaper.
- Having lived in the Churchtown/Crossens area for more than 30 years I am amazed to learn that the mobile library calls in the area regularly. Never seen it and nobody has ever mentioned it to me. Some really rural areas might find one convenient, but not at this price to other council tax payers. Elderly folk get free bus passes to travel to libraries and schools should be able to help get books for youngsters. Books can now be downloaded from the web. Kindle etc. Closure supported in view of current and future financial cost and need to make savings.
- The Mobile Library should be closed until the budget cuts are over then re-opened.

Other responses

- 2 received from Parish Councils
- 1 received from Older Persons Forum
- Meeting and discussions with Access Forum and Ability Network

Information from these is contained in the executive summary

Alternative options proposals

None proposed

Monitoring Information

Monitoring information has been used where relevant against each question. The monitoring for all responses for the users is contained at Appendix 3

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Monitoring information

Completion of this form was not compulsory and in some cases, part completed.

Question: What is your gender'?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Male	32		60.37
Female	16		30.18
Incomplete	5		9.43

Question: Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Yes	23		54.76
No	19		45.24

Question: Disability: Do you have any of the following? (please select all that apply)			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Physical impairment	10		26.32
Visual impairment	3		7.89
Learning difficulty	8		21.05
Hearing impairment/deaf	5		13.16
Mental health/mental distress	5		13.16
Long term illness that affects your daily activity	7		18.42

Question: Do you have a religion or belief?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Yes	27		72.97
No	10		27.03

Question: If 'Yes', please select one of the options below:			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Buddhist	0		0.00
Christian	29		100.00
Hindu	0		0.00

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Jewish	0		0.00
Muslim	0		0.00
Sikh	0		

Question: <u>Which of these options best describes your ethnic background? Please select one option (the options are listed alphabetically)</u>			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Asian - Indian	0		0.00
Asian - Pakistani	0		0.00
Asian - Other Asian Background	0		0.00
Black - African	0		0.00
Black - Caribbean	0		0.00
Black - Other Black Background	0		0.00
Chinese - Chinese	0		0.00
Chinese - Other Chinese Background	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Asian & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black African & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black Caribbean & White	0		0.00
Mixed Ethnic Background - Other Mixed Ethnic Background	0		0.00
White - British	17		36.96
White - English	28		60.87
White - Irish	1		2.17
White - Scottish	0		0.00
White - Welsh	0		0.00

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White - Polish	0		0.00
White - Latvian	0		0.00
White - Gypsy/Traveller	0		0.00
White - Other White Background	0		0.00

Question: What is your age?			
Answer Option	Response		
Under 55	9		
Over 55	29		
Incomplete	15		

Question: How would you describe your sexual orientation?			
Answer Option	Response		Response %
Heterosexual	31		96.88
Gay	0		0.00
Lesbian	0		0.00
Bisexual	1		3.13

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Appendix 2A - Letter to Parish Councils



People Directorate

Library and Information Services
2nd Floor Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle

Date: 2nd December 2011

Our Ref: CH/bh

Your Ref:

Please Contact: Christine Hall
Contact Number: 0151 934 2376
Fax No: 0151 934 2370
e-mail: christine.hall@sefton.gov.uk

Dear

Sefton Council is carrying out a number of public consultations about its budget savings proposals for 2012/13. One of these consultations is about the future of the mobile library and I enclose a copy of the survey that is aimed at those people who currently use the library.

One of the questions we are asking is what people would do if the mobile library ceased operating.

Within the boundaries of your parish, the mobile library stops at:

- School Road - 3hrs every Saturday morning
- 20 regular users

The saving proposal to cease mobile library operation is £44,000. An alternative to cessation of the service could be that the Parish Council's jointly fund its operation. Would this be something that your Council would wish to consider?

We would welcome any views the Parish Council may have on this proposal. The closing date for consultation is 16th January 2012.

Yours sincerely

Christine Hall
Head of Library and Information Services

Appendix 2 B - Letter to users of the mobile library service



People Directorate

Library and Information Services
Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle

Date: 5 December 2012

Please Contact: Geoff Davis
Contact Number: 0151 934 4741
e-mail: geoffrey.davis@sefton.gov.uk

Dear

Mobile Library Public Consultation Survey

Sefton Council is carrying out a number of public consultations about its budget savings proposals for 2012/13. One of these consultations is about the future of the mobile library service. According to our records, you have used the mobile library service within the past 12 months and I am therefore writing to inform you of the consultation process. Part of this process is to get information and views from people who currently use the service, and a survey has been produced.

You may already be aware of this and have completed a survey, in which case please disregard this letter.

If you wish to view or complete the survey it is available on paper from all Sefton Libraries, including the Mobile Library. The survey is also available electronically through the Sefton Council website www.sefton.gov.uk.

Survey returns need to be sent in by 13th January 2012. If you have any difficulty accessing the survey please do contact us on the number above and we can send you a paper copy.

Yours sincerely

Christine Hall
Head of Library and Information Services

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Appendix 2C - Letter to CEO from Older People's Forum

To Margaret Carney C.E.O.

Re: Sefton's Transformation Programme 2011-2014

I am writing on behalf of 250 members of Southport Older Persons' Forums. The Forums meet in Maghull, Bootle and Southport. Members have asked me to respond on their behalf to the proposals in the Transformation Programme document.

The Forums welcomes the chance to take part in this consultation process but is worried that some of the proposals will undermine effective support systems for elderly people to remain in their own homes.

The Forums are extremely concerned about the proposal to reduce eligibility for care, as this inevitably means that older people with substantial needs will no longer be able to access the support they need (E2.10). This may well be a false economy since it will hasten the loss of independence and quite possibly the need for other, more expensive NHS or residential care.

Grave concerns were also raised about the reduction to the Supporting People budget (E2.1) – especially to the Affordable Warmth Team, they provide valuable assistance to older people who would otherwise possibly become part of the dreaded winter statistics.

The Forums believe that specialist transport services are vital and must be continued and certainly not reduced (E2.3). The Forum is opposed to raising charges for specialist transport services (E2.4).

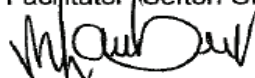
Many services help people to remain independent for longer and enjoy their lives. We are concerned that some of these proposals – such as abolishing the mobile library service (E3.13) – will have an impact on isolated and vulnerable older people and reduce their quality of life.

Finally, many older people attending the Forums were very disturbed by the proposal to increase the charges for burials and cremations (E5.7), which clearly has a much bigger impact on older people and their partners than any other section of the population.

The Forums recognise the financial challenges facing the Council but has a duty to reflect the views of its members and the wider older population. Within the document it does appear that Sefton MBC is looking to save just over £1m per year from children and families but more than £11m per year from the older people's budget.

The Forums would like to thank you for the opportunity to take part in the consultation and would be very willing to provide further feedback if this would be helpful.

Margaret Lambert
Facilitator, Sefton Older Persons Forum



Appendix 2D - Notes from Access Forum and Ability Network

Excerpts from notes of meeting of Sefton Access Forum: 22nd November 2011 and Ability Network – 8th December 2011

Below are the comments from members of the above networks for disabled people regarding the Transformation Option 3.13 Mobile Library Service

All group members agreed that the service of providing an outreach library service to people unable to access library buildings was essential. However when looking at the figures and hearing information the current use of the service, members agreed that review of this was needed. Members understood that the numbers of service users who access the mobile library services who have no way of getting to library buildings is very low, and therefore the suggested staff smaller outreach service sounds appropriate. Notes were made that this would require some consideration with regards to ensuring the advertising of the service remained so that all vulnerable people who required the service had equal opportunity to use the library services. And that the outreach staff would require web / remote access to catalogues though tablet like devices to allow users to browse the full catalogue – it was also noted this could have the potential of improving the service as the full library catalogue would therefore be available rather than the limited availability he mobile library could provide.

Overall

For all of the above option members highlighted how important thorough and robust monitoring will be of the impact on service users. Monitoring any falling in the numbers of people using the service, particularly disabled or older people, as this can highlight how the implementation of these

Full minutes available on request

Equality Analysis Report E3.13

Equality Analysis Report Committee paper code: Annex Reference E3.13
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Details of proposal:

It is proposed to consider the future requirement of the Mobile Library Service

The Mobile Library is provided for people who have difficulty in accessing a static library. It is open for 22 hours per week, and has a number of stops across Sefton. The time at these stops varies from 30 minutes to half a day. 212 people used the Mobile Library in 2011/12. Of these, 153 did not use any other Sefton library. The mobile library issued a total of 4,946 items. This is very low compared to the number of items issued in other Sefton libraries per annum (lowest = 35,426 per annum;

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highest = 207,396).

The costs of the mobile library per annum are an average of £44,000. The vehicle is leased and it is staffed with one driver/assistant. The lease expired last year and it being renewed on an annual basis. The maintenance costs will increase as the vehicle ages. The cost of a new mobile library will be significantly higher, and once there is a new lease there will still be significant costs still to pay, even if the service is withdrawn at a later date. The cost per issue for the mobile library in 2010/11 was £9.28 compared to the lowest of 70p and the highest of £2.61 in Sefton's other libraries.

There is no specific comparator data for mobile libraries. However, there are a number of facts and figures that are known about the level of provision of mobile libraries in other local authorities. Within the 5 Merseyside authorities, Liverpool and Sefton have a mobile library. Warrington ceased to operate its mobile library as of 1st April this year, alongside closure of 2 smaller libraries. Many metropolitan authorities similar to Sefton ceased their services some years ago e.g. Bolton. Many rural library services are reducing, and in some cases halving the number of mobile libraries.

Rationale for service change proposal –

- There has been a significant reduction in demand for the Mobile Library over the last 5 years. Usage has declined 31% between 2006/7 and 2010/11 from 7149 issues per annum to 4946 issues per annum.
- There are alternative options for users i.e. the 13 static libraries in Sefton plus the Home Visits Library Service for those with mobility issues.
- In the current economic climate the retention of a service with such high usage costs and low demand is hard to justify, especially when more efficient and high performing areas of the Library Service have already been reduced to make savings.
- Other library services have stopped providing a mobile library service over the past few years.

Our statutory obligation under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 is to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it (section 7); promote the service (section 7); lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (section 8). The Act has a number of regulations including what services can be charged.

There is no legal obligation to provide a mobile library service.

The following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

Should the decision be taken, the Mobile Library Service will no longer operate.

Mobile Library stops and frequency:

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Place

Edge Lane, corner of Water Street, Thornton
 Brownmoor Close, Crosby
 Delph Road, Little Crosby
 Ince Blundell Village Hall, Lady Green Lane,
 Wingfield Close, Lunt
 School Road, Hightown
 Park Lane, near Jubilee Drive, Thornton
 Pendle Drive, near Bowland Drive, Ford
 Captains Lane, near Captains Close, Netherton

Homestead Avenue, Prospect Way, Netherton
 Castleton Drive, Copy Lane, Netherton
 Buckingham Close, near Simonscroft
 North Road, near Rufford Green, Crossens
 Marshside Road, near Fleetwood Road, Marshside
 Cobden Road, off Wennington Road, Southport
 Ovington Drive, Ingleton Road, Kew
 Folkestone Road, Kew
 Northway, Dover Road, Maghull
 Woodleigh Close, Moss Lane, Lydiate
 Pygons Hill Lane, opposite Jacksons Bridge Farm,
 Lydiate
 Spurriers Lane, Outlet Lane, Lydiate
 School Lane, near Tithebarn Lane, Melling
 Rock Lane, off Bedford Avenue, Melling
 Sefton Village
 Station Road, near Wheeler Drive, Waddicar

Time and frequency

45 mins once a fortnight
 1 hour once a fortnight
 30 mins once a fortnight
 45 mins once a fortnight
 15 mins once a fortnight
 3 hours once a week
 2.5 hours once a fortnight
 2 hours once a week
 1.75 hours once a
 fortnight
 2 hours once a fortnight
 1.75 hrs once a fortnight
 30 mins once a fortnight
 1.5 hours once a week
 1 hour once a week
 2 hours once a week
 2 hours once a fortnight
 1 hour once a fortnight
 2 hours once a fortnight
 1.5 hours once a fortnight
 30 mins once a fortnight
 15 mins once a fortnight
 15 mins once a fortnight
 15 mins once a fortnight
 15 mins once a fortnight
 2 hours once a fortnight

22 hours per week total

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': Yes

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

There are currently 212 active users of the mobile library (borrow 1 or more books in the past year), of these 117 have personal details such as names & addresses along with some monitoring information.

Age	
No answer	115
under 17	18
17-24	3
25-34	5
35-44	8
45-54	9
55-64	13
65-74	15

Ethnic Origin	
No answer	116
British	35
White British	59
White Irish	1
White Other	1
Total	212

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Over 75	26
Total	212

Disability	
No answer	176
Yes	8
No	28
Total	212

Gender	
No answer	100
Female	88
Male	24
Total	212

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes

Disability and Age (older people) – Disabled users and older people may have access difficulties or medical conditions which mean they may be unable to use a static library.

Sex – A large proportion of the mobile library users that details are available for, are female.

Pregnancy – There maybe access difficulties due to mobility/illness relating to pregnancy

Mitigation

A volunteer home visit service is available for residents who are unable to physically visit a Sefton library, this service involves volunteers bring books to peoples homes on a fortnightly or monthly basis; additionally they reserve titles at libraries as requested. By using the home visit service user would not have to pay over due or reservation charges as they would on the mobile library and would have access to more titles across the whole of the library network. An on line / telephone reservation service is available which means that people can reserve books / other materials and make a visit to the library only when the titles are in stock, avoiding unnecessary visits. Additionally materials can be renewed on line or by telephone so again people do not need to make trips to the library unnecessarily.

Age (Under 17's) – Young children and their families may be unable to access a static library. Mitigation – provide easy read information about how to use a static library and its associated facilities such as online reservation, as well as other services for children & young people (Rhyme time, homework club etc)

Gender reassignment – No impact

Marriage and civil partnership – No impact

Race – No impact

Religion and belief – No impact

Sexual orientation – No impact

Consultation/Time Span. (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)

Consultation was carried out using the methods outlined below and results / analysis are available in the related consultation report.

Mobile Library Users – October to January – Survey data
 E-consult – October to January – Survey data
 Sefton Access Forum – November – Agenda & Minutes

At the Learning Disability consultation event (19th December 2011), individuals completed the questionnaires with support from Local Authority officers. Their responses have been included as part of the analysis of the returns from questionnaires. . No one who completed the questionnaire used the service and there were varying views of the service.

At the Access Forum on 22nd November 2011 and the Ability Network on 8th December 2011, the option was discussed with local authority officers. Attendees recognised the high cost and low use of the service. They considered that the Home Visits service provided a more appropriate option for those people unable to visit a static library, and that the library service needed to ensure that it was promoted and available.

The facilitator of Sefton Older Peoples Forum sent a response to the CEO about a few of the Council’s options included in the consultations and included a comment about the mobile service. They were concerned about help for people to remain independent and concerned at some of these proposals such as abolishing the mobile library service will have an impact on isolated and vulnerable older people and reduce their quality of life. The actions to be taken for this are the same as those outlined above.

Users of the mobile library service who completed the questionnaire:

Disability		Age		Gender	
Yes	14	Under 55	4	Male	8
No	12	Over 55	26	Female	22
Incomplete	7	Incomplete	3	Incomplete	3

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes – service provision is delivered in light of the equality act and the three public sector equality duties.

- Eliminate discrimination – we will continue to monitor standards of service to ensure non of our service users are treated less favourably due to a protected characteristic
- Advance equality of opportunity – we will continue to provide services in a way that meets needs of service users in relation to their protected characteristics.
- Foster good relations between different protected characteristics – we will continue to provide services in a way that is supportive of services user’s differences

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- This report links to our current EIA for Health & Wellbeing in compliance with legislation (published January 31st 2012)

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

1. Develop and implement a decommissioning plan
2. Monitor plan

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.13:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E3.13 and recommend to the Council that

1. the cessation of the mobile library service with effect from 31st March 2012(is this the date as employee notice period will extend beyond this) be approved
2. Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council.

Reference E4.2

Service Description: Highways Maintenance Categorisation: Frontline

To maintain the highway network to maximise the safe passage of people and vehicles. This includes maintenance of roads, footways, signs, guardrails, bollards, resurfacing and reconstruction, weed spray etc. Much of this work forms the core contract for delivery by Capita Symonds. This is a statutory duty under sections 41 and 58 of Highways Act 1980. Funding has been reduced by £800,000 for two years in the previous round of prioritisation. Client is all highway users either residents of Sefton or visitors.

Consultation has commenced on the following – A further temporary reduction in Highways Maintenance Works Budgets of £400,000 for a period of 3 years.

It was agreed in Medium Term Financial Plan to temporarily reduce the Highways Maintenance Budget by £800k in 2011/12 & 2012/13, with the budget returning to the 2010/11 levels (i.e. return of the £800k) in 2013/14.

The combination of new contracts (coming into force in July 2011) and the MTFP addressing other significant budget black holes, it is now recommended to temporarily further reduce the Highways Maintenance Budget for a period of 3 years. This additional temporary reduction is recommended dependant on a full reinvestment of both this £400,000 and the previously cut £800,000 at the end of the temporary periods.

Rationale for service change proposal – The Council is under a statutory duty (sections 41 and 58 of Highways Act 1980) to ensure a safe highway network. Cessation or massive reduction is not a realistic option as it would likely result in damage to life and limb leading to claims against the authority and potential corporate manslaughter charges. The budget has been significantly under-funded for a number of years and funding has been reduced by £800,000 for two years in the previous round of prioritisation. Further temporary reduction or a permanent significant reduction does carry the risk of short and long-term implications in terms of deteriorating condition of the highways and related infrastructure, with increased risk of accident and injury on the highway. In addition, there is a further risk that failure to repair in a timely manner can result in far greater expenditure to achieve the same outcome later as the infrastructure may have deteriorated to the extent that more significant works (and funding) are required. Disruption to use of the highway network has an associated detrimental economic impact.

Hence the proposal would only be for a manageable temporary reduction, to the revenue works budget, and corresponding subsequent significant reinvestment in the highway network infrastructure.

The following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – This would require a continued restructure of the Highway Works Programme. Implementation of the current £800k reduction has delivered by: ceasing footway/carriageway reconstructions; ceasing carriageway "plane & inlay" resurfacing; removing landscaping/flowerbeds on roundabouts; and reductions to arboricultural database and maintenance. Further re-profiling of the reduced budget will be required, with more emphasis placed on reactive minor repairs and less substantial slurry sealing, surface dressing and micro asphalt treatments. Such an approach will help to maintain the integrity of the highway network on a short term basis but is not a long term option.

Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Disruption to use of the highway network and deterioration of the highways network would affect movement of individuals, private business and other service delivery (e.g. refuse collection, community services, emergency services, public transport etc.) with associated detrimental economic impact.

Partners - These are works contracts, reduction of the budget would impact upon contractors and would have some implications for level of design and supervision work undertaken by

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<p>Capita Symonds.</p> <p>Council – Whilst works-related expenditure can be reduced there are contractual obligations under the agreement with the external partner, Capita Symonds, which may limit the saving that could be made from the core-payment under that agreement. There are legal and financial implications with reduction or partial/total cessation of the agreement with the external partner. The current proposal is therefore to reduce the revenue works budget only. It is not proposed to consider any reduction to the core-payment under that agreement as part of this change proposal.</p> <p>Deterioration of the Highway Network infrastructure has a significant reputation risk with associated risk of increased damage claims against the Council.</p>	
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary See full consultation report E4.2</p>	
<p>Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E4.2</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions–</p> <p>This further temporary reduction does carry the risk of short and long-term implications in terms of deteriorating condition of the highways and related infrastructure, with increased risk of accident and injury on the highway. Disruption to use of the highway network has an associated detrimental economic impact and a reputation impact.</p> <p>This risk could only be mitigated for the temporary period dependant on a full reinvestment of both this £400,000 and the previously cut £800,000 at the end of the temporary periods.</p> <p>Despite the longer term risk to the infrastructure that this cut represents, the Council will continue to meet its' statutory duty in accordance with Highways Act 1980 (section 41) to maintain the highway.</p>	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – This would require a continued restructure of the Highway Works Programme. Implementation of the current £800k reduction has delivered by: ceasing footway/carriageway reconstructions; ceasing carriageway "plane & inlay" resurfacing; removing landscaping/flowerbeds on roundabouts; and reductions to arboricultural database and maintenance.</p>	
<p>Cost of Highway Maintenance Service: £6.894m</p> <p>Staffing: 0</p> <p>Other Resources: Capita Symonds</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £6.494m</p> <p>Saving 2012/13: £400,000 Will the saving be full or part year? Full Saving 2013/14: £400,000 Investment Required: Nil for the period of the reduction Staff at Risk: No</p>

**Consultation Report E4.2
Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option
to reduce the Highway management revenue budget by a further
£400,000 for a period of three years.**

(Ref: E 4.2)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Background

The highway management revenue budget was reduced in 2010/11 by £800,000 for a period of three years.

Members are minded to seek a further temporary reduction of £400,000 for the same budget and have requested that the option be subject to a consultation process.

Consultation Methodology

Information on this option was available on the intranet and on e-Consult, the on-line consultation tool. The public had an opportunity to give comments and feedback via this tool.

A consultation exercise took place with Sefton Youth Advisors who were asked to explore the effects that cuts in the highway management budget might have.

Consultation has also taken place with One Vision Housing (please refer to response 11 in Appendix 1) and our professional partner Capita Symonds to assist in the realignment of budgets should the proposed reduction be implemented.

The option proposal was also included in the telephone survey community consultation.

63% of the respondents to the telephone survey community consultation disagreed with the proposal, whilst 28% agreed.(9% neither agreed or disagreed).

Executive Summary

In total, ten comments were received on the e-consult system with a further response received from One Vision Housing. A full listing is included in Appendix 2

Of the eleven responses, five (45%) were against the proposal and two (18%) were for it. The others made general comments with two (18%) suggesting a cut in street lighting.

The Consultation Analysis

The response to the consultation was extremely limited and insufficient to offer any real guidance or measure of public opinion.

This option was also discussed at the youth event on the 3rd December organised by the young advisors.

Highway Maintenance Feedback from the Youth Event

Activity	Feedback received
Spider Diagram Activity: 1. Who uses roads and why are they important?	Pedestrians, public transport, cars, parades – protests & Lord Mayors, emergency vehicles, television crews, council services – meals on wheels, horses, cyclists, motorbikes.

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2. Who uses paths and why are they important?	Zebra crossings, if you don't drive then you have to use paths, bridges, travelling anywhere/general travel, used to socialise and go shopping, cycle paths for fun and to get to places, national trails, under main roads – subways, parks, access to hospitals, EVERYONE uses them.
3. What hazards/problems could there be with roads and paths?	Litter, Wildlife, Overgrown vegetation, obstructions, narrow ways, should be a clear separation between roads and paths, everyone would be affected equally, uneven road surfaces, poor lit roads, unclear paint on road markings, people are hazards!
4. What would you do if there were no roads or paths?	More accidents, No system, No rules or regulations, Have no specific direction for walking or driving, Less jobs e.g./ lollipop men/ladies, no traffic wardens & traffic police, No stability, no routes to place.
Discussion around importance of roads and paths being looked after and maintained.	Damaged, dangerous roads could cause more accidents and injuries, might slow down or delay emergency vehicles, cost of repairs further down the line would be very high, very important, - councils duty, damage to vehicles would be expensive.

Rank/ order game

- YP were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important. Highway Maintenance – 10/14 YP scored this as a one or two, so highway maintenance was scored very highly. 3 YP scored highway maintenance a 4 and one scored a 6. Overall a fairly important ranking.
- Happy/Sad faces – flipchart and post it note activity. YP were asked to comment on positives and negatives of the highway maintenance budget being cut. This activity focused on their feelings and how they would be affected by cuts to this budget.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1

Excerpts from a letter to Margaret Carney and the Leader of the Council from One Vision Housing

To the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation, however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams
Chief Executive

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One Vision Housing

Section E4: Street Scene

E4.2 Highways Maintenance

Sefton's spend on maintenance of principal roads per head at £2.28 (2009/10) is already in the lowest 20% amongst statistical nearest neighbours (Audit Commission Value for Money Profiles), the average amongst statistical nearest neighbours is £11.35/ head.

Whilst the proportion of principal roads where maintenance should be considered is currently average, we would ask SMBC to guarantee that this is a temporary budget cut. A permanent budget cut of this proportion will lead to an increased percentage of the principal and non principal road network in need of maintenance and reduce the long term sustainability of the borough. A well maintained network will facilitate employment, industry freight traffic and is key to reducing the number road traffic accidents.

In 2009, 87 people were killed or seriously injured on Sefton's Roads. We would ask the Council to ensure accident hot spots are prioritised in the 3years where reduced budgets are in place to ensure the safety of all residents.

Appendix 2 – Detailed Responses

- 1 The Street Light corner of Booth Street and Bold Street should only be on in hours of darkness not 24 hours 7days a week. Speed Humps do not stop fast drivers, they only damage both cars and Drivers and pedestrians. They also cause accidents as drivers are having to watch out for speed humps as they come across them.
- 2 If minor repairs are not carried out the finance to do this in the future will be a lot more costly
- 3 Please don't just reduce expenditure in Southport
- 4 Yes make a temporary reduction of £400,000
- 5 If you reduced this by £400,000, what would it mean in practice. I would like to see some options.
- 6 Roads and refuse collection are the only council services I use. I would not be happy with reduced road maintenance. They need more investment. I would further resent paying such a large council tax bill if this budget were reduced.
- 7 Highway maintenance has been poor for many years, so much so that I have had to use Sefton MBC Public Protection Dept. to take action against the highways maintenance side in relation to the so called amenity strip alongside the A565 in Seaforth. The appearance of landscaped areas, for example the Moor Lane roundabout & associated bedding, have already deteriorated well below the standard expected of a well to do suburb of a major city and Crosby's parks are also in a sorry state - think of the once wonderful facilities at the bottom of South Road as an all too obvious example. It must be essential for the appearance of the borough to visitors attracted by the Gormley "Iron Men", Waterloo Rugby Club, Marine F.C. & West Lancs. Golf Club for Crosby to make a high quality visual statement in order for any such visitors to want to stay & spend money in local businesses. Crosby has also featured in the Tour of Britain cycle race, potentially seen by a worldwide audience, is the down at heal view of Crosby currently all too visible to its residents something we want the world to see? Saving money may be a grand idea but it is all too obvious to local residents that money either hasn't been spent in so many places in the last umpteen years or has been going to other places where the benefit to residents is difficult to see.
- 8 This is a terrible option. Maintenance of roads and highways is poor at it is. A further reduction will impact on the safe usage by members of the public. This may lead to increase in injury claims against the council. This will not in the long term be a saving.
- 9 The recent replacement of lighting columns in Coudry rd/Silverthorne drive seems inappropriate as the columns replaced had been giving sterling service since being converted from gas in ???. Has the programme for replacing lighting been cancelled as if the above example is typical them there is no need for this programme
- 10 Bring control of the Contractors in-house rather than through a third party - Utilise your own staff first

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- 11 Sefton's spend on maintenance of principal roads per head at £2.28 (2009/10) is already in the lowest 20% amongst statistical nearest neighbours (Audit Commission Value for Money Profiles), the average amongst statistical nearest neighbours is £11.35/ head. Whilst the proportion of principal roads where maintenance should be considered is currently average, we would ask SMBC to guarantee that this is a temporary budget cut. A permanent budget cut of this proportion will lead to an increased percentage of the principal and non principal road network in need of maintenance and reduce the long term sustainability of the borough. A well maintained network will facilitate employment, industry freight traffic and is key to reducing the number road traffic accidents. In 2009, 87 people were killed or seriously injured on Sefton's Roads. We would ask the Council to ensure accident hot spots are prioritised in the 3years where reduced budgets are in place to ensure the safety of all residents.

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Equality Analysis Report E4.2

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.2

Details of proposal: It is now recommended to temporarily further reduce the Highways Maintenance Budget. This additional temporary reduction is recommended dependant on a full reinvestment of both this £400,000 and the previously cut £800,000 at the end of the temporary periods.

Where normally we have an automatic schedule of work for repairs and maintenance, this will now be suspended and only repairs where there is public concern will be made.

Back ground:

To maintain the highway network to maximise the safe passage of people and vehicles. This includes maintenance of roads, footways, signs, guardrails, bollards. Resurfacing and reconstruction, weed spray etc. Much of this work forms the core contract for delivery by Capita Symonds. This is a statutory duty under sections 41 and 58 of Highways Act 1980. Funding has been reduced by £800,000 for two years in the previous round of prioritisation. Client is all highway users either residents of Sefton or visitors.

It was agreed in MTFP to temporarily reduce the Highways Maintenance Budget by £800k in 2011/12 & 2012/13, with the budget returning to the 2010/11 levels (i.e. return of the £800k) in 2013/14.

This temporary reduction is recommended dependant on a full reinvestment of both this £400,000 and the previously cut £800,000 at the end of the temporary periods.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': Yes

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

This would require a continued restructure of the Highway Works Programme. Implementation of the current £800k reduction has been delivered by: ceasing footway/carriageway reconstructions; reducing carriageway "plane & inlay" resurfacing; removing landscaping/flowerbeds on roundabouts; and reductions to arboriculture database and maintenance

The temporary reduction in budget will require a more reactive approach to highway maintenance. The current practice of proactive reconstruction and resurfacing will by necessity be substantially reduced with more of the budget targeted to minor reactive repairs. This approach cannot be maintained for any extended period as the deterioration of the highway network will outstrip the effects of the minor repair approach, resulting in a need for urgent and substantial reinvestment.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes, reduction in standards of pavements and access ways may cause difficulties for people with mobility problems who need good access provision. We prioritise these for repair.

Consultation/

In total, ten comments were received on the e-consult system with a further response

received from One Vision Housing. A full listing is included in the consultation report.

Of the eleven responses, five (45%) were against the proposal and two (18%) were for it. The others made general comments with two (18%) suggesting a cut in street lighting.

The young advisors discussion around importance of roads and paths being looked after and maintained. Damaged, dangerous roads could cause more accidents and injuries, might slow down or delay emergency vehicles, cost of repairs further down the line would be very high, very important, - councils duty, damage to vehicles would be expensive

During the young people event they played a Rank/ order game

- YP were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important. Highway Maintenance – 10/14 YP scored this as a one or two, so highway maintenance was scored very highly. 3 YP scored highway maintenance a 4 and one scored a 6. Overall a fairly important ranking.
- Happy/Sad faces – flipchart and post it note activity. YP were asked to comment on positives and negatives of the highway maintenance budget being cut. This activity focused on their feelings and how they would be affected by cuts to this budget.

A full report is available

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Public sector equality duty will be met as long as disability access is maintained. The prioritisation programme will meet this need.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- Establish reporting facility for the public
- Inform partners and public of temporary change in working arrangements
- Prioritise disabled access needs when planning work.

Recommendation to Cabinet E4.2:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E4.2 and recommend to the Council that

1. that a temporary reduction of £400,000 be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, pending final decisions of Council, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, if necessary, subject to the final decision of Council

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Reference E4.4

<p>Service Description: Highways Grounds Maintenance – (Highway Grass Cutting) Categorisation: Frontline To maintain the grassed areas of the highway network to maximise the safe passage of people and vehicles. This work forms part the core contract for delivery by Capita Symonds. This is a statutory duty under sections 41 and 58 of Highways Act 1980. Funding has previously been permanently reduced by £200,000 in the previous round of prioritisation. Client is all highway users either residents of Sefton or visitors.</p>	
<p>Consultation has commenced on the following – A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas. The combination of new contracts (coming into force in July 2011) and the MTFP addressing other significant budget black holes, it is now recommended to further reduce the Highways Grounds Maintenance Budget.</p>	
<p>Rationale for service change proposal – Council is under a statutory duty (sections 41 and 58 of Highways Act 1980) to ensure a safe highway network. Grass, were it allowed to grow unchecked, would create visual and physical obstructions to vehicle drivers and pedestrians. The level of cutting can be reduced without causing such obstructions and the Council would still be able to meet its' statutory duty.</p>	
<p>The following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – Delivery of the Highway Grounds Maintenance service will be revised by reducing the number of cuts per annum to 8 (The current level is 11 cuts). These will be programmed throughout the growing season for maximum impact.</p>	
<p>Impact of Service Change – Service Users – Reduced visual impact across the borough. Partners – This is a works contract; reduction of the budget would impact upon the contractor and would result in less supervision work undertaken by Capita Symonds. Council – Whilst works-related expenditure can be reduced there are contractual obligations under the agreement with the external partner, Capita Symonds, It is not proposed to consider any reduction to the core-payment under that agreement as part of this change proposal. There are legal and financial implications with reduction of the agreement with the external partner. Deterioration of the Highway Network infrastructure has a significant reputational risk.</p>	
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary See full consultation report E4.4</p>	
<p>Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E4.4</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions– Further permanent reduction does carry the risk of short and long-term implications in terms of deteriorating condition of the highways network with increased minor risk of accident and injury on the highway. Disruption to use of the highway network has an associated detrimental economic impact and a reputation impact. Contract price fluctuation and inflation will eventually result in the need to reassess the budget required for this service.</p> <p>The condition of the highway grassed areas will be monitored to assess the ongoing impact of the reduction to ensure that the detrimental effect to the highway is minimised</p>	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – Delivery of the Highway Grounds Maintenance service will be revised by reducing the number of cuts per annum to 8 (The current level is 11 cuts)</p>	
<p>Cost of Highway Grounds Maintenance Service: £350,000 Staffing: Not Applicable Other Resources: Capita Symonds</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £300,000 Saving 2012/13: £50,000 Will the saving be full or part year? Full Saving 2013/14: £ £50,000</p>

	Investment Required: Nil at this stage Staff at Risk: No.
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Consultation Report E4.4
Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to reduce the Highway grounds maintenance revenue budget by a further £50,000.

(Ref: E 4.4)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Appendix 1 – Response from One Vision Housing

Appendix 2 – Detailed Responses

Background

The highway management revenue budget was reduced in 2010/11 by £800,000 for a period of three years. In addition to this, the highway grounds maintenance budget was specifically reduced by £200,000 on a permanent basis.

Members are minded to seek a further temporary reduction of £500,000 for the same budget and have requested that the option be subject to a consultation process.

Consultation Methodology

Information on this option was available on the intranet and on e-Consult, the on-line consultation tool. The public had an opportunity to give comments and feedback via this tool.

A consultation exercise took place with Sefton Youth Advisors who were asked to explore the effects that cuts in the highway management budget might have. Details of this event are included in Appendix 2.

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Consultation has also taken place with One Vision Housing and also our professional partner Capita Symonds to assist in the realignment of budgets should the proposed reduction be implemented

The option was also discussed at the Youth Event, organised by the Young Advisors, which took place on 3rd December 2011.

Executive Summary

In total, seven comments were received on the e-consult system. A full listing is included in Appendix 2

Of the seven responses, five (72%) were in favour of the proposal and one (14%) was against it. The other (14%) made a general comment.

The Consultation Analysis

The response to the consultation was extremely limited and insufficient to offer any real guidance or measure of public opinion.

Highway Maintenance Feedback from the Youth Event

Activity	Feedback received
<p>Spider Diagram Activity:</p> <p>5. Who uses roads and why are they important?</p> <p>6. Who uses paths and why are they important?</p> <p>7. What hazards/problems could there be with roads and paths?</p> <p>8. What would you do if there were no roads or paths?</p>	<p>Pedestrians, public transport, cars, parades – protests & Lord Mayors, emergency vehicles, television crews, council services – meals on wheels, horses, cyclists, motorbikes.</p> <p>Zebra crossings, if you don't drive then you have to use paths, bridges, travelling anywhere/general travel, used to socialise and go shopping, cycle paths for fun and to get to places, national trails, under main roads – subways, parks, access to hospitals, EVERYONE uses them.</p> <p>Litter, Wildlife, Overgrown vegetation, obstructions, narrow ways, should be a clear separation between roads and paths, everyone would be affected equally, uneven road surfaces, poor lit roads, unclear paint on road markings, people are hazards!</p> <p>More accidents, No system, No rules or regulations, Have no specific direction for walking or driving, Less jobs e.g./ lollipop men/ladies, no traffic wardens & traffic police, No stability, no routes to place.</p>
<p>Discussion around importance of roads and paths being</p>	<p>Damaged, dangerous roads could cause more accidents and injuries, might slow down or delay emergency vehicles, cost of repairs further down the line would be very high, very</p>

looked after and maintained.	important, - councils duty, damage to vehicles would be expensive.
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Rank/ order game

- YP were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important. Highway Maintenance – 10/14 YP scored this as a one or two, so highway maintenance was scored very highly. 3 YP scored highway maintenance a 4 and one scored a 6. Overall a fairly important ranking.
- Happy/Sad faces – flipchart and post it note activity. YP were asked to comment on positives and negatives of the highway maintenance budget being cut. This activity focused on their feelings and how they would be affected by cuts to this budget.

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Excerpt from a letter to The Leader and the Chief Executive from One Vision Housing

To the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to

consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there

is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term

sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of

the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many

vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result

in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation,

however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief

Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams

Chief Executive

One Vision Housing

Section E4: Street Scene

E4.2 Highways Maintenance

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Sefton's spend on maintenance of principal roads per head at £2.28 (2009/10) is already in the lowest 20% amongst statistical nearest neighbours (Audit Commission Value for Money Profiles), the average amongst statistical nearest neighbours is £11.35/ head. Whilst the proportion of principal roads where maintenance should be considered is currently average, we would ask SMBC to guarantee that this is a temporary budget cut. A permanent budget cut of this proportion will lead to an increased percentage of the principal and non principal road network in need of maintenance and reduce the long term sustainability of the borough. A well maintained network will facilitate employment, industry freight traffic and is key to reducing the number road traffic accidents. In 2009, 87 people were killed or seriously injured on Sefton's Roads. We would ask the Council to ensure accident hot spots are prioritised in the 3years where reduced budgets are in place to ensure the safety of all residents

Appendix 2 – Detailed Responses

- 1 A lot of the central carriage ways should be tarmacked as the grass is only a collector for the rubbish that is either blown there or discarded
- 2 Cutting the grass is not important reduce to minimum
- 3 Grass cutting can be reduced where it is not a Health & Safety issue i.e. Major Routes & Junctions where long grass & over grown hedges & shrubs reduce visibility. Residential areas could be looked at to either pave or tarmac over what is often a small rutted patch that residence use for off road parking. This would incur a cost that would / could be offset by the need for no further maintenance.
- 4 How can you save money when the grass verges on the Northern Road/South Parade, Crosby are hardly cut anyway. They have not been touched since August 2011.
- 5 Grass verges are cut too frequently anyway. It would be better to cut them in the autumn and leave them the rest of the year to encourage wild flowers and insects. The litter should still be collected from them though. However the growth around road signs should be cleared so they are visible at all times.
- 6 Agree as long as doesn't affect visibility.....for road safety.

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- 7 most of the time when the grass slows down it only needs to be cut because of the height of the weed growth sticking up above grass canopy, If the grass verges etc were sprayed with a selective weed killer you would be able alter the frequency of the regime. then you would be able recover the initial cost of the spray because of a lesser frequency of cuts.

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Equality Analysis Report E4.4

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.4

Details of proposal:

Grass cutting.

A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas.

Delivery of the Highway Grounds Maintenance service will be revised by reducing the number of cuts per annum to 8 (The current level is 11 cuts). The cuts will be programmed for maximum effect and benefit during the growing season.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

Reduced grass cutting will increase the grass length before each cut however the effect is deemed to be minimal as the proposed 8 cuts per annum will still deliver a sustainable, albeit reduced, service.

Expectation is that it will not materially increase the risk to any elderly, young or disabled people by impeding wheeled/supported access (egg prams/push chairs/wheel chairs/walking sticks etc) .

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes Concerns for disabled/mobility

If grass grows unchecked it can create access issues for people with disabilities /mobility problems.

We will identify 'hot spots' but also ensure that notification of such obstructions will be prioritised to ensure access and participation in public life - however this is a very low risk due to the proposal to continue to mow highway grass, albeit at a reduced frequency.

Consultation- results need inserting

In total, seven comments were received on the e-consult system. A full listing is included in Appendix 2

Of the seven responses, five (72%) were in favour of the proposal and one (14%) was against it. The other (14%) made a general comment.

The young advisors discussion around importance of roads and paths being looked after and maintained. Damaged, dangerous roads could cause more accidents and injuries, might slow down or delay emergency vehicles, cost of repairs further down the line would be very high, very important, - councils duty, damage to vehicles would be expensive

During the young people event they played a Rank/ order game

- YP were given 9 options and asked to rank them according to importance. Number 1 being the most important. Highway Maintenance – 10/14 YP scored this as a one or two, so highway maintenance was scored very highly. 3 YP scored highway maintenance a 4 and one scored a 6. Overall a fairly important ranking.
- Happy/Sad faces – flipchart and post it note activity. YP were asked to comment on positives and negatives of the highway maintenance budget being cut. This activity focused on their feelings and how they would be affected by cuts to this budget.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: This proposal seeks to reduce the level of service which is universally provided for all residents and users of the highway. Despite the reduction, the service will continue to be delivered with no to minimal impact on the highway user. Procedures are in place to identify and respond to disability and mobility issues.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) **Reschedule work plans**
- 2) **Continue to liaise with disability groups**
- 3) **Monitor**

Recommendation to Cabinet E4.4:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E4.4 and recommend to the Council that

1. that a reduction of three cuts at a saving of £50,000 be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, subject to the final decisions of Council.

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E4.9 Cease supply of Hanging Baskets

Change Proposal

Service Description: Cease supply of Hanging Baskets (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review – Option 5)
Consultation has closed on the following option Cease the provision of all non-sponsored hanging baskets
Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings overall, and try to minimise the effect on the wider Sefton community as much as possible.
Legislation Considered None
Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – There will be a negative effect on the quality of environment in town centres and neighbourhoods, and loss of civic pride. Partners – Businesses that currently sponsor hanging baskets may be disappointed that they are no longer able to do this Council - The attractiveness of the shopping centres throughout the Borough would be diminished and may lead to poor press.
Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary See the excerpt from the consultation report
Equality Analysis Report – see EIA 4.9
Suggested amendments following Consultation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents are against the change proposal, albeit by a small margin (52% of those replying to the questionnaire) • Most of the interest groups are for the change proposal • The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allow advertising on or around where the hanging baskets are to increase revenue • As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider further sponsorship and advertising opportunities
Risks & Mitigating Actions– Risks: Drop in visual quality in key urban areas. Mitigating Actions: Encourage in bloom steering groups to promote sponsorship
Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

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<p>Provision of all non-sponsored hanging baskets</p> <p>Although it may still be possible to procure and co-ordinate sponsored hanging baskets, this would depend on the effects of other savings on staffing levels (i.e. there may not be the staff available to co-ordinate the requests and procure the baskets from external suppliers). Also, if there were only a small total number of baskets required, or they were widely spread out geographically, the unit costs would be unfeasibly high for a contractor to maintain them)</p>	
<p>Cost of hanging baskets: £30K</p> <p>Staffing: N/A</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: 0</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £30K</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: No</p>

Consultation and Engagement Overview E4.9

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
e-Consult Feedback (Question responses = 507)		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68.25% of respondents are against the proposal of ceasing to provide hanging baskets. <p>No specific feedback was received from the public.</p>
Friends of Parks Forum (30 attendees/ 12 organisations)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May get more sponsorship if labels were put on baskets saying who was paying for them.
Mr I H F	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanging baskets are pretty, but the impact of each one is definitely local. [Some] should be funded from local voluntary donations or sponsorship.
Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY (SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group supported totally the option to stop the provision of hanging baskets, but did mention the possibility of broadening out the program to have baskets installed sponsored by local business.
Equal Voice (3 attendees)		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services
Parents Forum (28 persons/19 organisations)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanging baskets could be funded/ maintained by local shops, business, community groups etc. Suggested – private sponsors for hanging baskets (i.e. shop owners)
Young Advisers		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% were against the cut

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
(17 attendees)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite this, hanging baskets were identified as their second lowest spending priority Ask for volunteers to do the planting regularly Ask business' to donate flowers to their community (could be local florist, or local wealthy business person) Could have a volunteer scheme which can take charitable donations from the community to pay for the flowers volunteer scheme where young, old and middle aged all work together and teach people how to plant
Telephone Survey (303 respondents)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 23% disagreed (5% neither agreed or disagreed).
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most respondents are against the change proposal, albeit by a small margin (52% of those replying to the questionnaire) Most of the interest groups are for the change proposal The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow advertising on or around where the hanging baskets are to increase revenue As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider further sponsorship and advertising opportunities 			

Impact Assessment E4.9 (E4.8 is in Part B report)

Equality Analysis Report	
Committee paper code: Annex	Reference E4.8 & E4.9
<p>Details of proposal:</p> <p>The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E4.8 Closing the Aviary, Fernery and Nursery Shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport E4.9 Stop providing Hanging Baskets <p>The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers these six separate change proposals. They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the Council:</p>	
Service	Provides

<p>Parks and Green Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks & open spaces ▪ Playgrounds ▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management ▪ Trees and woodland management ▪ Golf course provision ▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens
<p>Ramifications of Proposal:</p> <p>E4.8 Closing the Aviary, Fernery and Nursery Shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport and E4.9 Stop providing Hanging Baskets</p> <p>There is a proposal is to stop putting up the 556 hanging flower baskets in town centres in Ainsdale, Aintree, Birkdale, Churchtown, Crosby, Formby, Hightown, Litherland, Netherpton, and Southport. (We may still provide these if they are sponsored / paid for. This will however depend on demand, location and having the staff resources available).</p> <p>There is also a proposal to close the aviary, fernery and nursery shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport to public access and to mothball facilities pending a future use being identified. This would mean no public access to the aviary, which has a bird collection of 80 types of birds from across the world (This would result in the bird collection being re-housed), the recently refurbished Victorian fernery that houses a collection of 90 rare ferns and plants from across the world, as well as the nursery and shop. The recently restored Hesketh Park conservatory would also close.</p> <p>Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?</p> <p>No.</p>	
<p>Consultation/Time Span. (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)</p> <p>Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "In Bloom" groups • Allotment users • Bowlers • Equal Voice CEN • Football League Committees – north and south • Formal sports pitch clubs and users 	

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- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton Croquet Club
- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
- Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Closure or cessation of these facilities and services will not impact on the public sector equality duty

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

E.4.8

- 1) Inform local business/community of opportunity to sponsor hanging baskets.**
- 2) Reorganise work schedules.**

E.4.9

- 1) re-house bird collection**
- 2) secure building**

Recommendation to Cabinet E4.9:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E4.9 and recommend to the Council that

1. the cessation of the supply of all non-sponsored hanging baskets and a budget reduction of £30,000 be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference E5.4

<p>Service Description: Fairways Park & Ride Categorisation: Regulatory Fairways Park & Ride facility is one of 3 Park & Ride facilities in Southport. Kew Park & Ride facilities was mothballed as part of the previous prioritisation programme, the third and most popular facility is Esplanade Park & Ride. Clients include all who park their vehicles within Southport and at this facility in particular, including visitors to events in the Borough.</p>	
<p>Consultation has closed on the following option – Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays</p>	
<p>Original rationale for service change proposal – Fairways Park & Ride is not heavily used on Saturdays and there is sufficient capacity at the Esplanade Park & Ride to accommodate displaced service users. This would enable a reduction in the number of buses needed to operate the Park & Ride scheme on Saturdays from 4 to 3.</p>	
<p>Legislation Considered</p> <p>N/a</p>	
<p>Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – Current service users using Fairways Park & Ride would be inconvenienced but sufficient capacity exists to accommodate them at Esplanade Park & Ride. Partners – This change would involve a reduction in buses operated by our bus contractor. Council – There may be criticism in relation to access to Park & Ride facilities at the North of the Town. Adequate signage would be needed to redirect service users.</p>	
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary</p> <p>See full consultation report E5.4</p> <p>Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E5.4</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions– <i>There is sufficient capacity at Esplanade Park & Ride Facility.</i> The assumption is that all of the motorists currently using the Fairways site will transfer to Esplanade and continue to provide the income but allow the saving to be made on the operation of the service. If motorists do not transfer and park elsewhere (not necessarily on a Sefton Car Park) then some income may be lost.</p>	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – Fairways Park & Ride facility would not operate on Saturdays, enabling a reduction in the number of buses (from 4 to 3) needed to operate the Park & Ride scheme on Saturdays. However, a 25% reduction in income is envisaged based on the outcome of consultation.</p>	
<p>Cost of Park and Ride Service: £356,000 (income £250,000)</p> <p>Staffing: 2</p> <p>Other Resources: External Provider</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £341,000</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £15,000</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: No*</p>

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**Consultation Report E5.4
Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option
to cease operation of Fairways Park & ride site on Saturdays
(Ref: E 5.4)**

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

Contents

Background

Consultation Methodology

Consultation Analysis

Appendix 1 – full list of comments

Appendix 2 - questionnaire

Background

This report analyses the responses for the option to cease operation of the Fairways Park & Ride site on Saturdays. Alternative Park & Ride sites are available at Esplanade and during the summer months at Kew (funded through Local Sustainable Transport Fund)

Consultation Methodology

This proposal affects those customers who use the Fairways site and so consultation documents were handed out to all who used the site on Saturday 10th and Saturday 17th December, boxes for the replies were placed on the park and ride buses.

The questionnaire and supporting information was also available on the e-consult system, an online consultation tool.

A questionnaire was prepared which asked users if they would use an alternative park and ride site or if they would park elsewhere in the town. Users were also asked if they had any other comments on the proposal.

Discussions have also been held with the existing service providers and they will amend their services in line with the Councils decision.

The Consultation Analysis

The questionnaire

The number of questionnaires distributed was 465 of which 104 were returned. This represents 22% of the users. On the first weekend (10th December) 238 questionnaires were distributed and 86 returned (36%) and on the second weekend 227 were distributed and 18 returned (8%). This could be an indication that many of those who use the Fairways site do so each week.

A further 3 responses were subsequently posted to parking services and 5 responses were made through eConsult

69 of the 112 respondents indicated they would use the Esplanade site
10 of the 112 respondents indicated they would use the Kew site when open and if this were not open then they would use the Esplanade site

Consequently 79 of the 112 respondents (71%) indicated they would continue to use Park & Ride

7 respondents indicated they would use on-street pay and display, 7 respondents indicated they would use Tulketh Street Car parks, 2 respondents indicated that they would use Ocean Plaza, 3 respondents indicated that they would use NCP car parks.

Many of the comments made were highlighting the fact that the Fairways site is very convenient for those travelling from the north of the town and that closure of the site would lead to inconvenience and additional mileage for many.

28 out of 112 responses (25%) indicated that the closure of the site will result either in them not coming to Southport or visiting less frequently.

Analysis

Whilst the majority of respondents (71%) indicated that they would continue to use park and ride and others have indicated that they would use other Council car parks, there is a potential loss to the parking service of approx 25% of its users and consequently 25% of its income.

Appendix 1

E5.4 Fairways Consultation Responses – Full list of comments

- We would probably come into Southport less often if we had to use the Esplanade park and ride on Saturdays, it would depend on how efficiently the extra numbers using it were handled.

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- You only have to look at the number of cars parked to know how convenient and cheaper it is and necessary to keep Lord Street free of traffic.
- Would have to consider coming to Southport if no park and ride. Would like to see Kew open more often.
- I have used and supported Fairways park and ride every week for years. The guys are very friendly bus drivers are very accommodating site is preferred to other 2. I wouldn't visit Southport town centre.
- Park & Rides keep car and congestion off the roads, we will not visit Southport as often as we do now.
- It is easier to get to the Fairways. It can be a problem in summer getting to the Esplanade.
- Would not use the Kew site as it is far too far to travel and also will be more busy on the roundabout than usual. Keep the Fairways open as I have used this every weekend for work since it was opened.
- This is very convenient parking for my purposes.
- Esplanade car park would be overfull and we would not bother coming to Southport.
- Unlikely that we would visit Southport as often.
- A mid-week service would also be acceptable.
- Won't bother coming to Southport.
- Wouldn't use either would walk or go to Liverpool.
- The park and ride service is very convenient and it would be a shame to see it go
- Where would I park during summer? I use every weekday as I work in town. I'm not driving all the way to Kew, perhaps you could save a bit of money if Council workers paid to park.
- Preston park and ride can use bus pass why not Southport.
- I would only use if this one was closed because it is near to my house and easier to use.
- Very useful service.

- This is a much needed facility; I would not shop in Southport as much Preston would be my choice.
- Fairways car park is handy for people coming to town from Preston direction o round trip is 2 – 3 miles shorter.
- We would be happy to pay more to park on Fairways. Its good value. Will be sorry to see closed.
- Why close a facility when it is so convenient.
- Would not visit Southport is the only option was Esplanade. Kew is the most convenient for us. We would go to the Trafford Centre.
- Would not come to Southport Fairways is handy due to not having to drive into Southport.
- This is the best one really.
- Please do not close we are two elderly disabled people.
- The site sign is showing closed. No wonder people don't use this site.
- I would be very sorry to lose the Fairways P&R. Coming from Preston it is very convenient for me.
- Leave Fairways open. We have used Fairways since it first opened.

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- The Fairways site is ideally situated for people who live in Banks and other areas this side of Southport. We always use this service when we go into Southport. We would think twice before going to Esplanade.
- If the Fairways site closed I would probably not visit Southport town centre as often. The Fairways site is very popular and I would have thought the Council would have invested in it rather than Kew which doesn't seem busy.
- Why change something that works?
- Would consider going to another town.
- Would not come to Southport as much but would choose (parking) nearest to where I was going. The car park is ideal for people coming into Southport and should not be closed. The bus service is excellent and parking
- It's probably been decided anyway so this is just a paper exercise.
- I frequently shop in Southport on Saturdays and find the Fairways park and ride is excellent. To use the Esplanade adds to my journey and is always very busy. If the Fairway park and ride closed I will not shop in Southport.
- We feel it is very good value and service
- I wouldn't use Esplanade car park. I come from Ormskirk and it would add another 2 miles to my journey. I prefer Kew.
- Please do not close Fairways park and ride
- My nearest park and ride at Kew has already closed and I come into town and use the Fairways P&R. I would consider shopping elsewhere if this went too. Don't close please.
- Fairways is an excellent service, shopping in Southport on Saturday is viable for us with this park and ride. The Esplanade site is much more difficult for us to get to as we come from Ormskirk.
- It's a convenient and useful service, especially for visitors from Banks & Preston area. Don't close it down
- Would not come into Southport to shop, car parks are too expensive if you use them all day.
- I use it quite often, would be upset if it went. It might make us go to Preston instead. Don't close it
- Would not come consider parking anywhere else in Town Centre. Park & Ride is one of best facilities you offer.

- Always been an excellent service dropping off in centre, must help trading in Southport after living Preston who charge per person on bus.
- Please could you open Sundays as we come to Southport then as well. Many visitors call in from north of Southport and it is ridiculous to ask them to drive across town to a car park far from their intended destination.
- Would use bus on occasions if no park and ride existed on north side of town. Fairway is very convenient.
- Most convenient is Fairway which we use every Saturday.
- Always use park and ride, easier and cheaper option.
- Too expensive to park in Town need park and ride option.
- We come to Southport Especially because of the superb parking facilities at Fairway, we don't have to drive slap bang in the middle of town and can park so quickly and easily here. We will just not bother to come to

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Southport shopping if Fairway is closed – To get to Esplanade one the way we come we would be stuck in a long traffic jam in summer – why don't you close Esplanade and keep Fairway open which is further away from Town.

- Don't think it should close really well located.
- We travel to Southport most weekends from Preston End. Fairways car park is very convenient, spacious and avoids having to trawl through traffic and roundabouts to get further into town to park, we feel Esplanade is too busy and Kew is not convenient and may result in our decision to shop elsewhere which will be very disappointing. Note:- We feel unhappy that this could result in more people losing their jobs, the Fairways attendant is very pleasant to deal with, we also consider the best way to save money would be to leave the Fire Station where it is near the centre of the town and save the cost of building a new one which would be more of a saving than shutting Fairways down.
- Would prefer Fairways. More convenient and reduces amount of traffic through Southport.
- Esplanade gets busy on Saturdays and fairways is a great option I always use it on Saturdays and is far cheaper than taking public transport.
- Not come to Southport – The car park is ideal for me living on the Preston side.
- Would be disappointed to see it close.
- This is an excellent service and works well.
- I wouldn't come to town. Other car parks are too expensive or too far for the Churchtown / Banks area – cheaper to go to Preston and quicker.
- This is a valuable service with access to site and bus, that is much preferable to Esplanade.
- We found Kew very good. We wish it was open in winter.
- May not come if either closed, We use Kew when open. Always use your park and ride, great service. Thanks come often
- We travel from Preston and use Fairways every week. Closing Fairways will make Esplanade extremely busy. Please keep this facility open.
- As we live in Lytham St Anne's Fairways is very handy for us and means we don't add to the through traffic. However, we only come to Southport for shopping every 6 weeks approx
- With regret for many reasons we would use the Esplanade or not come.
- We like to use Fairways as it is very convenient and good value parking. Bus drivers are friendly.
- If we do not use park and ride we will not come to Southport. Street parking is too expensive. The Fairways site is ideal because its design means that wherever you park it is not far to walk to the bus at the Esplanade the furthest points are long walks in gales / rain and would not suit us at all. We come to Southport to shop almost every Saturday. We stay for at least 4 hours.
- Removal of Saturday service will reduce the number of visits we make to Southport. Has price increase to say £2 been considered this would still be cheaper than Preston park and ride.
- It would be a sad loss and unfortunate if fairways was to close. Town centre parking is not viable and the Esplanade P&R is normally full on a Saturday.

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- Disabled driver from Preston every week. This car park is extremely convenient and comfortable for my needs.
- Don't close it. Is Kew paying for itself. Maybe close that one.
- I would use my bus pass and go to Preston or Liverpool. You are doing an excellent job of closing Southport. 2 weeks before Christmas and it is like a ghost town.
- Kew is the better option for our use plus there is shelter and washrooms would prefer this option to be an all year round park and ride

- I would seriously consider shopping closer to home i.e. Preston if the Fairway site were to close as the Esplanade is considerably out of the way. On-street and town centre car parking is either limited or too expensive. All in all closing Fairway is narrow sighted and a bad idea

- We will be very disappointed that Fairways will not be operating

- I maintain that the best option for the Kew park and ride is to build a railway platform(s) on the adjacent railway embankment and to have a shuttle railcar service to Southport. I originally suggested this in the planning stages (so long ago that Steamport railway museum was open at the time), and I suggested that a steam train could operate the service, which would also have acted as a tourist attraction. The advantages of the rail route is that it doesn't get caught up in traffic in summer, unlike the existing buses. It also allows better options at the time of major events. e.g. air show, Open golf (when trains could run direct from Kew to Hillside).

- I have only travelled on the Kew bus once and thought you were missing an opportunity. The bus should go via the general hospital and relieve the parking difficulties there as well as offering better vfm for the hospital visitors, who are being ripped off by the Health Authority - you would make a killing - if you pardon the pun. You never know you may have enough custom and income to run all 3 P&Ds

- Practical reduction. Never seen Fairways full and there should be room at Esplanade for motorists - or use the overflow area where coaches park. Kew park and ride is not properly signed when open. Needs several big signs in West Lancs well before reaching Southport to give motorists time to decide. Also more signs around the "Tesco roundabout". Tell motorists in signs how much and how regular/cost.

- Rarely visit Southport by car because of their road system from the north of town and the cost of parking. cannot access post code below.

- The Esplanade park & ride bus runs along the edge of Marine Lake almost to Fairway so perhaps you could consider adding a Fairways stop to that route instead.

FAIRWAYS PARK & RIDE CONSULTATION

SATURDAYS OPERATION

Sefton Council has changed the way budget options will be developed this year - in a bid to find a further £20 million of Government savings. Around £25 million of **options** have been compiled to allow for greater consultation with residents, service users, partners and other interested parties. One of these options is to cease the operation of the Fairways Park & Ride service on Saturdays.

During the winter months four buses run on the park and ride services on Saturday. Two to Esplanade and two to Fairways. In the summer a further two buses will operate to the Kew site. There is sufficient capacity at these sites to accommodate any cars which currently park at Fairway and if the service is stopped then we would run an additional bus from the Esplanade site to cope with anticipated increased passenger demand. This would save the cost of operating one park & ride bus.

Before any changes are introduced the Council is keen to seek the views of service users and consequently I would be grateful if you could complete the questionnaire overleaf and leave it in the box provided at the front of the Park & Ride bus.

Many Thanks,

Alan Lunt, LL.B. (Hons.), M.Sc.

Director of Built Environment

**Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ**

FAIRWAYS PARK & RIDE CONSULTATION

QUESTIONNAIRE

If the Fairways site were to cease operation on a Saturday would you use either the Esplanade or Kew Park and Ride site instead. Please tick the box for the site(s) you would use.

Esplanade

Kew (Summer Only)

If you would not use either of the alternative please could you let us know where you would visiting Southport Town Centre (eg On-Street Pay Street, NCP, Ocean Plaza, etc)

park and ride sites then consider parking when & Display, Tulketh

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Comments

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Name:

Postcode:

Please complete and leave the questionnaire in the box provided on the Park & Ride Bus.

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Equality Analysis Report E5.4

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E5.4

Details of proposal: Ceasing the operation of Fairways Park & Ride facility on Saturdays

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': NO

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

Currently two park and ride sites operate in Southport on Saturdays throughout the year. The Esplanade site will continue to operate and the bus service provision will be increased to meet the additional demand from users displaced from the Fairways site. In the Summer months the Kew site will also operate using external funding (Local Sustainable Transport Fund). Motorists will be directed to these alternative sites.

The elderly / children/ disabled people will not be placed at risk as a result of this proposal.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

This may affect car users who are elderly or disabled.
It may also affect families of children.

Other car park facilities will be available and blue badge holder can use main street parking. Additional bus services will be put on to meet user need.

Consultation/Time Span. (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)

Consultation was undertaken and a full report is available the analysis of remarks reveals that the majority of respondents (71%) indicated that they would continue to use park and ride and others have indicated that they would use other Council car parks

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes.

Additional bus services will be put in place to cope with demand. These will meet with the needs of disability / young/older people with mobility issues as all buses are fully accessible and meet DPTAC standards.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

Notice will be given to service providers and advanced notice will be given at the site, at town centre bus stops and on the park and ride buses. Notices will be placed at the site once it is closed

Recommendation to Cabinet E5.4:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E5.4 and recommend to the Council that

- the cessation of Fairways Park and Ride services on Saturday at a saving of £15,000 be approved
- Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference E5.7

Service Description: Increased charges for burials and cremations (cemeteries and crematoria service)

Categorisation: Critical, Frontline, Regulatory, Other

-£1.217m	Regulatory
<u>£0.412</u>	Frontline (contracted)
-£0.805m	

Provision of a burials and cremations and funeral services at six sites through out the borough

Consultation has closed on the following option

- To increase the charge for burials, cremations and other associated services, to a level that is comparable to those charged for providing such services elsewhere. The increase in charges would be above the rate of inflation.
- Currently the charge for the main services provided are ;
 - Cremations £501
 - Interments (2 grave depth) £547
 - Purchase of grave (resident) £686

There are also a number of lesser/ miscellaneous items that represent less than 5% of the total income this service.
- Research suggests that Sefton's fees are lower than the average when compared to prices charged elsewhere on Merseyside and nearby competitors
- In view of this charges could be raised by :-
 - Approx 20% for cremations,
 - Approx 10% for interments,
 - Approx 10 % for grave purchases
 - Approx 0-20% for lesser miscellaneous / items
- If these percentages were applied, the new prices would move Sefton into the upper quartile, but below the maximum charged within the comparison group. In addition they would still continue to be competitive, so reducing the risk of losing customers to other providers.
- If these percentages were applied, the new charges (subject to rounding) would be:-
 - Cremations £600
 - Interments (2 grave depth) £600
 - Purchase of grave (resident) £750
- If these percentages were applied, they would generate an increased income in the order of £215,000

Original Rationale for service change proposal – There is an opportunity to increase charges to a level that is comparable to prices charged elsewhere.

Legislation Considered No legislation implications

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Will have to pay more. However the charges levied by the council are only a small percentage of the average total funeral cost.

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The average basic funeral spend is in the order of £2800. A survey carried out by a national insurance company indicates that the average spend on a full funeral (flowers, cars, wake, memorial etc) is ~£6,800

Partners – There should be little impact for partners as any local authority fees will be considered ad-disbursement

Council - The council may receive a poor press for increasing charges above the rate of inflation.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

Two on-line responses were received from individual members of the public, both were not against increasing these charges. However the Southport Hebrew Congregation, Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens, and Southport Older Persons' forums were concerned about the potential increase in fees.

The Funeral Director's Forum made no adverse comments.

Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E5.7

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

There will be a risk that some customers may use services offered by neighbouring authorities. There is also a general increase in life expectancy so the number of funerals may decrease. A 10% factor has been built into the proposed cost below to reflect this.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

The charge for the provision of a burial, cremation and associated services will increase.

Cost of Service: -£0.805m

**Staffing: 15 – regulatory
11 – frontline (contractor's staff)**

Other Resources:

Proposed Cost 2012/13: -£1.02m

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £215k increase to current income target

Staff at Risk: None

Consultation Report E5.7

Due to low participation a full report has not been produced. The comments made in response to the consultation exercise are outlined in the Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary above.

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Equality Analysis Report E5.7

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E5.7

Details of proposal: (Clearly identify the nub of the proposal & give details of relevant service provision)

Cemeteries and Crematoria Service is a section within Landscape Services division the Street Scene Directorate.

They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Cemeteries & Crematoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Burials▪ Cremations▪ Commemoration

Ramifications of Proposal:

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E5.7 Cemeteries and Crematoria review of charges

For cemeteries and crematoria, there is a proposal to increase the charge for burials, cremations and other associated services, to a level that is comparable to those charged for providing such services elsewhere. The increase in charges would be above the rate of inflation.

Is there a consequence to 'threshold' **Yes**

Is there a consequence to 'capacity' **No**

The threshold will change as costs to all residents will increase if the proposals to increase charges to clients of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Service are accepted.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Older People

Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens raised the following:

Whilst we understand that some charges may need to be increased, we would ask for some protection for those on low incomes (such as pensioners) and for the environmental impacts to be taken into account (e.g. the balance between cremation and burial charges should reflect sustainability considerations).

Faith

Although the increase in charges for burials and cremations is universal for all service users, some faith groups may be disadvantaged. This is because some congregations have special savings schemes for their future burial or cremation, which would be affected by the increased charges.

Mitigation:

For people who find the fees difficult to pay, funds are available from the

Government's Social Fund. This covers funeral expenses.

Consultation/Time Span. (give details of how this and how the results have been incorporated in to decision making)

Consultation was conducted between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012.
Consultation events took place with the following:

- Funeral Directors

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: The service will continue to be delivered in line with the Equality Act and there a mitigation action in place connected to those who experience financial hardship.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

1. Inform the public & funeral providers of new pricing policy.
2. Monitor progress

Recommendation to Cabinet E5.7:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E5.7 and recommend to the Council that

1. Council that increasing the charge for the provision of a burial, cremation and associated services be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference E6.3

Service Description: Area Committee Budgets Categorisation: Other.

The Area Committees budget of £226,000 is calculated on the basis of £12,254 (£557 per ward) for new and replacement bins £22,000 (£1,000 per ward) for street signs and the rest (split by population size per ward) core budget. There are two statutory functions that the Area Committee budget must fulfil: the replacement of street signs and funding of street bins.

It is a flexible fund that Members can utilise to make improvements to local areas that they feel will make a difference. General guidance is that it can't be spent on things that require ongoing maintenance unless this is agreed; revenue items such as staffing are also not eligible. Amounts are normally small one offs and given as grants, rather than commissioned. Nationally, other Councils delegate area based budgets to local Committees. These vary from entire Highways budgets to small community grants pots. Sefton is probably comparable locally to somewhere like Wirral which has the following funding is available to each forum area Empty Shops Fund (£17,500); Funds for You (£15,500 for local VCF groups to bid into); Public Health Fund (£4,577 – contribution from NHS Wirral); You Decide (£20,000 to spend on additional Council services from a wide range of options given) and Improving Road Safety & Promoting Active Travel and Health (£20,000).

Other areas vary in how they support their area structures, for example:

- Halton BC - £600k borough wide allocated to Area Forums per capita based on ward boundaries. Must be spent against Council priorities and cannot be used for revenue support.
- Liverpool – small pot allocated to wards (Councillors decide). The amounts vary based upon IMD – there is a basic amount which increases dependent upon levels of deprivation

Consultation has closed on the following option *Consult on a possible reduction of:*
10% = £26,025 spread across 22 wards would represent a reduction of £1,183 for each ward
Reductions by Area Committee:

<i>Linacre and Derby</i>	<i>£2,366</i>
<i>Ford and Litherland</i>	<i>£2,366</i>
<i>St Oswald and Netherton and Orrell</i>	<i>£2,366</i>
<i>Sefton East Parishes</i>	<i>£3,549</i>
<i>Crosby</i>	<i>£4,732</i>
<i>Formby</i>	<i>£2,366</i>
<i>Southport</i>	<i>£8,281</i>

15% = £39,079 spread across 22 wards would represent a reduction of £1,776 for each ward

<i>Linacre and Derby</i>	<i>£3,552</i>
<i>Ford and Litherland</i>	<i>£3,552</i>
<i>St Oswald and Netherton and Orrell</i>	<i>£3,552</i>
<i>Sefton East Parishes</i>	<i>£5,328</i>
<i>Crosby</i>	<i>£7,104</i>
<i>Formby</i>	<i>£3,552</i>
<i>Southport</i>	<i>£12,432</i>

20% = £52,051 spread across 22 wards would represent a reduction of £2,366 for each ward

<i>Linacre and Derby</i>	<i>£4,732</i>
<i>Ford and Litherland</i>	<i>£4,732</i>
<i>St Oswald and Netherton and Orrell</i>	<i>£4,732</i>
<i>Sefton East Parishes</i>	<i>£7,098</i>
<i>Crosby</i>	<i>£9,464</i>

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<i>Formby</i>	£4,732
<i>Southport</i>	£16,562
Original rationale for service change proposal – In the past some Area Committees have not spent their full annual allocation and so have some reserves (from carry over from previous years)	
Legislation Considered There is no specific legislation in relation to this however we must be mindful of the statutory obligations with regards the placement of bins and maintenance of street signs	
Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – would limit what could be resourced to respond to needs of residents. Criteria would need to be revised to limit what resources could be spent on Partners – there would be less additional resources to support partners to deliver specific initiatives in local areas Council – there would need to be some consultation in order to revise funding criteria to ensure maximum use of resources; reduction in additional services being bought from existing Council departments	
Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary	
See full consultation report E6.3	
Equality Analysis Report – see EAR E6.3	
Risks & Mitigating Actions– Risks – currently AC budgets have been used to respond to specific local issues and reduction in resources will limit our ability to do this. Revision to criteria and consultation on local priorities may mitigate some of this as potentially will rule out some actions. Also continued negotiations with services and partners by the Neighbourhoods Division will assist in responding to local issues	
Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – This proposal would mean a reduction of what could be delivered through use of Area Committee budgets by 10% across all Area Committees	
Cost of AC Budgets: £ 226,000	Proposed Cost 2012/13: £199k
Staffing: 0	Budget Reduction 2012/13: £26k Staff at Risk: No
Other Resources:	

Consultation Report E6.3

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council’s consultation on the option to reduce the Area Committee Budgets

(Ref: E6.3)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Appendix 1 – Detailed Responses

Background

The Area Committee budgets are allocated on the basis an amount for replacement street signs and street bins, which are a statutory function, plus core budget (split by population size per ward).

The proposal sought views on varying scales of reduction for the budgets ranging from 10% to 20%

Consultation Methodology

Information on this option was available on the intranet and on eConsult, the on-line consultation tool. The public had an opportunity to give comments and feedback via this tool.

This option was also included in the community consultation telephone survey.

Executive Summary

In total, nine comments were received on the e-consult system. A full listing is included in Appendix 2

Of the nine responses, five (56%) related directly related to the proposal; with four in support and one against. The other four responses (44%) made broader comments in relation to Area Committees.

68% of respondents to the telephone survey agreed to a reduction in funding for Area Committees across Sefton and 23% disagreed. (9% neither agreed or disagreed).

The Consultation Analysis

Due to the small number of responses the feedback cannot confidently be considered to be a genuine measure of wider public opinion. The comments, however, have been used to inform the recommendation with consideration given to the small number of comments

Appendix 1 – Detailed Responses

- 1 Reduce the number of Councillors in each ward by 1
- 2 Reduce the numbers of Councillors in each ward.
- 3 Cut to 20% saving
- 4 Good idea, my opinion of area committees is that they are very inefficient in their duties and spending. Also, Southport gets more than any other area, why? Cut Southport first then other more deprived areas last. Sefton should understand that Southport is not a major tourist attraction as it may have been in victorian times, those days are gone and when the last few pensioners on the coaches leave for the great beach in the sky, Southport will go with them. For God's sake, have you tried getting to the sea from that beach!
- 5 I oppose any cut in this local funding. Many council information documents refer to the diverse nature of Sefton, with each area having its own needs. Because of the central corporate budget cuts, it is more important than ever that some funding is provided for local councillors to support local initiatives and local needs, including volunteer and self-help community groups which can help fill in the gaps left by the cuts in Sefton services, especially youth and elderly provision, sport and things to do.
- 6 Save 20% of the budget
- 7 Area budgets provide discretionary budgets and hence are non priority so can be cut by more than 20%.
- 8 I think area committees are a waste of time. We only need 3 committees - north, middle and south. Get rid of a third of the time wasting councillors and we'll save a fortune in expenses.
- 9 Save money by reducing the amount of councillors we have in Sefton. We cannot afford this luxury! Time to change Everyone else is expected to change!

Equality Analysis Report E6.3

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E6.3 area committee

Details of proposal:

The Area Committees budget of £226,000 is calculated on the basis of £12,254 (£557 per ward) for new and replacement bins £22,000 (£1,000 per ward) for street signs and the rest (split by population size per ward) core budget. There are two statutory functions that the Area Committee budget must fulfil: the replacement of street signs and funding of street bins.

It is a flexible fund that Members can utilise to make improvements to local areas that they feel will make a difference. General guidance is that it can't be spent on things that require ongoing maintenance unless this is agreed; revenue items such as staffing are also not eligible. Amounts are normally small one offs and given as grants, rather than commissioned. Nationally, other Councils delegate area based budgets to local Committees. These vary from entire Highways budgets to small community grants pots. Sefton is probably comparable locally to somewhere like Wirral which has the following funding is available to each forum area Empty Shops Fund (£17,500); Funds for You (£15,500 for local VCF groups to bid into); Public Health Fund (£4,577 – contribution from NHS Wirral); You Decide (£20,000 to spend on additional Council services from a wide range of options given) and Improving Road Safety & Promoting Active Travel and Health (£20,000).

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Other areas vary in how they support their area structures, for example:

- o Halton BC - £600k borough wide allocated to Area Forums per capita based on ward boundaries. Must be spent against Council priorities and cannot be used for revenue support.
- o Liverpool – small pot allocated to wards (Councillors decide). The amounts vary based upon IMD – there is a basic amount which increases dependent upon levels of deprivation

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': NO
Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

There will be less funding which will have a small impact in developing area priorities and responding to needs.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No: Allocation of Area Committee Budgets is well established and is based on community ideas and needs.

Consultation

Public consultation took place between 21st October 2011 to 16th January 2012- received only a small amount of feedback from the public.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: spending will be in line with the Equality Act.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) **Inform councillors of Area committees' budget allocation**
- 2) **Monitor progress.**

Recommendation to Cabinet E6.3:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E6.3 and recommend to the Council that

1. that a reduction of 10% in Area Committee Budgets be approved and that Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, subject to the final decision of Council.

Proposal Reference E6.6

Service Description: Cleansing Services – Public Conveniences – Market Test
Categorisation: Frontline

The Council currently operates a number of public conveniences across the Borough as follows:

6 x 'pay-to-use' units: 4 in Southport (Promenade, Eastbank Street(2), Hill Street)
 1 in Blundellsands (Burbo Bank)
 1 in Waterloo (South Road).

'Free-to-use' toilets: Maghull (Leighton Avenue)
 Crosby (Moor Lane)
 Southport (Hesketh Park)
 Churchtown (Preston New Road).

Static Attendants were removed from toilets last year as part of savings proposals. There are currently two attendants who clean toilets on a mobile basis.

The service currently costs £256k per annum.

The 'pay-to-use' units were funded via Prudential Borrowing in 2006 over a ten year period. Funds for this prudential borrowing (£78k) are not included in the above sum.

Consultation has closed on the following option – It is proposed to visit the market place to determine if there are private sector companies or other organisations that are interested in operating all of the public conveniences in Sefton. A soft market consultation exercise could be used to identify if there is sufficient interest within the private sector which would allow the Council to establish a specification that would enable the current level of service to continue to be provided whilst achieving an overall efficiency saving. An output specification would be developed which would see all current toilets continuing to remain available for public use, but with the operator being responsible for full operational service delivery.

Original rationale for service change proposal – The six 'pay-to-use' units are subject to prudential borrowing and therefore costs of £78k per year will still be incurred until 2016. NNDR and 'mothballing' costs would also be incurred if the facilities were closed.

In order to maintain the provision of the current public conveniences it may be possible to operate the service more efficiently via an external organisation.

Some 'soft consultation' has taken place with a number of providers of such services and it is unlikely that the Council could outsource the operation to include the repayment of the prudential borrowing, the NNDR, full utility costs, and the full maintenance of all facilities.

However, it is felt that an organisation may be prepared to undertake the daily cleansing of all facilities, the general small scale maintenance jobs to the level currently undertaken and the collection of income from the 'pay-to-use' units. It is felt that the current level of income plus an annual 'fee' would enable a contractor to operate the facilities accordingly.

Therefore, even though the Council would still be responsible for the prudential borrowing repayment, NNDR and utilities, there would still be an efficiency saving.

Legislation Considered – There are no legislative implications

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users - No Change.

Partners - Sefton Council currently has an agreement with Arriva to operate a toilet in Southport and a toilet in Crosby for the use of Arriva Drivers. This proposal would allow the

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arrangement with Arriva to continue unaltered.

Council –

There would be TUPE implications for the two members of staff affected by this proposal.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

Only three responses were received during the consultation exercise; one person was in favour of this service being provided by a private organisation, another complained about a lack of public conveniences in Sefton and the third made no comment in relation to commissioning this service.

This option was included in the community consultation telephone survey. 54% of respondents agreed with the proposal to find an external provider to manage the operation of the public toilets. 32% disagreed. (14% neither agreed or disagreed).

As a result of market testing it has now been established that there is local interest in providing this service.

Equality Analysis – see EAR E6.6

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

This process would obviously be subject to a tender/contractual arrangement with suitable protections in place to maintain the level of service currently enjoyed by users of public conveniences.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – There would be no change in the provision of public conveniences across the Borough.

Cost of Public Conveniences: £256,000

Staffing: 2

Other Resources: None

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £156k

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £100k

Council Staff at Risk: No

Number of Posts at Risk: None

Consultation Report –

See above (Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary)

EAR E6.6

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E6.6

Details of proposal: The Council currently operates a number of public toilets across the Borough. It is proposed to seek a contractor who will undertake the cleaning element of the public toilet provision and ensure that the toilets are clean and presentable each day whilst also ensuring that there are adequate stocks of toilets rolls, soap, etc, available.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': NO

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No

There will be no service reduction. All existing toilets will remain open. They will just be cleaned by an external organisation. In addition to current service provision, 'Dunes Splash World' in Southport and 'Meadows Leisure Centre' in Maghull have both also been registered as having fully accessible toilet facilities for use by members of the public. These facilities include changing beds, mechanical hoist, showering and toilet facilities.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No : Whilst some people may need public toilets more than others, especially pregnant women, people with medical conditions – which may include some people with disabilities. The proposal will not have any impact on these more than others as there is no reduction to service provision. It's important to note, that public toilets can be a key instrument for allowing some people with disabilities to have a 'public life'.

Consultation .

Service providers were consulted. Provision to ensure that needs under the Equality Act are contained within service specifications.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: The public toilet provisions cater for all members of society and are a necessary component to ensure that disabled community have access to services that enable them to have a 'public life'. Service contracts with service providers ensure that the Equality Act is adhered to.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- Procurement process started
- Identify provider

- Continue to monitor performance.

Recommendation to Cabinet E6.6:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E6.6 and recommend to the Council that

1. a formal procurement process to provide the public convenience operational service be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, including the issue of relevant contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council.

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Proposal Reference E6.7

Service Description: **Sefton Tourism Service** **Categorisation: Other**

The Tourism Service supports the Sefton Visitor Economy (worth £374 million), of which 74% (£278 million) is spent in Southport Classic Resort and generates 5,300 jobs in the town (source: STEAM 2008; Sheffield Hallam University 2010).

The Service provides a Conference Bureau which drives business into the Council owned Southport Theatre & Convention Centre, currently operated on the Council's behalf by Ambassador Theatre Group under a 15 year lease (expires June 2012). Conferencing generated £19.2 million of direct & indirect expenditure in 2009/10.

Destination Marketing promotes Southport as a destination to multiple markets, both generic and targeted e.g. nature, golf. Southport attracted 13.7 million tourist visitor days in 2008 (source: STEAM). For example – Southport Holiday Guide is cost neutral, but the economic impact of staying visitors resulting from their seeing the guide is estimated at £2.27 million (source: conversion research 2009).

The Events team co-ordinates a programme of events such as Southport Airshow. The events programme in 2009/10 attracted 200,000+ visitors and generated an economic impact of £10 million

Tourism leads the management and support of the Southport Tourism Business Network, a public/private marketing partnership that pools marketing budgets to promote the town as a whole and thereby grow the market for everyone.

Operational management of Southport Seafront attractions and Southport Market Hall rests with the Service and generates income from leases, concessions, car parking and STBN contributions

The Tourism service was cut by 50% in 2011/12. The current estimate for 2012/13 is net controllable costs of £239,000 with a workforce of 25, and this is the baseline for any subsequent savings.

The Service has recently moved to Southport Town Hall as part of the savings agreed for 2011/12.

Consultation has closed on the following option - It is proposed to review the service and commence consultation on/implement the following change – To reduce the Tourism Service to a minimum feasible level of service, based on a core events programme, destination marketing, and support for conferences.

This review has the potential to deliver gross savings in excess of £90,000 up to complete cessation:

- Closure of Tourism Information Centre £90,000
- Delete vacant post in Conference Team £22,000
- Complete cessation = £0 controllable costs

Any other costs or income remaining upon cessation of the service will be considered as part of the tourism review.

Original rationale for service change proposal –The market is very competitive and Southport therefore has to remain visible as a destination if it is to continue to function as a visitor destination to other than local markets.

The proposal set out above ensures the cost to the Council of the Tourism Service is minimised at a low and sustainable level, while the core business-generating potential is preserved.

The core business generating functions comprise a reduced and refocussed conference bureau, major events, and destination marketing. In addition, smaller income-earning functions such as leases & concessions are retained that reduce the net cost of the service.

The reduction of the Tourism Service to a minimum feasible level is the express alternative to cessation of the service.

Cessation would allow a modest net saving of around £200,000 per annum, while generating additional costs for the Council because leaving the resort without a Destination Management Organisation will precipitate a “spiral of decline”.

Without destination marketing, fewer visitors will come to Southport, there will be no events to provide added value, and the share of high-spending conference and niche market visitors will reduce.

At least 22% of Southport’s tourism expenditure is directly enabled by Council destination marketing, events, conference sales and contracts – and is therefore at risk if the Tourism service ceases.

This equates to approx 1,000 jobs at risk, with a cost to the Exchequer of £7m per annum and to the Council of £1m per annum (council tax rebates, housing benefit etc).

Other losses include:

- Income forgone – European & UK funding streams
- Income forgone – private sector investment
- Lost ability to make money from sales, rents and licences.

Finally, gross savings must net off costs incurred from restrictions on public use of Council-owned tourism assets (to satisfy insurers, and prevent hazards from non-maintenance etc), and for breach of contract (concessionaires etc).

Given the absence of alternative private sector funding, the extreme sensitivity of visitor spend to reductions in Tourism activity, and the massive contribution the visitor economy makes to Sefton and Merseyside’s prosperity and jobs, the higher risk is to cease the service than to maintain it at a low and affordable level (option PL029b – minimum feasible level of service).

Legislation Considered No statutory duty is breached by ceasing support for TIC or events.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users - Principal impact will be on visitors who no longer have access to the Tourism Information Centre. The number of day visitors to Sefton is 4-6 million per annum, and visitor enquiries into the TIC where over 200,000 in 2010 which will be lost

Partners – STBN and other private sector partners will be affected by the reduced support for tourism activity. Some visitor demand for travel information will be displaced onto other providers, especially Merseytravel and Network Rail.

Council – Financial saving.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

Consultation and engagement on this option took place using on line, digital and paper questionnaires which were available at the Tourist Information Centre and distributed to residents, visitors, stakeholders and businesses. A number of meetings took place with business networks and partners.

See full consultation report E6.7b – Tourist Information Centre

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Equality Analysis – see EAR E6.7	
Risks & Mitigating Actions – Factors to take into account include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merseytravel have recently signed an agreement to relocate their travel service to the TIC and have indicated interest in a further move to the new Cultural Centre upon its opening, therefore there is a third party agreement to consider if the service is to cease. 	
Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce	
(a) Subject to Cabinet confirming the opening and operation of the Cultural Centre, review the potential for the Tourism Information service to be merged into the Cultural Centre box office service. This is a required function for successful opening and operation of the Cultural Centre. This may result in further reductions to the present TIC service in order to achieve the required level of saving.	
(b) Limit the events programme to the “Big Four” – Southport Airshow, British Musical Fireworks Championships, Southport Jazz Festival, and the Southport Food & Drink Festival – and continue to withhold support for events with smaller earnings potential.	
(c) Re-negotiation of the facility management agreement with Ambassador Theatre Group for the Conference Centre. Possible outcomes include a saving on the agreement; the sale of the asset; or further alignment of conference marketing as part of the Conference Centre retendering exercise. All options will be explored. To avoid prejudicing negotiations, savings achievable by this route are not otherwise quantified or included in this proposal.	
(d) Deletion of 1 vacant and unfilled post in the Conference team.	
Cost of Tourism Service: £327,000 (net controllable costs – inc already taken savings of £36k)	Proposed Cost 2012/13: £237,000
Staffing: 24 staff	Budget Reduction 2012/13: £90,000
Other Resources: ERDF via TMP	Council Staff at Risk: Yes Number of Posts at Risk: 2

Consultation Report E6.7

Report on the Outcomes of the Consultation on E6.7b Tourism – Closure of Tourism Information Centre and Cessation of Associated Services

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

1. Introduction

This report summarises the outcomes from the consultation with residents, visitors, businesses and organisations that have responded to the consultation on the Budget Option E6.7b to review Tourism in Southport and Sefton about the possible closure of the Tourist Information Centre and associated services.

Due to the governments financial settlement for the Council there was a reduction in the annual budget by £44m for the year 2011/2012 and the Tourism Service's budget was halved to £363k. In seeking to set a balanced budget for 2012/2013, on the 13th October 2011 Cabinet agreed to open consultation on the review of the Tourism Service in order for Elected Members to make informed and balanced judgements in setting the Council's budget.

2. Executive Summary

The consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th Jan 2012 and this report provides details of the feedback from service users, general public, partners and other stakeholders. The key messages from the consultation and engagement process are that respondents:

- Overwhelmingly value their Tourist Information Centre and the services it offers,
- Do not wish to lose it
- Clearly believe it will be damaging to Southport and Sefton if it is lost

The report provides responses to each of the questions asked and includes all the comments received, these are at Appendix 1

The consultation process resulted in 550 individuals and businesses completing the questionnaire, 281 via eConsult and 269 via hard copies of the questionnaire.

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The council's standard equal opportunities questions were also asked and the results form part of this report.

3. Methodology

A Consultation and Engagement Plan was agreed by Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on the 21st October 2011. The following steps were undertaken to ensure the process was robust:

- Identification of audiences
- Devising and agreeing of questionnaires
- Distribution via eConsult and other methods including hard copy and digital means
- Marketed via existing contact databases and local and social media

There are in practical terms two broad groups of interested parties

- Residents of and visitors to Sefton
- Businesses and organisations with interests in tourism activity in Sefton

For this consultation both groups completed the same questionnaire.

In consideration of the broad interest in this service area the consultation was structured around an online and hard copy questionnaire to the respective audiences.

There was also a free-text box in order for respondents to offer additional input, 56% (401) of the respondents took advantage of this option. A full schedule of these responses is provided as appendix 1.

The questionnaire was made available in a range of formats to ensure as many potential respondents as possible were able to input into the process. As well as the eConsult option for the questionnaire a digital version was also emailed to service users on request and a paper version was available in the Tourist Information Centre. The paper version was also mailed out to those the Tourism Department communicates with via mail and to anyone else requesting a hard copy in order to enable those with limited or no internet access to participate.

The link to the eConsult version was provided via email databases of residents, visitors, businesses and other organisations the Tourism Department works with. The link was also highlighted via Tourism Facebook and Twitter pages. Local media also assisted by reporting the consultation opportunity and including web link URLs direct to eConsult.

The opportunity to respond to the consultation was promoted to a wide variety of groups including:

- Residents of Southport /Sefton
- Visitors to Southport / Sefton
- Businesses within Southport / Sefton including Southport Tourism Business Network (STBN) members

- Travel trade partners (coach operators / group travel organisers) outside Sefton

Awareness of the consultation process was also raised via business tourism fora (STBN Destination Marketing Group, Southport Restaurateurs Association, SBE etc.). Additionally Tourism attended the 'Have Your Say' day organized by the Learning Disability Information Team.

4. Results

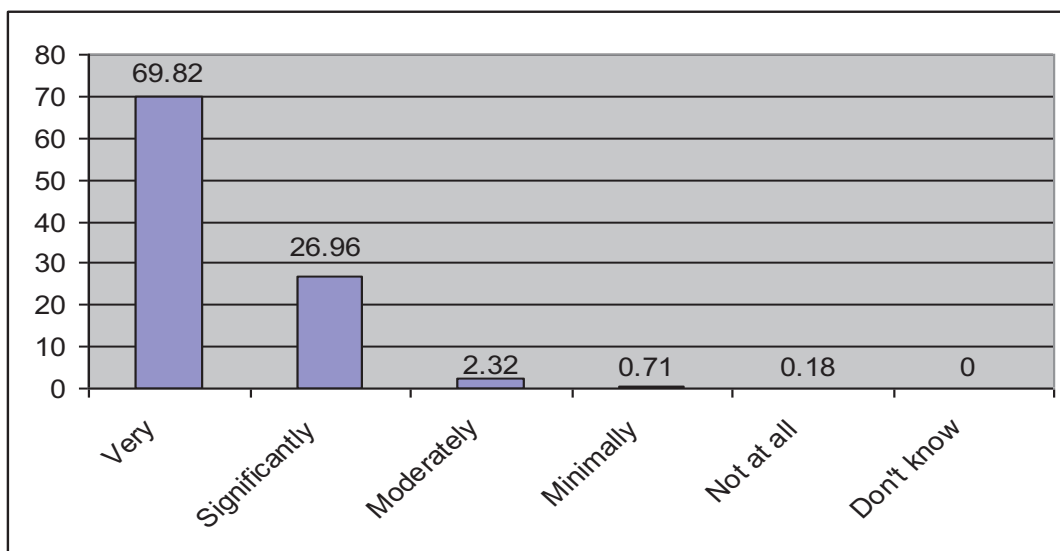
A total of 550 visitors, residents and businesses completed the questionnaire (281 via eConsult, 269 via hard copy). The response was generated by contacting regular visitors to the town and residents who have subscribed to the Visit Southport e-newsletter as well as local tourism businesses. There was also a paper questionnaire option provided in the Tourist Information Centre.

In terms of Equal Opportunities monitoring the Council's approved monitoring questions were appended to the questionnaire and the results are shown in section 7 of the report

5. Visitor / Resident Response

The responses to the questions were as follows:

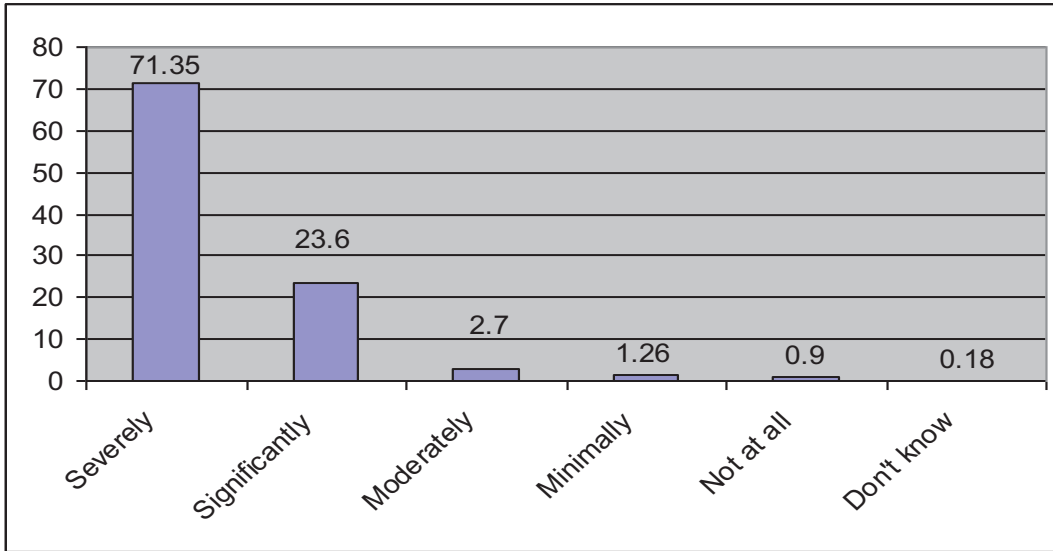
1. Do you feel the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) is important to the tourism future of Southport & Sefton?



Over 96% of visitors & residents felt that the TIC was very or significantly important to Southport with less than 1% thinking it was of minimal or of no importance

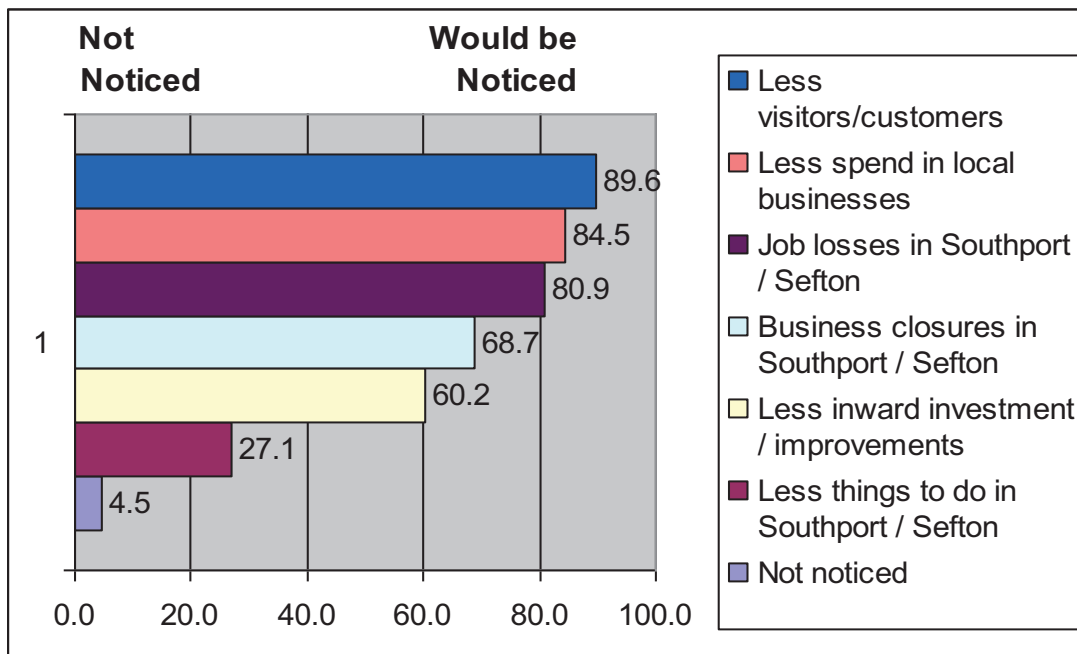
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2. If the TIC were to close, do you believe this would negatively impact Southport / Sefton?



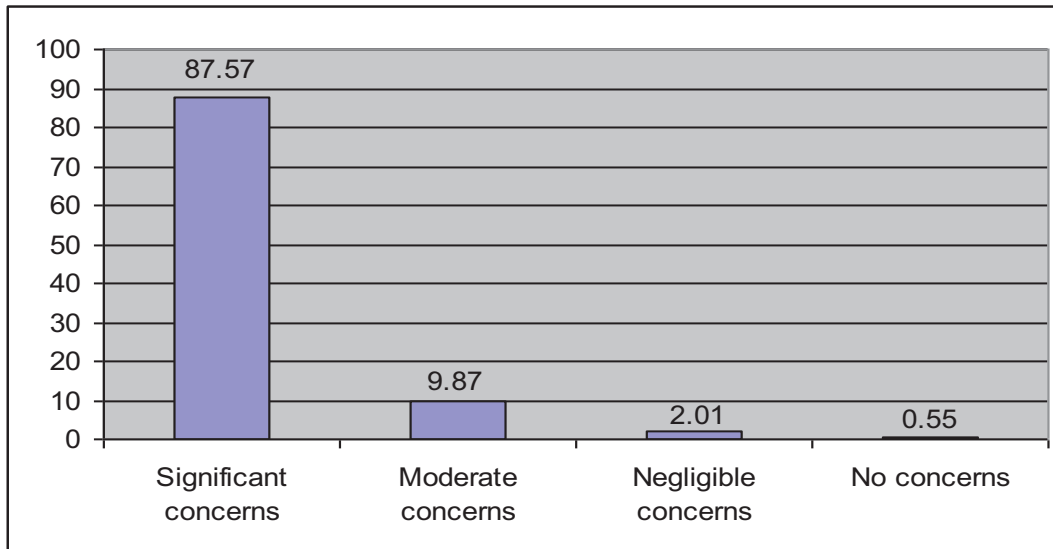
Almost 95% of visitors & residents said that the closure of the TIC would have a severe or significant negative impact on Southport/Sefton. Just over 2% said it would have minimal or no effect.

3. If you believe this would affect Southport/Sefton in what way do you think it would be noticed? Respondents could tick more than one option.



This question indicates the high degree of concern visitors, residents & businesses have regarding the closure of the TIC across a range of areas. Less than 5% of respondents thought that the closure of the TIC would not be noticed.

4. If the TIC were to be closed, do you believe this would potentially result in social, economic and environmental effects in Southport / Sefton e.g. concerns about potential closures of shops and restaurants, not being as good a place to live in, less reasons to visit, less reasons to remain here, etc?



Less than 3% of visitors & residents would have negligible or no concerns over the closure of the TIC

6. Free Text Response

As well as the pre-set questions asked of all respondents, there was an opportunity to add additional comments via a free text box and over half (401 or 56%) of respondents elected to do this.

All comments are attached as appendix 1. These are unedited (no change to language, typographical errors etc.).

7. Equal Opportunities

The standard equal opportunities questions formed part of the questionnaire for the TIC consultation. Results were as follows:

Baseline – 550 questionnaires completed. Not all the sections of the monitoring form were completed by all respondents.

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Disability: Do you have any of the following? (please select all that apply)

	Number of responses	Percentage	
Physical impairment	19	22.9	The total number of responses to this question was 86 which is 15.6% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
Visual impairment	15	17.44	
Learning difficulty	9	10.47	
Hearing impairment/deaf	21	24.42	
Mental health/mental distress	4	4.64	
Long term illness that affects your daily activity	18	20.93	

Disability: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	Number of responses	Percentage	
Yes	41	11.58	The total number of responses to this question was 354 which is 64.4% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
No	313	88.42	

Which of these options best describes your ethnic background? (note options are listed alphabetically)

	Number of responses	Percentage	
Asian – Bangladeshi	0	0	The total number of responses to this question was 450 which is 81.8% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
Asian – Indian	0	0	
Asian – Pakistani	0	0	
Asian other background	2	0.44	
Black – African	2	0.44	
Black – Caribbean	1	0.22	
Black – other black background	0	0	
Chinese – Chinese	0	0	
Chinese – other Chinese background	1	0.22	
Mixed ethnic background – Asian & White	5	1.11	
Mixed ethnic background – black African & White	0	0	
Mixed ethnic background – black Caribbean & White	0	0	
Mixed ethnic background – other	1	0.22	

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mixed Ethnic Background		
White – British	167	37.11
White – English	238	52.89
White – Irish	10	2.22
White – Scottish	12	2.67
White – Welsh	5	1.11
White – Polish	1	0.22
White – Latvian	0	0
White – Gypsy/Traveller	0	0
White – other white background	5	1.11

Do you have a religion or belief?

	Number of responses	Percentage	The total number of responses to this question was 406 which is 73.8% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
Yes	263	64.78	
No	143	35.22	

If 'Yes', please select one of the options below:

	Number of responses	Percentage	The total number of responses to this question was 256 which is 46.5% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
Buddhist	4	1.56	
Christian	245	95.70	
Hindu	0	0	
Jewish	3	1.17	
Muslim	4	1.56	
Sikh	0	0	

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

	Number of responses	Percentage	The total number of responses to this question was 381 which is 69.3% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
Heterosexual	368	96.59	
Gay	6	1.57	
Lesbian	2	0.52	
Bisexual	5	1.31	

Do you currently live in the gender you were given at birth?

	Number of responses	Percentage	The total number of responses to this question was 407 which
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Yes	402	98.77	is 74% of respondents to the baseline figure (550)
No	5	1.23	

Appendices

1. Respondent comments

The table of additional comments received relating to E6.7b Tourism – closure of Tourist Information Centre and associated services.

Nb comments are as received, typographical errors etc. have not been altered.

We need a bus station as well as this tourist information centre.
I live here and use the TIC to keep up to date with what's going on, buying tickets for events, trips out for relatives when they come to stay with me. Not everyone has a computer.
Southport needs a TIC as residents and visitors alike need a 'hub' to go to to find out what's on in Southport.
The tourist information centre is the closest thing we have to improving reserve and economic commence in such a small town that Southport is.
I use this service regularly to book. My tickets and buy my beach pass and go on day trips with my mother I find the staff very friendly and helpful.
As a travelling salesman I often use the TIC to secure accommodation for myself, who might assist with this role if they go?
For a seaside/tourist resort not to have a tourist info centre is sheer madness. I notified the diversity of material available + the most helpgul staff.
many older generations visit southport and these people don't have access to internet etc, therefore the TIC is a very important place for them to gain information etc. when visiting Southport.
sack some councillors
Think that the centre provides a vital service and it's loss would have a real affect on people coming to Southport and finding out information
That woman, head of council should take a wage cut herself, she gets more than Prime Minister I understand? That would save some jobs!?
This is a ridiculous idea, Get rid of some councillors!!
This is a very short sighted money saving measure that is extremely petty considering the rates paid by local businesses.
Who ever comes up with these stupid ideas needs a pay cut and stop giving themselves a bonus after making savings, we need TIC in Southport.

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<p>It is a vital amenity, focal point for visitors + locals like us, central to the town centre and easily seen.</p>
<p>Having a buoyant tourist info centre is a sign of growth + prosperity, closure is not an option.</p>
<p>Having worked in the UK Travel Industry from 1958 to 1991 in various parts of the Sefton Area (my career started in Southport), I obviously feel strongly about the general need for Tourist Information to be widely available. I was involved with the former Steamport Museum in Southport, and the Tourist Information Centre was a useful centre for getting our operation known to the public. Though Steamport eventually relocated to the Preston Docklands Area in 1998 largely because of an expanding collection, and the opportunity to run a major railway operation (which includes freight traffic) at the Preston Docklands area, the Southport Tourist Office remains for us a valuable source for dissemination of information on our activities.</p>
<p>I don't live in Southport so unsure about council activities. TIC is first place we went to to get information when arriving in Southport and I use my own local TIC regularly.</p>
<p>If people can't go to a central location for information then they won't go to certain shops or cafes. Tourists will be seriously inconvenienced, everyone expects a tourist destination to have an information centre.</p>
<p>I have worked for 10years as a coach host operating out of the TIC Lord Street, over the years the numbers of coach visitors has increased consequently should the Tourist Office close many coach companies will choose not to visit Southport. The TIC offer many additional facilities for these coach passengers, this location being so accessible for local amenities (i.e. toilets) and shops, apart from offering help and information about our lovely town! I think it would be absolutely UNTHINKABLE to close our Tourist Office, Southport is a seaside resort, reliant on it's visitors all year round. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS! ps. (we did win the most coach friendly town in UK and EU last year - doesn't that count for something?). Dorothy Kerr</p>
<p>As a visitor this is our first stop - just leaflets are not the same as a friendly face + a knowledgeable person.</p>
<p>NO TIC = NO TOURISTS = NO MONEY</p>
<p>Less Councillors, big saving</p>
<p>Reduce money instead on silly money spent on red tape and 'performance management' functions.</p>
<p>people who are strangers always look for a TIC</p>
<p>The closure of the TIC would make it significantly more difficult for the visitor to find out about local attraction. It is also a good central location for Merseytravel information.</p>
<p>How can a seaside town manage without a Tourist Information Centre, where will they be able to pick up information? Visitors will be deterred from seeking advice/info.</p>
<p>The TIC is Southport's shop window. It would be highly counter productive to close part of the tourist marketing facilities. Where else can potential tourists gain information re events and accommodation?</p>
<p>The TIC should remain open even if shorter hours. After all Southport is a Tourism Town. To save money it is usually the (backroom) staff that have most wastage. so would be far better to cut down on this and leave the TIC open.</p>
<p>Tourist Town needs TIC</p>
<p>Southport relies on visitors so must be kept open</p>
<p>Yet again Sefton Council looking at reductions within the wrong area. As a tourist town a TIC is essential. Make your cuts within the city were the bulk of Southports revenue is exported!</p>

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<p>The TIC is a focal point for all visitors who wish to find out about events or make bookings, or just general information about shops etc, and as such is the human face of Sefton Council. If people are made welcome, they will spend money in the area and if the TIC closes, then they will go elsewhere.</p>
<p>Southport is built on Tourism. The tourist information is vital to the town.</p>
<p>I requested info on Accommodation, received in 3 days and here we are for a week, without info service it would not work.</p>
<p>Ridiculous idea - wake up Sefton Council.</p>
<p>I personally think it is ridiculous to close the TIC when we live in a tourist town.</p>
<p>Southport is a town for tourists, it is its only industry. The TIC is one of the most important offices in this town people in charge (council) have to make cuts elsewhere.</p>
<p>Southport is supposed to be a "seaside" town. People need a focal point to find out what is going on! Where to stay, sell Southport!</p>
<p>Recent visitors to Southport I have spoken to have been greatly impressed with the positive development since their last visit the TIC was mentioned as a valued aid to them during their visits.</p>
<p>Whenever I book my national express tickets I always find the staff friendly, helpful and very knowledgeable. To lose this service would be a cut too far.</p>
<p>Nice pleasant and relaxing place clean and tidy plenty to do.</p>
<p>I always find the information staff extremely helpful and knowledgeable about the area and local history, lose this centre lose this service forever.</p>
<p>Closure of this centre sends out the wrong message to would be visitors to Southport. That it's council thinks nothing of them.</p>
<p>Very helpful place for people to know what is going on in the area eg.attraction, shows, coach excursions.</p>
<p>I went with my mum to the lights and parade + as you do got chatting to a couple who said they had come from yorkshire to see the parade and had found out about it through the tourism board! We don't all have computers - what about the elderly + there are a lot of them who just phone up + use this means to help them go on trips and get out and about!</p>
<p>Southport is known all over the country as a classic Victorian/Edwardian resort for holidays, shopping + day visits, without TIC services there would be a lack of advance information about attractions, activities + hotel bookings, and a lack of current information to visitors arriving. The humblest of places in the country (and in Europe) have some kind of TIC to help visitors. Southport TIC acts as an information collection centre for local + area events and activities, and deals with enquiries + coach bookings to other parts of the country and into Europe. The loss of these facilities would adversely affect local people + Southport would decline in importance as a regional and national tourist destination. We recently marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of Southport Pier (the 2nd longest in the country) and we do not want 2011/12 to mark the beginning of Southport's decline after 150 years of success. TIC services cannot adequately be replaced by referring people to the internet. many visitors (+ residents) do not have the Internet, and would in any case prefer to talk to a person who has the flexibility to deal with individual queries, please find somewhere else to save money.</p>
<p>I think that the coach tourism side of business would be affected.</p>
<p>Southport is supposed to be a holiday resort. How can it function to full potential without a TIC for visitors + locals alike.</p>

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<p>Southport needs tourists, there is room in the present TIC for Merseytravel to share hence both under one "umbrella" Much needed is also a bus interchange, smaller towns like Chorley put Southport to shame, wake up Southport Council make Southport the top resort in the North West.</p>
<p>If closed who sees to the needs of the outside visitors, who need info on local travel, day trips, places of interest to visit, etc. Closing the TIC would be counter productive, just as Southport is increasing in popularity. Southport would only suffer financially.</p>
<p>Southport should not be without a tourist information centre, it is a very important part of a town which attracts many visitors, I am a resident and I find it very useful. The loss of the TIC could result in more money being lost, than what it costs to run. There have been many services taken away from Southport eg. the planning office, county court and magistrates court. Southport is a good sized town with many young families and senior citizens. We need these services here in the town. As Sefton Council has spent millions on the new Cultural Centre and Library why can't the TIC be housed in there when it is finished. It would be a central place for visitors and residents alike.</p>
<p>At this time of economic downturn, Southport needs to be doing all it can to encourage spending visitors. Any service that aids this is vital. Without the cash from visitors we'll end up as just another dead seaside resort. With lost jobs, lost businesses and all the good work that has been done promoting Southport as a classic resort being undone.</p>
<p>Where will you be able to get Stagecoach tickets, bus timetables etc</p>
<p>Typical Sefton Council mentality cut off the hands that feed you!! Idiots</p>
<p>Sefton Councillors couldn't run a bath</p>
<p>If Tourism supports over 200,000 visitors, why are you even considering the closure of the TIC.</p>
<p>Southport as a tourist resort essentially needs a tourist office to advise any visitors and residents alike, I use the Tourist Office on a regular basis throughout the year as a resident (and mother of 3 young children) and it's closure would be a major impact on my enjoyment and informed choice on what is on offer in this town and surrounding area.</p>
<p>Resorts such as Southport need a tourist office 365 days a year!!</p>
<p>Tourism is a large part of Southports income and to suggest closing a related office which encourages visitors who spend! is short sighted.</p>
<p>The closure of the TIC would be a barmy decision given the importance of tourism to the district, the people served who visit and seek quality info, the money it brings in.</p>
<p>Southports profile is about tourism! Madness to lose the office!</p>
<p>I believe the TIC is most important for visitors. Where else will they go to enquire about the local facilities and how to get from place to place. When I go to other towns the first thing I want to know is. Where is the TIC? This town will be the poorer without it, and I can't believe what is happening to our lovely southport. I am disgusted.</p>
<p>It is absurd for a holiday town not to have a Tourist Information Centre.</p>
<p>A holiday town without a TIC is unbelievable.</p>
<p>Most if not all visitors to the town would expect at the least a Tourist Information Centre in a Central position in the resort.</p>
<p>It would be a false economy to close the Information Office in Southport which is know and recognised by all the Coach Drivers in Britain. National Holidays Driver</p>
<p>Many times over the last years, we as a family have used the Tourist Information Centre. We have also</p>

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been asked in town where the Centre is by visitors. How can it be right for a town such as Southport which relies on Tourism to lose yet another important facility.

To close to the public such an important facility is appalling, we have no other means of information. The main library closed along with other buildings, as a past employee of Sefton Council and a resident, the rape of our services is a heinous crime. To attract tourism in all it's forms needs a point of reference as the TIC brings. Tourism must not be allowed to diminish by lack of facilities as the TIC. To know that the TIC will be turned into yet another "wine bar" is incomprehensible.

A visitor dependant location has to support + help visitors to enjoy their visit.

Southport is a classic Seaside Resort, the TIC is vital for it's continued success, with the amount of visitors calling in, plus verbal and email contact it shows how vital it is to the economy of Southport and Sefton. The staff are knowledgeable and hard working and encourage people to return, this bringing even more income to the area.

The idea of closing the TIC in a tourist resort defies belief. The majority of the visitors using the TIC are not in the main, computer literate and can not go "online" the acquire info. They are of a generation which is used to talking to people and not to machines. Maybe when looking for cuts, the senior echelons of Sefton Council should be looked at in order to keep people actually doing a worthwhile job, in a job and stop parachuting people into positions of authority in order to protect their pensions so that they can retire on a far higher pension than the vast majority of workers.

Every tourist resort has a TIC, where would all the coaches from Scotland etc. stop and call in. Also people coming into the town, where would they get a tourist map, to close it down would be a disaster, they do a very good job for Southport. If you are not careful people will stop coming to Southport + it will end up like Morecambe, a hell hole.

This is a seaside resort we aim to attract visitors. How can we do that without a TIC wake up councillors!!

Again the North West is being singled out by this government for cuts far in excess of those in the South East. Whether we like it or not, the North West is subsidising the South East, the olympics, cross rail, road widening the M25 towards the olympic site and a host of other S.E schemes. Let us organise an email campaign to raise this parliament, written by an englishman lifelong resident of Sefton whose father fought on the somme and in flanders field for four years.

To close the TIC office which is the first port of call for thousands of visitors is ludicrous to the poinr of self defeating. the loss of this facility would have a very serious effect on Southport trade. At a time of imposed austerity the loss of revenue which this would cause could be catastrophic for the towns businesses. Maybe some of the very highly paid chief execs could look at taking a cut in their salaries to fund those on 1/10th if their income.

Tourism plays an important part in securing a vibrant local economy. TIC is often a first port of call for visitors and potential visitors. Its loss would inevitably damage the local economy. Presumably, someone is going to read the questionnaire overleaf. I would suggest THEY be redeployed in the interests of saving money!!!

As I need help with leaflets etc I find the tourist information center and the staff invaluable. How can you possibly consider closing such a valuable service - I am not alone in needing this extra help with everyday things that are so important.

I use the information office reguarly as I am responsible for relocating people into the area for a large organisation. without this office where would people turn to for advice and reservations for hotels, conferences, etc, etc, Not everyone has a computer!

End up like Morecambe!!

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<p>The TIC is in comparison to Sefton MBC in general a tiny proportion of the budget, and delivers a service for in excess in benefit, to the relative cost. When Sefton is trying to promote it's Golf Coast, Grand National, and other International attractions one can't help but feel if there attractions where in the South East money would be found?</p>
<p>Where would visitors go to get information?</p>
<p>Tourism is the major source of income for Southport. To cease advertising, promotions + answering questions about it's facilities would severely affect it's future + cause potential investors to go elsewhere.</p>
<p>I have friends from Zurich (Swiss) they love Southport, they will be astonished if the TIC is closed! The TIC is always full. I sold my greetings cards (Penny Wilson Cards) there, I will be sorry to see it close. Penny.</p>
<p>Having witnessed the result of TIC closures in Durham + Stratford upon Avon, I would consider this a financial and commercial loss not worth the effort. Southport is a tourist destination and the TIC provides a significant service.</p>
<p>I find it unthinkable that a town that is based around tourism could close it's Tourist Information. People visiting will likely go elsewhere if there is no point of contact for info on amenities, accommodation, purchasing tickets for events and coach trips etc. I personally visited a town in the Cotswolds in the Spring who's TIC had closed and we were left feeling a bit lost so moved on to another town!</p>
<p>Now the bus office is in the information centre it is so much easier to get all information needed at the same time in the same place.</p>
<p>it's quite ridiculous, the idea of shutting this office down, where would we get information from?!</p>
<p>TIC is housed in a beautiful building enhancing the service and the town. It should be obtained for advertising and dealing with tourist concerns and information. I have used them for tourist questions and found it indispensable and the staff helpful.</p>
<p>The TIC provides an excellent service and is a focal point for visitors. It would be a serious loss for Southport and it's surrounding area if it closed.</p>
<p>The TIC is the focal point for obtaining information/literature about Southport/Sefton. Local press and media are no substitute for this. It should be totally unthinkable to consider closing this valuable asset.</p>
<p>Cutting frontline staff is not an option. Southport needs an information centre for it's visitors.</p>
<p>The idea of closing the information centre in a seaside resort is complete lunacy!!</p>
<p>This is a tourist destination, we rely on tourism here in Southport. This is just the most ridiculous idea ever heard.</p>
<p>When will these cuts ever end. Say no to this closure.</p>
<p>Keep TIC open and get rid of all councillors not elected and we save more money.</p>
<p>I cannot believe Sefton would even consider closing the centre.</p>
<p>Cut councillors + senior managers.</p>
<p>TIC are a vital source of information to strangers in any town. Can you put a price on this.</p>
<p>It is a great source of information and I come in on a monthly basis to check is what is happening in the town. Also to book coach tickets, and check bus times.</p>
<p>It would be a big mistake to close the TIC. Many visitors use the TIC when visiting the area for their</p>

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first visit.
The TIC acts as a introduction to visitors who need a good starting point to their discovery of what Southport offers. It is also ideally placed in the centre of Lord St.
As the TIC is for very many visitors and holidaying families the first port of call in order to obtain information on the resort and its amenities, it surely follows that the TIC should be one of the final cuts to be considered.
You cannot be serious!!
Keep office open. We always come in when we are staying here and staff are most helpful and informative.
As a resident I often use this service to buy my coach tickets and go on days out. Please don't take this service away from us.
End up a ghost town like Morecambe.
200,000 visitors, 17,500 calls (phone) not closure - the staff need a pay rise.
In a Town like Southport this service is essential for both local users and visitors.
Southport has a large tourist influence, so it is absolute madness to have no TIC. Even as a local, I have had recourse to use the Southport TIC many, many times, when friends have asked me for area information. Frequent visitors often need a direction on what to do or what is happening. Visitors who are first-timers to the town normally make it their 1st stop. Local knowledge from a TIC short-cuts the search, so preventing time wasting on restricted visits. Every tourist destination in New Zealand has a TIC and their awareness of a local TIC's value has to be seen to be believed. Southport needs an active TIC and kept in it's current position.
It strikes me as a ridiculous policy to close a TIC when one of Southport's main investments must be tourism. Seaside towns tend to depend on high regular profiles through advertising and information from TIC's. Who will carry out this role if the TIC closes, very short sighted in terms of future economic potential.
We need the TIC because it's a focal point of information plus people will also need information on the local bus travel where will people book national express tickets! TIC is a must Southport is losing jobs as it is what with Pizzahut gone on Lord St what next if the TIC closed more people may be without a job. It is totally unfair to keep closing businesses. Sefton must get their priorities right, stop the cut backs it's not fair. I myself was involved in a project that was cut!
Southport relies on tourism as it's main industry, without the income from all the visitors to the town, business's will close + people will be out of work. The staff have won accolades for their work with the coaches, every other town in the Northwest has a TIC to close it is very short-sighted.
TIC's are important to any town/city to attract more people visiting I have visited many places home + abroad where the first point of call is the TIC - what better place place to give out info about our town.
Southport is primarily a holiday town and reliant upon visitors especially the Southport Flower Show and sporting events like golf. Take away the TIC and this would appear participants in these main events from finding accommodation and other necessities.
Typical Sefton Council go for the lunatic left option why oh why are you planning to close the most successful of your offices, barking mad I tell you.
As a major seaside resort, a tourist office is essential, closure will have a serious impact on business and tourism in Southport.

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<p>Southport has lost a lot of shops in the town already and needs tourism to survive as much needed income will be lost without it as well as much needed job's. The tourism information office should also stay on Lord Street as people would not expect it to be hidden away down the Cambridge Arcade. Also when we lose these services they will be hard to get back when times get better!!!</p>
<p>Because Southport relies so heavily on Tourism the proposed closure of the TIC is likely to have a significantly negative effect on Southport income!</p>
<p>Give the town "tourism" the only business we all benefit from the young, old + children. Make sure this industry survives for a town which history 1792 to present day shopping leisure, from Napoleon to Sutton and wonderful village around for beauty, Churchtown + Ormskirk the trade and money will be lost forever.</p>
<p>Such a ridiculous idea to close the TIC when thousands of people arriving from coaches from all over the country rely on the TIC to give them the information on the towns leisure, events + general info on day to day activities to win awards year on year for friendliest place in the country how ridiculous you will never get back what disappears.</p>
<p>As a regular user of this office where else would i go, the TIC is unique there is nothing else quite like it.</p>
<p>A bouyant TIC represents all that is good in a town, Thus is a very busy centre.</p>
<p>Could only happen in Sefton thinking of closing a successful operation</p>
<p>Why close something that so many people rely on, madness.</p>
<p>with all these cutbacks does this mean a refund on my council tax.</p>
<p>To consider this is madness!</p>
<p>The information centre is located in the perfect place for coaches arriving into town, to move it or close it completely would have an immense negative impact on the local economy and I doubt the town will recieve anymore "coach friendly" awards in the future if this service goes.</p>
<p>Tourist destinations (especially as large as Southport) need an information centre!!</p>
<p>A town that closes it's Tourist Information Office is no longer a tourist friendly town and not worth visiting!!!!</p>
<p>We need the TIC in Southport as without it Southport would become a ghost town, we need the tourists to come in the town to make money. We need the coach hosts like Wendy and Rod Wright who do a very good job in the town they are needed and do alot for southport. We need all Tourism activity as people need things to do in Southport as it is a holiday resort and makes money. Without the town would dead and boring.</p>
<p>Unanimously agreed by all members of Southport Civic Society (Dec 2011). We believe it would disastrously affect the future of Southport, if the TIC was closed. We also believe it is a dreadful decision to move it. We think Sefton MBC have already decided to downgrade and marginalise Southport in favour of Bootle. Southport - Classic Resort much trumpeted by Sefton and considerable sums of money spent promoting the Classic Resort of Southport recently - and now a proposal to remove the TIC function. The workings of Sefton Council - Officers and Councillors should be investigated by the Ombudsman. Hon Sec, Southport Civic Society.</p>
<p>Southport relies on tourism. To curtail the TIC is akin to shooting yourself in the foot! The only reason we come to Southport every year is that the Tourist Department enables so many varied shows/festivals/happenings/etc. The TIC is the outward face of all their efforts and is essential to help visitors get the most out of their visit. (Every single visit we hav made to Southport has included at least one visit to the TIC for information - and hence more money spent in the town). So please, keep the money coming in to the area - keep the TIC open. Thank you.</p>

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How can a holiday resort not have a tourist information centre.
Also we would have to go to Liverpool to access National Express tickets as we do not have "internet" The Tourist Information Office is extremely important for information for Sefton residents as well as visitors.
ATIC is vital to Southport.
Enjoy coming to the shop, very convenient to get literature on local events, days out, etc.

At a time of budgetary cuts throughout the public sector all efforts to protect employment throughout the country should be maintained. Tourism is a vital component in the Southport economy. if you have to, go and rob a bank, after all the bankers rob banks and have got us in this mess!
Closure of TIC not an option - unreasonable + unjustified, having spent sums of money in advertising + on the building itself + promoting Southport as a Classic Tourist Resort it would have disastrous repercussions economically etc. Cuts are painful, but more painful in some areas than others. Focus on less expenditure + shelve future projects such as introducing electronic signs across the borough (ref Champion Newspaper). Temporarily suspend Councillors salaries + reduce expenses allowances, and, in future, reduce the number of councillors. Reduce the amount of stack in admin in Sefton Council management. Examine more closely contracts to agencies + monitor the standard of work completed to ensure that costs are justified. To cease all tourism activity is also not an option - it should be tossed into the long grass also, with a great deal of force.
I live in Preston but visit regularly with my family. A town like Southport needs a TIC with trained and knowledgeable staff.
This would have a severe impact on Southport as a whole. The TIC should certainly remain open.
I Can't believe, or envisage Southport, a major tourist town, not having a Tourist Information Centre. In a few years we will have become a dull and unvisited and shabby town - perhaps like Morecambe.
Will we be able to air our views in a questionnaire about the number of councillors and their expenses anytime soon? I don't think so somehow.
Sefton councillors award themselves a pay rise whilst making these ridiculous decisions to cut our services and revenue raising ones at that?! You could not make it up!!
With the addition of Merseytravel to the services available in the information office on Eastbank Street it is more than ever a vital facility for the locals and visitors alike.
As I do actually PAY my council tax. I suggest the council collect all the millions it appears to be owed and STOP cutting services that the rest of us PAY FOR!!! That is the point is it not.
Only Sefton could consider cutting off the hand that feeds it.
Stop penalizing us rate payers by cutting our services - that we rely on. Collect what's owing - it's discusting that 25million owed?? get a grip.
So? Will the councillors be 1) Booking accommodation for visitors? 2) Booking Day trips for visitors? 3) Selling Southport Souvenirs. 4) Advising visitors where to go? 5) Giving directions to lost people? 6) Distributing the publicity leaflets? 7) Giving informed information on our a) restaurants b) Attractions c) Events d) Theatre Show e) Parking f) Hotels.
The closure of the TIC will ring the death knoll for Southport as a holiday resort. Think again!
We DO need the Tourist Information Centre. However, we do not need so many councillors. Tourism

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<p>earns money for this town. Councillors cost money we do not need to spend.</p>
<p>I cannot believe this is even a suggestion for a "Tourist Town"!</p>
<p>Not all of us have computers, Information Centres are a lifeline to some of us.</p>
<p>Sefton Councillors will not be happy until Southport has been completely destroyed.</p>
<p>Is this to be another nail in Southports coffin??</p>
<p>The Tourist Information Centre is invaluable 200,00 day visitors cannot be wrong.</p>
<p>Southport relies heavily on tourism. Southport is a tourist resort. Tourist resorts have tourist information centres it must not be closed.</p>
<p>After reading the facts and figures of what the Info Centre does and delivers one has to ask why this is even an option.</p>
<p>I always use the centre when I visit Southport on business they have proved to be invaluable to me, re booking my hotel etc. How can you consider closing such a crucial service?</p>
<p>Cut councillors wages and numbers, why are they never up for cuts? How can they award themselves a payrise whilst cutting our services and jobs. Start at the top as they say.</p>
<p>If the Tourist Info Centre were to close, people wouldn't be able to get all the information that visitors require to be aware of. Personally, we believe the TIC is necessary especially as we have a daughter with a disability (in a wheelchair) and need to have the relevant information for accessibility to shops, cafes, etc. Personally I believe the visitors wouldn't be so inclined to visit Southport if the TIC were to close as they wouldn't be able to gain access to information on where to stay and what events are available during the year to decide when is the best time for a visit.</p>
<p>Your parking fee's stop visitor's, traffic wardens drive visitor's away none of them have a nice attitude. Why not stop charging after 3pm or make Sunday free parking. Start supporting the shop's to attract customers. Otherwise they continue to go to L'pool or the Trafford Centre free parking. Free parking will encourage visitors.</p>
<p>Both tourists, which you market to visit the town, and local people use this service for many forms of information both local and out of town information. The closure will affect Southport directly. It will have no effect on Bootle, Crosby or Sefton as a whole as a walk in service. It will affect local business from shops to hotels and attractions. These businesses pay towards this service through their taxes as do the local people. A Seaside town with no information service at all does not give a good public image. It is as if the council don't value the town as an asset to Sefton.</p>
<p>During a period of recession more and more families and individuals are looking at alternatives to holidays abroad. Investment and encouragement of local tourism activities is a vital part of local job creation. By reducing investment in the information facilities for visitors and potential holidaymakers is short-sighted and does not focus on a long term growth strategy for the town of Southport and outlying villages. By investing in local tourism it demonstrates a commitment to potential new business providers. Southport has an enviable reputation as a family resort which is continuing to thrive despite other holiday destinations in the UK declining slowly. Therefore I would respectfully ask the members of the Council to see into the future of the area rather than be responsible for its slow decline.</p>
<p>Being an hotelier we have already some complaints about the TIC not being opened on Sunday then if it closes totally I really think it will be a mistake for Southport.</p>
<p>If the Tourist Information Centre were to be closed this would result in a loss in service to customers planning a visit to the town, all the telephone enquiries from customers about accommodation, restaurants, events, theatre etc would have no one providing the information. Once visitors arrive in the town, they would then receive no service or assistance or advice in matters such as booking</p>

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accommodation, event tickets, attraction tickets, travel, directions - what a great welcome that would be - the message being sent out to prospective customers is very negative and we might as well just tell people not to bother coming to Southport as it's closed!
Given the destinations tendency to attract a significant 'grey' market I feel it would be foolish to completely close the TIC as this demographic are less likely to research areas online before visiting. Could the council not look at ways of making the TIC more profitable through partnerships with suppliers/providers e.g. co-location with a branded coffee shop?
Southport/Seftons only industry is Tourism. Closure of this facility would be the death knell for local businesses, Hotels & leisure activities.
Seftons only industry is Tourism Close this centre may as well close Sefton
Southports only industry is Tourism this centre provides residents and visitors to the town a plethora of information on places to go things to do and where to eat as well as sourcing accommodation this centre is the first port of call to all wishing to access other council services.
Reduce the number of councillors that will save money, not by cutting invaluable services like the information centre.
The TIC provides a much needed information point for both Visitors and residents
working in the town centre and passing by the Tourist Information Centre most days, I'm amazed that it's closure is being even considered. It's been in the press that Southport has just won an international award for it's services to the coach industry and as coaches drop off outside the building, that's the first place where all the passengers go when they arrive. They also sell coach trips for people who live in Southport (been on a couple myself) and they sell tickets for the Flower Show and Air Show, so they're not there just for visitors but for locals too. Please don't close it!
This is a crucial part of a tourist town. Where else can you go to get the information required. This centre is not just for tourists it also of benefit to local residents. What's the alternative? clutter up the place with signage, posters, leaflets, all of which must be regularly updated. This would cost not only in financial terms but also detract from the aesthetics of a beautiful town.
As a visitor to the area it has been an invaluable service to me and many others without this the area will be much poorer
The TIC provides vital information for visitors who do not have computers or the skills to use them,(as people are expected to these days). The monies spent on needless statues and other sculptures could have been put towards the running of the TIC providing a much needed service for visitors who come to the town and surrounding area to spend cash.
ronnie fern has been trying to close TIC for a long time why they ever made him a lord nobody knows never done any good for this town or his puppit John Pugh.
I visit many towns in the UK. I make decisions on places to visit by evaluating information on accommodation, what's on, where to eat etc. Indeed this exercise is part of the pleasure of my trips. Whilst the web can provide dry facts, the best place at which to garner information about a place and to get a 'feel' for the area is from the local knowledge available only from a TIC. People only go where they're made welcome, REMEMBER NEW BRIGHTON.
Cutting off the hand that feeds yet again !
I've seen the decline in prosperity of other seaside resorts who chose to close their Visitor centres. Seftons only industry is Tourism and they need to be serviced once here to ensure repeat visits.
The TIC is an important focal point for visitors when they come to Southport. When people visit any town or city, the first place you will go to is TIC for information about the town, places of interest, places

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<p>to eat & general information about the place. I think it would be ridiculous to close the TIC.</p>
<p>If we don't encourage people to visit Southport it will end up a ghost town - people's morale will suffer and the low-lives will take over.</p>
<p>As the most significant and in fact only facility of this nature located at the most central road interchange and visitor drop off and collection point in Southport it,s closure would be bureaucratic lunacy to impact upon our town in this way.</p>
<p>A town like Southport should retain all resources like this, it's what people expect when they visit. If I were a visitor to any tourist resort I'd be very disappointed if this facility was not available. Am also very surprised at the decision to reduce lifeguard cover at Dunes Leisure at times when it is most needed ie early mornings when more elderly people swim and weekends in the learner pool - crazy!</p>
<p>The visitors and the residents of Southport are primarily OAP's, who are not necessarily ofay with the internet and find the tourist information centre essential. Further, before any hasty decisions are made, the council should look at who bookscoach travel and buys tickets etc from the tourist information centre, I am not a gambler but I would bet that it would be OAP's. With this in mind, I do not think that I am being impertinent, when I say that the council needs to bear in mind, the very often unrepresented pentioners in our society and not be discriminatory to their needs, or their families. Furthermore people still value the very friendly interaction that is recieved from the tourist information, which is a much loved a valued part of Southport.</p>
<p>Southport without a TIC is ridiculous; this entity brings visitors business and jobs to Southport as well as providing a valuable service to the general public; residents and visitors alike. There are a lot of people who rely on this service which in my view justifies it's very existance and continuance.</p>
<p>I feel strongly that local, personal, friendly interaction is preferential to virtual,cold advice lines via the internet. Could i enquire as to why this questionnaire later asks about sexual gender/ change of gender? as I do not see the relevance of this question???</p>
<p>If this were to happen it would affect all business also the local economy.</p>
<p>Save the TIC</p>
<p>Visitors and local people need to be able to get information from the Tourist Information all year round!! If they don't have access to the Centre to gain information then the event's in the town won't be worth haveing as nobody will come!! Shops cafe's and retail will all suffer. Southport will turn into a ghost town.</p>
<p>The TICis an integral part of the Tourism industry helping not just visitors to the Borough but also the many residents and businesses. Without the TIC were will the people who do not rely on computers go to find out information. It should not be closed !</p>
<p>A TIC is there to SELL Southport to potential visitors when they call, and then it is a frequent port of call for both new and regular visitors once in town, wanting more info on activities in the area. No TIC would in the medium term effectively close Southport as a tourist destination.</p>
<p>If this did happen it would affect every business in Southport, hotels guest house, restaurants, shops, etc.</p>
<p>Without the TIC my various trips to Southport would definitely not have been as enjoyable as they were. The TIC provided excellent assistance on where to go, what to do, where to eat, how to travel and what to see. All TIC recommendations helped to turn my holidays into a most enjoyable and relaxing time. I am certain, the greater Southport area will loose a lot of tourism without the TIC - that includes me and my family.</p>
<p>The Information Centre is the shop window of Sefton. It is unique in its own right to the borough of Sefton residents & visitors alike. Its closure would send out a clear message that the council doesnt think servicing visitors to the town very important.</p>

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<p>Closure of this centre is definatley a vote loser.</p>
<p>As a business I see the service the TIC provides as invaluable. The team proactively sell admission tickets on our behalf to interested visitors and closure will be a significant loss to Chester Zoo. The team are an asset to you and the service provided should not be disregarded.</p>
<p>Although I am not a stranger to Southport, I use the Tourism Infn Centre to help plan my visits. The excellent events would not be properly advertised without a Tourism Dept and my professional Society (the Society for Radiological Protection) would not have held its International Symposium there in 1999, nor subsequently returned for other conferences, without the considerable input and help from that Dept. Southport needs its tourism and that tourism needs good support from the Council for their mutual advantage.</p>
<p>I am sure there could be scope to move tourism in with the library or somewhere else but to remove from Southport would be suicidal for Southport!</p>
<p>In a town that depends on visitors to close the Tourism Information office is insanity!</p>
<p>As a Southport resident my main use of the TIC is booking trips/tickets and the meeting point for such trips. If I couldn't book tickets here I would probably book them at out of town sites and do my shopping wherever that may be. I come into the town centre less and less as it is (mainly because of poor parking amenities) and I am not alone in believing that the less you have to visit the town centre for the worse it is for the local economy.</p>
<p>In a Victorian seaside resort like Southport it is imperative visitors have a point of information of what the town has to offer a shop window if you like take this away you may as well take the visitors away.</p>
<p>The TIC is a valuable source of information for local people as well as visitors. Visitors who have visited Southport before will still come, but many of those, as well as those who visit for the first time in the future, need to be able to find current information about the area and events. Any tourist destination, and particularly one which describes itself as "England's Classic Resort" needs to have a fully functional TIC and to even consider this resource as being under threat is totally unacceptable and not properly thought through.</p>
<p>This service may be classed as a non essential but as far as enonomic stability and as a safeguard to this popular resort this center MUST stay open</p>
<p>This is an absolutely ridiculous idea thought up by a bunch of morons who have the audacity to think they have the right to close down this once wonderful town to the level of level of a ghost town in the American Mid-west. Give us back the pride we once had in our town - GET US OUT OF SEFTON!!!!!!!</p>
<p>Southport i feel you are cutting services in the wrong area,TIC helps people learn and discover what Southport as to offer</p>
<p>Today i came to town shopping, i went to TIC for panto info. It was reccommended to me by the lady on the counter that i should not miss the xmas market. What market i asked, there were no leaflets advertising the event nor was there any signage on Lord St to advertise the fact this event was even taking place. I am sure i am not the only who got to attend this event via these means. Point being. get rid of the TIC at your peril event organisers!!</p>
<p>We are dependent on visitors here in Sefton. We need to promote our assets all year round! Please recreate the parks and gardens again-they are definitely a crowd puller.</p>
<p>We are dependent on visitors here in Sefton. We need to promote our assets all year round! Please recreate the parks and gardens again-they are definitely a crowd puller. I also think the area would be more welcoming if all the roads were neat and tidy and welcoming, especially the Formby By-Pass which mostly looks tatty, littered and untidy. When I was little I was used to seeing roads approaching seaside towns with well cut verges and well cut hedges and flowers along the way too. and therefore</p>

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welcoming and promising of a good day out. We seem to be going backwards.
Southport relays on econmic tourism for its mainstay business, if not in a visible place how will visitors purchase tickets for the flower show, panto, air show, day trips, book at bed etc. it is inconvievable to have a tourism town without a visible local information centre.Its bad enough having the Arts centre shut for so long. Maybe the role can be shared between another council service. ie the Town Library when it re-opens or the convention centre (maybe alittle to out of town)
Unthinkable where a town relies heavily on tourism to close this office sends out the message we dont want you here.
Close this office is like telling visitors to the town they are not wanted. Morecambe springs to mind. Ghost town with no tourism.
The Tourist information centre provides essential information for people considering visiting Southport compared to other destinations. It closure would mean this information was not available to people considering Southport as a possible option. in resort it would be more difficult for visitors to find out about what is going on and as a result are less likely to spend money on non essential spending, or travel out of resort The TIC should maximise it's income potential by providing commercial services
I think the closure of the tourist information centre will bring a very negative impact to our town, we are a seaside resort that relies heavily on tourists coming whether it be for a day trip or a weeks holiday. The tourist information centre is the main cog in the engine and plays a very important role advising holiday makers and taking bookings for hotels. The staff play a vital role and are the face of our town - the first port of call when on holiday is to find out were this is situated, then go along and see what the town offers. I think the council must keep this open it's a must. If our councilors want to see Southport become another Blackpool then closing down this centre will be the start of the negative impact to come.
It would be unthinkable not to have a Tourist Information Office in Southport as it is the first point of contact for visitors as potential customers to the many and varied attractions and businesses of Southport.
May Be A REDUCTION IN STAFF OR OPENING TIMES WOULD SAVE MONEY ?
New comers coming to the town all know to head for their local TIC who will give those people the information that they need if not the TIC people wont come again as they would miss out on many activities and would have to plan a lot more in advance maybe they wouldn't be bothered
The TIC is usually the first point of contact to visitors in the town. They provide a friendly face and are a great source of information on the town and surrounding areas. They also provide ticket sales for local attractions. It would be a real shame to see this service led facility go.
Merseytravel can provide these services - aren't they based in southport?
Just the thought of a seaside resort without this vital service beggars belief.
Who would promote our business, restaurants hotels etc when visitors arrive?????
This service is used by everyone visitors and residents and should not be closed.
The money spent on this facility is money well spent when you consider the amount of economic activity generated by Tourism
This questionnaire is noticeably written to only generate positive support for the TIC. This is not a balanced structured questionnaire and does not provide an opportunity for those who may consider a positive impact to the closure or cuts. For every closure opportunity is created. The recent private adoption of the Comedy Week is a good example of where private enterprise can step in a provide a new refreshing approach. There are no suggestions here regarding the sub options. Eg close the

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<p>events team and restructure the remaining tourism department. Very poorly structured questionnaire and does not obtain genuine unbiased consultation. I would like to see this redesigned or at least this observation brought to the attention of the Council Members.</p>
<p>The closure of the Tourist Information Centre I believe would have a knock on effect on businesses and would stop tourists coming to the town because they would believe the resort is in decline.</p>
<p>i think it would be detrimenytal to close the TIC. It is a great source of information for tourism which is vital for the area in the recession.Would have impact on local businesses, entertainment venues and accommodation providers.</p>
<p>Tourism promotes the town and in doing so benefits us all. This is in the ways described above in this survey. Consider having the elected officials take a cut in expenses/Salaries to show their concern and also to show we are all in the same boat ! The only better way to stave off this STUPID suggestion is for members of Sefton Council (elected and non- elected) to follow the intentions of Messrs.Berlusconi and Papandreous.</p>
<p>Southport is currently marketed as a classic resort and any resort needs to be publicised. Tourism is important to the town. I feel visitors to any town will always look for tourist information for varying types of information about the town. Southport will lose out if this office is closed. I feel more money should be used to promote the service so that visitors want to come back again and thereby put more money into the local economy. I also feel strongly that street lighting should remain at its current levels. I think the Council has a responsibility to ensure that the local community lives in a safe and clean environment and is failing in its duty if it turns the lights off!!</p>
<p>We still need and prefer a tourist information centre where we can speak face to face with a local helpful person. Internet information is not and never will be the same.</p>
<p>The centre serves as an important source of information for tourists and local tax payers. Closing this service will make little impact on council budget, but will harm the image of the town greatly.</p>
<p>we visit Southport as a holiday and when we have gone to TIC all the staff have been very helpful, we book coach tours to see your countryside, cannot understand why they need to close this information centre, surely there are other ways to save money</p>
<p>This would effect all business in the area, hotels, shops, restaurants,taxis etc.</p>
<p>Tourist Information Centres in any 'seaside' resort has to be important. Are other local authorities closing theirs?</p>
<p>Coaches come into Southport are welcomed at the tourist office and visitors are given vouchers and any quiries answered plus coach drivers are also made to feel welcome and enjoy bringing their coaches here. It is a good place to find leaflets for forthcoming events, buy tickets , make enquiries and advertise local events.</p>
<p>Any money available should be used to keep the TIC open, it serves a valuable role for the community and visitors alike. I oppose it's closure 110% and feel any such closure would be a grave mistake on the part of the council.</p>
<p>You must be mad even to contemplate closure. Its as if your sticking two fingers up at residents and visitors to Southport. Close the Information centre down and you may as well say Southport is CLOSED</p>
<p>please listen, if we wer lookiing for cuts in a taxi company you would not sack the drivers, why do the councill want to kill off the only income the town has, we need to continue to generate the income for the town this comes from the amazing job the tourists information centers provide for the town, I am in the business, i am very aware from the many coaches that have links with our hotel how important the TIC is please donot kill off the the very department that provides income and a future for all of us</p>
<p>We had a short break in Southport for the firework competition this year after quite a number of years</p>

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<p>since our last visit. One of our first ports of call was the TIC for a map, directions and advice on places to eat. Within a few minutes we received all the information we needed to make our stay enjoyable without wasting valuable time wandering round aimlessly. It would be sheer lunacy to close such a valuable service.</p>
<p>any way that generates £4m or 5000 jobs, you tell me a better way of supporting Southport/Sefton ?</p>
<p>I understand that some cuts will have to be made in Southport, but look at what generates the income in the town and keeps jobs open. Tourism. Without this life line what employment is in the town.!</p>
<p>We are a business producing the Official Trans Pennine Trail guide so we know that the thousands of people who do the TPT walk or ride each year would have a much less interesting and convenient start to their trip if the TIC was shut</p>
<p>TIC is first port of call for many visitors who seek information as to location of businesses and What's On. The TIC is a good marketing tool for many local businesses.</p>
<p>Yet another short sighted proposal put forward by a council who hasn't got a clue on economical viability. Reduce the number of senior management to make your savings not the front line staff who at this office are providing an essential and impeccable service.</p>
<p>Never has there been a more ridiculous idea. Has anybody in the council any idea how many different services this office offers? Its not just a case of handing out leaflets!!!!</p>
<p>Very short sighted by Sefton Council pull the plug on some other Qwango and hands off our beloved TIC</p>
<p>would that last one out of southport please turn the light off..... Thats what it will be like here soon if these crazy ideas get to fruition.</p>
<p>This is an outrageous proposal, to even think about the closure of the Tourism office. We are a tourist town!!</p>
<p>As frequent visitors to resorts/attractions in the North West we rely on TIC's for reasons to visit a particular places. They provide local knowledge born of years of service that is often not available on the web or elsewhere. And a welcoming smile and reassurance only real people can provide. Closure of your TIC would send a 'can't be bothered if you come or not' message to prospective visitors who have many alternative choices available.</p>
<p>I live in Ormskirk and visit Southport for shopping and pleasure. I like to visit the Information Centre to pick up brochures for local events. Often I find something I'd like to visit/see that I would not have otherwise known about. The Information Centre has everything in one place as opposed to searching the internet for different venues that I might not even know about. Not living in Southport means that my local paper carries some but not all forthcoming events or interesting places to visit.</p>
<p>why would you want to close the one place which can help make the visitors stay easier and make them feel appreciated. people including myself like to come and browse the leaflets and find out about future events, get a souvenir and speak to some one with local knowledge!!</p>
<p>The TIC should have money spent on it to make it more noticeable and attractive. People who live in the area use the TIC as a resource, visitors to the area use it for information, businesses use it to assist in conference planning. Rather than close the TIC, expand it.</p>
<p>as visitors from Coventry I have used the TIC over a number of years. You should be encouraging visitors to the area. not making it harder to find info out.</p>
<p>I am retired, but having worked for over 40 years in Southport's (later Sefton's) Libraries & having spent a large percentage of that time in the Atkinson Library, Lord St) I am not just guessing on this impact, I am SURE! The Library was swamped in the Summer with visitors wanting local tourist info. Indeed, when the TI Centre was closed in the evenings & the Library open, there were many visitors wanting &</p>

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needing assistance.
This is madness on the part of Sefton. They do not understand Southport at all. I for one would be looking for the resignation of the Chief Executive and many of the senior officers for what they are proposing. Clueless in the extreme...
AS A CHILD WE SPENT MANY A HOLIDAY IN SOUTHPORT.AS DID LOTS OF MY FAMILY(.AND MANY SENIOR MEMBERS STIILL DO) THE TIC WAS A MAJOR PORT OF CALL TO AID OUR WEEKS ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT. VISITORS NEED THIS SERVICE TO HELP KEEP THEM COMING BACK TO THE AREA, AND YOU NEED THEM FOR THE AREA TO SERVIVE.
The TIC in Southport is a big help to coach parties visiting the resort and closing the TIC would result in coach parties visiting other resorts in the north instead of Southport.
Tourism is the mainstay of Southport. Closing the TIC would certainly result in a loss of jobs, closure of business and fewer people coming to Southport. So much investment has been made in the town, it has so much to offer, if you do not make the most of it and promote it to tourists and conference organisers, the town will be ruined. I will be devastated if that happens.
As a tourist area, it is vital there is a TIC for visitors.
Catch 22....sefton proposes to axe toursim so therefore no need for TIC....clever or what. Whenever I visit another town or district I find TIC invaluable as a signpost to what's on, where to stay and what to do where.
We are advertised as a tourist resort; therefore to close the centre would be clearly foolish because people would be shocked, and individuals confused because they would no longer be able to access information about the town's facilities.
Absolutley ridiculous. A vibrant tourist information centre reflects a vibrant growing town where people would want to come and visit and to reside. Councillors close the TIC at your peril!
crazy idea, understandable that cuts need to be made but surely they should be made from higher up departments and not front line staff who's job it is to promote the resort. Southport is a seaside resort advertising itself a "classic" resort, if anything the government should be investing in this lovely town to generate it's future prosperity not helping it to turn into a ghost town..
Yet another short sighted consideration by a council run by Bootle. Save our TIC Save our Town
I have been coming to Southport from boy to man and have always used this office to find out about local events and where to eat and places to visit, I buy my tickets for the airshow and the fireworks and find the staff very friendly and helpful and have good local knowlege of the area and all its history.
Sefton council trying to fix something thats not broken. Hands off our TIC
As a resident my friends and I regularly use this office and find it very busy and well used by locals and visitors alike, I dont understand the need to rid us of this service.
This office is unique to Sefton/Southport and judging by the service figures is very successful, ther is no logic in closure.
What are you thinking of, a classic seaside resort needs a TIC
One of the successful Tourist Information Centres in the country and you want to close it, unthinkable.
A good tourist office signifies a healthy wealthy town. No to closure
The TIC is vital in Southport as a focal centre for visitors and residents for buying tickets for local attractions and events, general information and promotion of our town and also to promote local accommodation and businesses. It is ideally placed as a meeting place for

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visitors and is essential in these difficult times when we need to remain as a lovely town for holidays. If we lose it what is the point in being a holiday destination without a tourist centre.? Please consider the TIC as an essential element to our tourist industry, for without we are nothing. Thank you.

I called today to find out what's happening over Christmas, I could not believe it was already shut for the Christmas period and to make the matter worse shut completely between Christmas and New Year!!! The first time I can ever remember. How are people going to find out what is going on in the town??? Absolutely ridiculous!

this service is invaluable, it's always good to have a tourist information centre, i use them when i arrive at destinations around the country, the staff seem dedicated and knowledgeable.

Wherever I go I always use these centres for information on local events amenities advice etc I find them invaluable

I live in Blakpool and we rely heavily on Tourism, we have two TIC's and they are invaluable in promoting local businesses and attractions. Southport TIC is our first port of call when visiting the town.

Our party of 50+ come on regular coach trips to Southport and are dropped off right outside the TIC where we find local information most helpful on places to visit , opening times , where to eat and on our way home buy souvenirs of our visit from its well stocked shelves.

As southports industry is built mainly on tourism it's seems ludicrous to even contemplate closing the TIC!!!!

you need to get information for visitors and the centre is a perfect place where everybody knows.

As a foreigner in the UK on a 2 year visa I found the TIC in Southport very informative and directed me to places I would not have visited/known about otherwise. While on route to some of these locations I passed many business' which I believe would notice the impact of only having locals walking by instead of tourists.

Have you all gone mad !

Why don't Sefton Council just pay less to the executives on the council. The people who do all the work are absolutely sick and tired of living under persistent uncertainty while those with huge salaries and tenuous job descriptions are lavished with status and money. It just doesn't make any sense. Thank you for consulting on this, I hope everyone's comments are listened to.

As a staying visitor I cannot believe that Southport/Sefton Council are thinking of closing the TIC, their help is invaluable when planning our holidays, and the first place we visit when we arrive in Southport is the TIC, to obtain leaflets/information about events etc, the staff are always helpful and efficient. The Council should be working to encourage tourism , not kill it , you have a lovely Town , and excellent for people like my Husband and myself who use mobility scooters because of disability. What of people who come on coaches for day trips, what is their first port of call, the TIC as the coach drop off point is right outside., And the larger events , Flower Show, Air Show, Firework Display. what impact would the closure of the TIC have on these events regarding tickets and advice to prospective visitors ?

cut the amount of councillors or dock the pay and expenses that they recieve

If a small town like Ormskirk can keep its TIC why are we even contemplating closing Southports. Madness i say, madness.

Monies should be spent where needed and not on needless statues and other use less tat.

Art gallery closed, museum closed, thinking of closing the aviary at the botanic gardens. What next? There will be nothing left in southport for people to visit.

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Southport's becoming a ghost town.
I used to come to southport as a little girl, I love it. But it's going down hill fast. The councillors need to pull their fingers out and do something about it, NOT MORE CLOSURES!
Yet again more short - sighted thinking by the men in suits, you haven't got a clue as to the devastation caused if this facility was to close. You morons
it's bad enough that this facility is now closed every sunday but to close it completely is an absolutely ludicrous idea in a tourist destination, make your cuts elsewhere.
how can a tourist town not have a tourist information centre? not everyone has internet and even those who do need a contact point when they arrive in a destination to get info, recommendations on local places to eat, stay, go, etc.
Coach tourism would be adversely affected - the "meet and greet" service is invaluable. I think Southport would be in danger of losing its "Coach Friendly" award.
A busy Tourist Information center is a sign of prosperity and economic stability in the town. Looking at these figures this is a very busy office and manned by only four people, thats incredible.I
Looking at the work this office its workforce of four deserves a pay rise if anything.
As i understand this office falls into the non essential service catagory non essential to who. The 200,000 visitors, 17500 phone calls etc Essential to Southport and its buisnesses essential to Sefton as tourism is its main stay of income and you need an office to service,.
Come on Sefton Council you know how ridiculous this is.
This office could be run by pixies and elves and fairys from the bottom of the garden.
I am concerned that the only TIC being considered is the one located in Southport. Is this Sefton's only TIC? If so, it is immensely important, if not Sefton MBC needs to consider its position
Other towns have made the mistake of closing their TIC at a cost not a saving.
The TIC is an essential ingredient for Visitors, giving information and assisting with accommodation. It also provides residents with information on a myriad of subjects.
Don't be short sighted a cut in supporting Tourism may not have an immediate effect but in the long term Southport will become another Morecambe or Rhyll.
As a self employed resident of Southport I'd be horrified if our town`s TIC closed, as it would certainly impact on visitor numbers and seriously affect many businesses. The knowledgeable staff recommend local services and businesses to visitors which is vital to the local economy ! Reduce this service and Southport`s income will suffer and lead to further decline as in many other seaside resorts !
We visit Southport regularly, especially for events. If we are not aware of something happening in Southport where would we find out the information? Not everyone has access to the internet, and why would you go to an internet cafe in Southport to find the information out when you are there, the Information Centre is the obvious place, but without one you will be making it very difficult for visitors and also local people.
Given the business of this office closure will spell out impending doom for visitor services in Sefton.
Southport is supposed to be a tourist town and is already being affected by the economic downturn (closure of shops, etc) and other negative factors (increasing cost of parking, dismal pedestrianisation of Chapel Street for example). For any visitors to any town, the TIC is usually the first point of call to see what is available, to get information about hotels, restaurants, etc. If Sefton are serious about Southport being a tourist venue, they must keep the TIC and, in addition, look at other ways of

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attracting people to the town, otherwise it is going to die on it's feet and the subsequent loss of revenue to the Council (loss of business rates income, etc) will cause an additional financial headache that the Council will not be able to recover from very easily.

REDUCE WAGES OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM AT COUNCIL AND STOP BONUSES

Hands off our beloved TIC

I think it is appallingly short-sighted that a resort that relies on year-round tourism is even considering shutting its Tourist Information Centre. I spend a lot of holidays in the UK and TICs are an invaluable source of information in terms of planning holidays, booking accommodation and planning days out. They are also incredibly useful sources of information about public transport, good walks etc. Southport needs to be expanding its tourism department, not closing it, if the town is to continue having good shopping and restaurants.

Southport has already lost a lot of its own identity, there used to be far more specialist shops and not just the usual High Street shops. We had something different as a posed to be just like any other town. if there is nowhere for people to ask and get advise on what there is to do and where to go, people will stop visiting the town altogether. Local businesses will then have to close, making more people unemployed and putting even greater economic strain on an already over stretch benefits budget. May some of those higher end employees across all of Sefton's services could help save a lot of money by having their expenses budget cut. Look at the unnecessary expenditure rather than a reasonable expenditure. Please do not close the Tourist Office it will have such a negative impact on an already struggling town.

I buy all my tickets from the Information Centre, Flower Show, Air Show, Woodvale Rally and day trip tickets. I can get them all in one place, by closing the Centre this will obviously mean I will have to go to several places to buy any tickets, which is more travelling and expense. I am sure I am not the only one that buys their tickets there, where will the visitors go?. I think it is utter madness not to have a visitor centre in a supposed 'Tourist Town'!!!

A large seaside town needs a customer service focal point. Tourist Information Centre is just that.

This service is the only one who promotes local businesses and activities in the area, if this office closes who will answer the 200k enquiries or the 17k phone calls or the 5k e-mails

How can you call Southport a tourist destination when you are not catering for the tourists by closing the tourist information centre and not providing a service????

I use the tourist centre in Ormskirk and Southport. Ormskirk only has a population of about 24,000. Southport has about 98,000 what are the councillors thinking about??? Maybe Southport should go back into Lancashire as the councillors seem to have more of an idea about Tourism and how important it is!!

this doesn't make sense, if the 1st part of this questionnaire is true why would the council even begin to think of closing something so lucrative?

Understandably savings have to be made but not at such a successful TIC such as this. A more hard working and dedicated team of four you will ever find. Hands off our TIC

Great local information, local history, local/national bus information the TIC is a shop window for the whole of Sefton. Close this office and all will be lost.

I think the TIC is an invaluable resource for the community of Southport. I think its closure would have a detrimental effect on tourism. I have used this facility on many occasions for booking coach trips. Advice regarding hotels etc with disability access. The staff are always so helpful and knowledgeable and are a credit to Southport and Sefton council.

Southport is most famous for being a holiday/ tourist town. Without this, why would people come and

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visit? What else does southport have to offer? And if anything, how would visitors find out where to go/ or what southport has to offer?. I think the council should consider these very facts very carefully! As without the tourism what is Southport? A residential area? Well how many of those do we have in sefton- alot and that is what Southport would become!!!!

An essential service in a seaside resort its closure would send out the message that Southport is closed.

Hands off our TIC this isnt Morecambe!!

You could reroute the money previously allocated to TIC; it depends upon how important one considers the leisure industry to be. Doesn't every town have a TCI whether rich with tourist attractions or not?? Southport is a holiday resort

it will turn into a ghost town.

For a town that depends on visitors as much as Southport NOT to have a tourist information would be utterly short-sighted and - frankly - bizarre. You would not be able to claw back the lost visitors when the economy improves, as people will have developed new patterns of behaviour, including where they visit. We look back on the days when we nearly lost our pier (saved by only 1 vote) with a certain degree of amazement - a holiday/tourist town demolishing its pier? To close the tourist information would in future be seen as just as stupid.

Excerpt from a letter to the Leader and Chief Executive from One Vision Housing.

To the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation, however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams
Chief Executive
One Vision Housing

E4.12 Coast and Countryside Service / E 6.7 Tourism

Sefton's own research has shown that Tourism is worth over £400m to the local economy through 10m tourist days and through supporting 5000 jobs. Cuts proposed to the tourism budget and to the Environmental Conservation and Coast Management Budget will have a direct impact on the ability of Sefton to maintain its appeal to tourists though:

- Inaccessible beaches and parks if sand is not removed consistently
- Loss of habitat and wildlife
- Lack of support to tourists through removal of the tourist offices

Cuts to the Tourism budget will also have significant impact on Sefton's ability to deliver upon the City region priorities laid out in the Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020 including the regeneration of Southport and the promotion of Sefton's Coast.

Cuts to this budget will provide a short term saving which will have long term negative economic impacts on the borough as a whole making Sefton a less attractive place to visit and live.

Equality Analysis Report E6.7

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E6.7

Details of proposal:

To reduce the Tourism Service to a minimum feasible level of service, based on a core events programme, destination marketing, and support for conferences. This review has the potential to deliver gross savings in excess of £90,000 up to complete cessation:

- Closure of Tourism Information Centre £90,000
- Delete vacant post in Conference Team £22,000
- Complete cessation = £0 controllable costs

Any other costs or income remaining upon cessation of the service will be considered as part of the tourism review.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': no
Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

There will be reduction or cessation of the core events programme, destination marketing and conference support as well as closure of the tourism information centre in Southport. This will be felt by most areas of the community particularly the local economy.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No

There will be fewer events and conferences held however this will not impact disproportionately as access to events and conferences that are held will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010. – Events and conferences in the Borough are open to all sections of the community.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place and there is a full report available. The vast majority of consultees felt that closing and reducing tourist activities would negatively impact on tourism.

No equality issue where identified in the consultation.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes.

Tourism service will work to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote understanding across protected characteristics in accordance with the Councils Policies and guidance.

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What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- a) Closure of the Tourist Information Centre would result in the termination of 4 posts.
- b) Limit or cease the Events programme.
- c) Delete vacant post in Conference team.
- d) Total cessation would result in the termination of 25 staff.

Recommendation to Cabinet E6.7:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions in the proposal E6.7 and recommend to the Council that

1. That the Tourist Information Centre be relocated to the Southport Cultural Centre resulting in a reduction to the Tourism budget of £90,000 be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation immediately, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, subject to the final decision of Council.

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Annex D

Organisational changes and efficiencies not requiring consultation with the public
Reference E2.2

Reference E2.2 Service Description: Supporting People Team – Commissioning Functions	
Categorisation: Critical	
The team monitor the Supporting People budget, develop contracts and measure the performance of services. There will be a full review of the Supporting People service when the commissioning functions of the People Directorate are combined.	
It is proposed to commence consultation on/implement the following change – To review staffing support.	
Rationale for service change proposal – If the Supporting People budget is reduced activity and commissioning will reduce therefore less staff required.	
The following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – A possible reduction in the number of staff.	
Impact of Service Change –	
Service Users – Potential reduction in contract monitoring and compliance of commissioned services.	
Partners – Potential reduction in contract monitoring and compliance of commissioned services.	
Council – Potential reduction in contract monitoring and compliance of commissioned services.	
Communications, Consultations & Engagement – Type Consult Staff	
Equality Impact Assessment – Equality implications will be assessed should members agree the proposed option be taken forward. This will be reported when final recommendations are brought for a decision. HR policies and procedures will be observed.	
Legislation Considered – No legislation.	
Risks & Mitigating Actions –	
Potential reduction in contract monitoring and compliance of commissioned services. Mitigation will be the commissioning functions of the People Directorate will be combined for Adults, Children and Supporting People.	
Cost of Service: £241,000	Proposed Cost 2012/13: £57k
Staffing:	Council Staff at Risk: Yes
Other Resources:	

Recommendation E2.2

Cabinet is asked to consider option E2.2 and recommend to Council

1. a reduction in staffing be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation which will be progressed alongside E.2.1 and as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

Reference E2.8

<p>Service Description: Area Finance Categorisation: Critical This activity ensures that providers, in accordance with Council policy, are paid promptly thus maximising cash flow. The team also invoice service users for the contributions towards the cost of care which in turn supplements the Community Care budget. The team manages transactions to a value of £16m per annum. Integral within this function is the work of the Finance Visiting Officers, these staff who visit users to maximise people's benefits to ensure maximum contributions towards the cost of care. This activity also generated £2m additional benefit income for users in 2009 /10. This minimises demand on council services.</p>	
<p>Consultation has closed on the following option – A review of the staffing of the Area Finance team.</p>	
<p>Original rationale for service change proposal – This will be achieved through the implementation of a new I.T database, which will enable more effective and efficient electronic administration and finance functions to support adult social care.</p>	
<p>Legislation Considered – Supports legislative functions as set out in the NHS & Community Care Act 1990.</p>	
<p>Anticipated impact of Service Change – Service Users – Minimal. Partners – None. Council – New I.T solution will enable a reduction in administration processes.</p>	
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Staff consultation only</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions – Delay in implementation of new IT solution will impact on savings. Mitigated by strong project management with associated risk and output escalation as appropriate.</p>	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will reduce - The staffing of the Area Finance team.</p>	
<p>Cost of Service: £1,114m</p> <p>Staffing: 14</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £1,014m</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £100,000 for part year and £200,000 for subsequent years Council Staff at Risk: Yes Number of Posts at Risk: 4 in 2012/13 and a further 4 in 2013/14</p>

Recommendation E2.8

Cabinet is asked to consider option E2.8 and recommend to Council

3. a reduction in staffing be approved
4. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

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Proposal Reference: E3.1

Service Description: Crosby Leisure Centre

Categorisation: Tier 1

Reduce the operational requirements that are expected of Parkwood Leisure in operating Crosby Leisure Centre.

The Sport & Recreation Service is responsible for the management and operation of the Councils sport & leisure centres, sports development, physical activity and health promotion programmes, positive futures project, contract monitoring for Crosby Leisure Centre & Formby Pool. Assets: 5 sport & leisure centres; 1 outdoor pursuits & residential activity centre; 2 facilities under contract; a workforce of 250 full time equivalents. It has in excess of 3m visits/users p.a.

It is commissioned to deliver services to partners; value circa £1.4m p.a. with grant support sustaining an additional 30 fixed term posts.

Note this was not a consultation, this was a re-negotiation with Parkwood Leisure

- i) To reduce the operational requirements expected of Parkwood Leisure in operating Crosby Leisure Centre.
- ii) To consider ways in which the Council may be able to reduce its revenue grant support to Parkwood Leisure following consultation with operator, without affecting the PFI credits that the Council receives from Government. Further work will be undertaken to ensure there is no detriment to the Council.

Original rationale for service change proposal –

To reduce the operational requirements and therefore the responsibilities of the operator, the Council may be able to negotiate a reduced revenue grant payment. In exchange for less Council subsidy, Parkwood would not be obliged to maintain existing levels of service (e.g. opening hours).

Legislation Considered - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Likely to mean a reduced service available with a potential impact on the quality of experience.

Partners – Potential for the working relationship with Parkwood and Waterfront Leisure to be less productive.

Council – Potential for adverse feedback and criticism.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

Re-negotiation is continuing.

Risks & Mitigating Actions – The Council has a legally binding contract with Waterfront Leisure for 25 years, which has 19 years to run. Any willingness to negotiate by Waterfront would have to be voluntary, with no guarantee that they would agree to any changes. There would be little the Council could do if this was the case. Potential for reputational risk for the Council.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – It is unlikely that there would be any significant impact on the principle of the operation, although whatever measures are taken could lead to reduced opening hours, service quality and a reduction on the programme of activities on offer.

Cost of Contract Service: £729,850

Staffing: N/A

Other Resources: N/A

Proposed Cost 2012/13: Not Known

Budget Reduction 2012/13: Not Known

Council Staff at Risk: Not known

Number of Posts at Risk: Not known

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.1:

Cabinet is asked to note that negotiations are ongoing.

Proposal Reference: E3.5

Service Description: Formby Pool

Categorisation: Tier 1

Reduce the Output Specification operational requirements that are expected of Formby Pool Trust (FPT) for the operation of Formby Pool. To offer the FPT an extended lease (presently 10 years), to enable it to plan long term.

The Sport & Recreation Service is responsible for the management and operation of the Councils sport & leisure centres, sports development, physical activity and health promotion programmes, positive futures project, contract monitoring for Crosby Leisure Centre & Formby Pool. Assets: 5 sport & leisure centres; 1 outdoor pursuits & residential activity centre; 2 facilities under contract; a workforce of 250 full time equivalents. It has in excess of 3m visits/users p.a.

It is commissioned to deliver services to partners; value circa £1.4m p.a. with grant support sustaining an additional 30 fixed term posts.

Note this was not a consultation, this was a re-negotiation with Formby Pool Trust

- i) To reduce the operational requirements that are expected of Formby Pool Trust (FPT) for the operation of Formby Pool.
- ii) To offer the FPT an extended lease (presently 10 years), to enable it to plan long term. In tandem with this lease would be the gradual reduction in grant support on a sliding scale year on year to eventually being self sufficient. The current support is £284,000.

Original rationale for service change proposal –

- i) The FPT aspire to be self financing and independent from any Council ‘controls’ (the Output Specification). This will take time, but by having control over all aspects of the operation (e.g. pricing) they would not need such significant Council support.
- ii) The Council may also wish to consider whether it is reasonable to make such significant cuts to its own leisure operation and not seek some form of saving from its ‘partner operations’.

Legislation Considered -

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Likely to mean a reduced service available, with a potential impact on the quality of service available.

Partners – There are two partners with a vested interest in the contract and both would need to be in agreement with the proposal. There is an understanding within the FPT of the Councils position and willingness to try and assist in reducing the need for the current financial support.

Council – Would have a much reduced influence on the way that Formby Pool would operate.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

Re-negotiation is continuing.

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

The Council has a legally binding contract with Formby Land Trust, Formby Pool Trust which has 37 years to run. Any variation in the lease to FPT would have an impact on this contract.

The Council could relax some of its requirements expected from the ‘partnership’ in return for more flexibility and self determination in the way the Trust operates the facility. This would be dependent of the FPT getting an extended lease for a further 10-15 years, as the present one

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only has 5 years remaining.	
Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce It is unlikely that there would be any significant impact on the principle of the operation, although whatever measures are taken could lead to reduced opening hours, and a reduction on the programme of activities on offer.	
Cost of Contract Service: £287,550	Proposed Cost 2012/13: Not known
Staffing: N/A	Budget Reduction 2012/13: Not known
Other Resources: N/A	Council Staff at Risk: No

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.5 :

Cabinet is asked to note that negotiations are ongoing.

Proposal Reference E3.7

<p>Service Description: Litherland Sports Park Categorisation: Tier 1 Cease the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park. The Sport & Recreation Service is responsible for the management and operation of the Councils sport & leisure centres, sports development, physical activity and health promotion programmes, positive futures project, contract monitoring for Crosby Leisure Centre & Formby Pool. Assets: 5 sport & leisure centres; 1 outdoor pursuits & residential activity centre; 2 facilities under contract; a workforce of 250 full time equivalents. It has in excess of 3m visits/users p.a. It is commissioned to deliver services to partners; value circa £1.4m p.a. with grant support sustaining an additional 30 fixed term posts.</p>	
<p>Consultation has closed on the following option Reduce the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park.</p>	
<p>Original rationale for service change proposal – To meet the savings target.</p>	
<p>Legislation Considered - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.</p>	
<p>Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – Some of the sessions available will either cease, or will have to reduce the numbers able to attend. Partners – Unable to meet some of the participation and activity targets agreed with Sport England and governing bodies of sport. Council – Less activities on offer to local community.</p>	
<p>Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary Consultation was not appropriate. It has been agreed with external partners that they will fund the provision of activities for a further two years allowing the Council to make the savings required.</p>	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – Following a period of two years external funding the range of youth based coaching and engagement will be reduced, with some after school Active Sports not taking place. There will also be reduced support to the clubs based at the centre (cycling, rugby union, and athletics) with their programmes of activity.</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions– This may have an adverse effect on the income the centre needs to generate, however most coaching and activity sessions will be self financing so should be able to continue.</p>	
<p>Cost of Service: £30,000 Staffing: Based on casual coaches and instructors Other Resources: N/A</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £15,000 Budget Reduction 2012/13: £15,000 Council Staff at Risk: No</p>

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.7:

Cabinet is asked to consider the risks and mitigating actions for option E3.7 and recommend to Council that

1. a reduction in the coaching and casual staff budget at Litherland Sports Park be approved
2. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

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Proposal Reference: E3.9

Service Description: Library Service – Stockfund and Stock Services Unit

Categorisation: Other Tier 1

The Library Service has 13 Libraries and 1 mobile. It provides a lending and information service for books and other media; a local history service, events and activities for adults, children and young people, and older people; public access to computers and the internet; adult education classes from external partners; access to other Council services, surgeries and advice sessions from external organisations and partners; a safe space; space for hire. Some libraries are the only Council facility in a community. In 2010/11 there were 1,211,443 visits; 1,476,318 items issued; 142,611 library members (53% of Sefton population); 204,000 sessions of People's Network; 58,900 registered users of People's Network; 307,806 "virtual" visits to the library "home" page on the website.

The controllable budget for the whole service in 2011/12 = £2.63m. 2010/11 = £3.5m.

The provision of books and other materials for people to borrow browse and reference is the core function of a public library service. Materials are purchased for general use, study and education, specialist enquiries and information and cater for all age groups and all social groups. Most are in printed format, but some are provided in other formats including on-line subscriptions. The service is investigating the most cost effective and efficient way to deliver an e-books service. The Stock Services Unit (SSU) provides the bibliographical support to acquire and make these resources available. Due to a number of technological changes SSU has increased in efficiency and reduced its costs since 2005 by 43%. The stock fund is used to purchase some of the technological support to enable this to happen e.g. downloading of catalogue records. Sefton is part of a North West and Yorkshire consortium to purchase stock, leading to increased discounts and efficiencies. This has helped to partly offset the reductions in the Stockfund of £296,000 over the past six years.

The stock fund for 2011/12 = £454,100. SSU staffing costs for 2011/12 = £110,733. In 2004/5 the stock fund was £750,100 and SSU staffing costs were £193,082 (based on today's salaries).

It is difficult to compare "like with like" data for stock across different authorities. From the CIPFA comparator data available, although Sefton had and still has a very low level of overall expenditure and staffing levels, it also had one of the highest levels of spend on books and other materials per head of population in 2005/06 with a corresponding high level of issues. This high level has since reduced so that Sefton is ranked at the medium. As this has happened, so its performance ranking for level of issues has reduced. A national survey showed that our bibliographic support costs were one of the highest in the North West with a very traditional, labour intensive support service. However, since then technological changes that have been introduced have significantly reduced the costs by 43%. Sefton still spends proportionately more on its stock than its staffing compared too many other authorities.

No consultation carried out as this was business as usual

- That the stockfund for the purchase of books and other materials is reduced by £100,000 (from £454,100 to £354,100).
- That SSU is restructured and the post of Stock Services Officer is deleted.
- If the savings also required the closure of any libraries, it would be recommended that the stock fund would not be reduced further.

Original rationale for service change proposal –

To achieve the savings required and maintain as high a level of service as possible.

Legislation Considered -

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Our statutory obligation under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 is to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of

it (section 7); promote the service (section 7); lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (section 8). The Act has a number of regulations including what services can be charged. The provision of books and other material is therefore a core function of the legal requirement.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users –

There will be an estimated 10,000 fewer items of books and other materials purchased. This will reduce the number of copies available for high demand titles and extend reservation periods. Longer waiting times may deter current and ongoing use of service, leading to a reduction in visits and issues.

There will be a reduction in:

- access to information sources
- number of online reference resources
- number of newspapers and magazines available
- procurement and preservation of local history publications for archival and research purposes
- non-fiction and fiction provision for Sefton residents to pursue health, cultural and lifestyle interests
- educational and recreational provision for children and young people
- provision for disadvantaged groups

Partners –

The library service provides bibliographic support to HMP Kennet and Ashworth Hospital. They pay a charge per transaction for this. The reduction in staffing may diminish the service's ability to provide appropriate customer service in relation to stock procurement and management.

The reduction in expenditure with book suppliers via the North West Consortium contract – may contribute to lower discount levels being negotiated when contracts are re-tendered in 2013.

The reduction in the library service's ability to engage with national and local reader development initiatives and participate in partnership projects such as Active Reading with NHS.

Council -

Income generation – reduced purchase of DVDs (a charged for service) may impact on income targets for multimedia.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary None as this was business as usual.

Risks & Mitigating Actions –

Risks

The stockfund was reduced by £96,000 for 2011/12 and a further reduction of £100,000 will mean that since 2004/2005 the fund will have decreased by 53% from £750,100 to £354,100. This represents a significant erosion of one of the primary resources within the library service. Access to books, multimedia and online resources are one of the key services offered by libraries and the core offer as part of its statutory obligation. There is likely to be a resultant reduction in the use of the service and income generated.

The stockfund also pays for the technological costs of stock supply, such as the automated download of catalogue records and inter-library loan participation. It also supports much of the

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investment required to implement ongoing stock supply efficiencies and these need to continue. A reduction to the stock fund impacts upon the service's ability to deliver further savings, which would otherwise mitigate against the loss of post from the SSU.

Management of SSU – the loss of the Stock Services Officer post will impact upon the responsibilities currently undertaken by the post holder in relation to ordering systems, classification and monitoring of catalogue records, financial administration, staff management and representation of the service at regional bibliographic meetings.

Reduction of the stock fund and reducing it to its proposed level is a difficult option. The provision of stock is the core function of the library service and will result in a serious reduction in the level of service to the service users. Such a reduction leads to long term decrease in the numbers and the frequency of people using the service. However, the fund could be increased in later years.

The stock fund cannot be reduced any further than this without being able to fulfill its statutory obligation.

Mitigating Actions

Change purchasing specifications to achieve a different balance of stock e.g. purchase more paperbacks and fewer hardbacks, so that there will still be a variety of new titles.

The reduction in the number of items purchased may reduce the level of business at SSU.

The impact of the loss of the post can be mitigated further by ongoing efficiencies within library stock supply chain such as the upgrading of library records. The integration of payment systems will reduce stock support required for processing of invoices. Direct delivery of stock to libraries rather than to a centralised stock services unit will reduce the level of processing required before stock is shelf-ready and available to library borrowers.

The loss of the specialist skills will have to be absorbed as far as possible by the remaining stock services unit, with support from the staff within the Library Service, to ensure that all operational and managerial responsibilities are covered.

SSU is continuing to increase its efficiency and some of the specialist knowledge that was required has now been replaced by automated solutions.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce

There will be a significant reduction in the ongoing provision of range of library stock – books, multimedia, online resources, newspapers and magazines from April 1st 2012 and a delay in the availability of such stock.

Cost of Stock Services Unit: £110,733

Staffing:

1 x Stock Services Officer

1 x Senior Stock Assistant

3.1 FTE x Stock Services Assistant

Other Resources:

Stockfund £454,100

Proposed Cost 2012/13: £80,733

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £130,000

(£100,000 Stockfund, £30,000 staff)

Council Staff at Risk: Yes

Number of Posts at Risk: 1

Other resources:

Stockfund £354,100

Recommendation to Cabinet E3.9:

Cabinet is asked to consider the impact assessments, risks and mitigating actions for option E3.9 and recommend to Council that

1. that the stockfund budget reduction of £100,000 be approved
2. the Stockfund Services Unit restructure be approved

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3. Officers are authorised to prepare for implementation, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, subject to the final decision of Council

Budget Planning Summary

		2012/13 Budget £m	2013/14 Budget £m	2014/15 Budget £m
<u>E2 Older People</u>				
E2.2	Supporting People Team – Commissioning Functions	-0.043	-0.014	0.000
E2.8	Review of processes and staffing arrangements in Area Finance / Finance Visiting Officers	-0.100	-0.100	0.000
<u>E3 Leisure and Culture</u>				
E3.1	Review of operational requirements of Parkwood Leisure in operating Crosby Leisure Centre	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
E3.5	Review of operational requirements of Formby Pool Trust in operating Formby Pool	Not Known	Not Known	Not Known
E3.7	Sports & Recreation Service – Litherland Sports Park – Reduce coaching / casual staff	-0.015	0.000	0.000
E3.9	Library Service – Stock Services Unit restructure / Reduce Stock Fund for purchase of books	-0.130	0.000	0.000
Total Change Proposals		-0.288	-0.114	0.000

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Transformation Programme 2011- 2014 Part B

Landscape Services Change Proposals

Purpose/Summary

As Members are aware extensive consultation has been undertaken in order to provide an evidence base of the needs and views of the local communities, together with other data and information relating to the relevant service areas. This part of the report contains further options which relate to the services provided via Street Scene by the following sections; Parks & Green Spaces and Coast & Countryside on which consultation is complete. These options are identified as potentially having complex and far reaching impacts either across all the community or on the most vulnerable.

The options have been amended in the light of the consultation, further analysis and risk assessment and are now presented to Cabinet to give Members the opportunity to carefully consider the information available at this stage.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) note and take into account the key messages identified from the results of the consultation
- b) give careful consideration to these proposals
- c) identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need
- d) at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 give further regard to the information contained in this report and any additional information provided and agree which of these proposals, if any, it will recommend for approval by Council
- e) to note that at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 Members will be authorise officers to prepare for implementation immediately should Members determine to proceed with the option. Such preparation will include the issue of relevant statutory and contractual notifications, (subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions) subject to final decisions of Council.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal LD

The statutory basis for each aspect of these services is set out in the individual annexes.

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Human Resources

The staffing implications for each of the options are identified in the Annexes to this report, where relevant.

Regular consultation on proposed changes will continue with the trade unions and employees will be informed of developments by their respective Service Directors. Employees within service areas are aware that their status may change subject to the outcome of these reviews.

Equality See Section 3

The Corporate Commissioning Team holds the responsibility for taking an overview on Equality Analysis Reports and assessing the impact of decisions. These will be published on the Council website.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. No Equality Implication | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input type="checkbox"/> |

In relation to compliance with the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, Members need to make decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented. Members need to have a full understanding of any risks in terms of people with protected characteristics and any mitigation that has been put in place. Equality Impact Assessments, including consultation, provide a clear process to demonstrate that Cabinet and Council have consciously shown due regard and complied with the duty.

Impact on Service Delivery:

The impact on service delivery of each change proposal is stated in each Annex (B to H) of this report.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

Regular and ongoing consultations have taken place with Strategic Directors, Director of Street Scene, Director of Older People, Director of Commissioning, Head of Personnel, Head of Corporate Finance & ICT, Head of Legal Services and Trade Unions.

The approach to consultation involving public, service users and all key stakeholders relevant to each specific proposal was approved by the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on 21st October 2011

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No, the Council is responsible for ensuring that the land concerned is managed appropriately in order to fulfil its responsibilities.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following 16th February Council 2012.

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Introduction

- 1.1 An initial package of change proposals was considered by Cabinet on 13th October 2011. Cabinet approved a consultation and engagement exercise in relation to a number of these change proposals. In relation to these, consultation activity with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions is now complete. As part of this package the following related to a number of activities associated with Landscape Services

Ref	Service Area	Option
E4.5	Parks and Green Spaces	Reductions in the standard of management and maintenance of parks and green spaces Changes in the style of management and general appearance of parks and green spaces Reorganisation of service
E 4.6	Parks and Green Spaces	Recharge formal sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, allotment sites etc
E 4.7	Parks and Green Spaces	Recharge formal sports users the costs of grounds maintenance to provide formal facilities
E 4.8	Parks and Green Spaces	Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park
E 4.9	Parks and Green Space	Cease supply of all Hanging Baskets
E 4.10	Parks and Green Spaces	Cessation of Park Ranger functions
E4.11	Coast and Countryside Service/ Parks and Green Spaces	Merger of Parks & Coastal Rangers
E4.12	Coast and Countryside Service	Reduction to site and visitor management activities

- 1.2 The proposal to cease the supply of hanging baskets is now being considered as one of the low/medium impact options. Full details are not included in this report and appear in Part A of the Transformation Programme Report.
- 1.3 This report seeks to provide feedback from the consultation exercise for consideration by the Council prior to making decisions on specific change proposals which may impact upon the final 2012/13 budget. This is included as a separate section under each of the proposals.
- 1.4 Members are asked to identify any further information required for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.
- 1.5 In December 2010 Council prioritised the associated services. However in January 2012, Cabinet recommended to Council that the category for specific services be changed to reflect the current position and actual service delivery at this time. Descriptions of the services covered under the Landscape Services change proposals are contained in Annex A.

2. Change Proposals Options

- 2.1 Detailed change proposals are contained in the following annexes. They were identified following brief reviews of the services provided by these sections during 2011.
- Annex B – Reduction in the standard of management and maintenance of parks and green spaces
 - Annex C – Recharge formal sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, allotment sites etc
 - Annex D – Recharge formal sports users the costs of grounds maintenance to provide formal facilities
 - Annex E – Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park
 - Annex F – Cessation of Park Ranger functions
 - Annex G – Merger of Parks & Coastal Rangers
 - Annex H – Reduction to Coast and Countryside site and visitor management activities

3 Consultation and Engagement Overview

- 3.1 The Department's approach to consultation was agreed by the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on 21st October 2011. The approach included using e-Consult online questionnaires, paper questionnaires, public meetings, meetings with various interest groups, and groups belonging to the Community Empowerment Network (CEN).
- 3.2 A full consultation of residents, service users and interest groups was carried out by the Department between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012. The results of the consultation are contained within the aforementioned annexes B to H inclusive.
- 3.3 Cabinet is asked to consider the consultation feedback as part of the decision making process.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 Risks and mitigating actions are contained in the annexes B to H. Cabinet is asked to note the risks associated with each change proposal and to consider the impacts that will arise for any of these proposals that are subsequently approved.
- 4.2 Cabinet is asked to note the mitigating actions, including those identified in the equality analysis reports that will be implemented in relation to each change proposal, if approved.

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5. The Options for Consideration and Conclusion

- 5.1 The financial impact for each individual option is outlined in Annexes B-H inclusive. Some of the options can be taken independently of each other (i.e. E4.6, E4.7, E4.8, and E4.9) whereas the others cannot (i.e. E4.5, E4.10, E4.11, and E4.12), as they are linked.
- 5.2 For example, cessation of the Park Ranger Service (E4.10) and the merger of the ranger functions (E4.11) are not independent of each other and will impact on the savings to be achieved in E4.5 (general reduction in standards). This is because greater operational costs may be incurred to deal with the effects of vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and a reduction in volunteer support due to the lack of rangers.
- 5.3 A similar situation arises with E4.11 (merger of the ranger functions) and E4.12 (Coast and Countryside – general reductions in site and visitor management)
- 5.4 The following table summarises which of the options are stand-alone and those which are interdependent:

	Change Proposal	Total saving		Comment
		2012/13	2013/14	
E4.6	Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities	£59,000		This option can be considered as a stand-alone decision.
E4.7	Recharge formal sports users the costs of Grounds Maintenance	£61,000	£50,000	This option can be considered as a stand-alone decision.
E4.8	Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park	£50,000		This option can be considered as a stand-alone decision.
E4.9	Cease supply of Hanging Baskets	£30,000		Note: this proposal is now being considered as one of the low/medium impact options. Full details are not included in this report.

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	Change Proposal	Total saving		Comment
		2012/13	2013/14	
E.4.5	General Reduction in Parks Management and Maintenance Standards	£380,000	£330,000	<p>These change proposals are linked and are interdependent on each other. They are based on a model of parks / coast management that recognises the interrelationship between managing park, coast and countryside users, and the quality of infrastructure and standard of grounds maintenance. For example, if parks /coast infrastructure is poorer and grounds maintenance is lower, then more interaction is needed with users to deter anti-social behaviour and the perceived fear of crime.</p> <p>It is proposed to re-engineer the Parks and Green Spaces Service and Coast and Countryside Service in order to achieve the phased savings as shown. The details of the savings are to be agreed with the Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism</p>
E4.10	Cessation of Park Ranger Functions			
E4.11	Merger of Parks and Coastal Ranger functions			
E4.12	Coast and Countryside Site and Visitor Management			
	Total if all options approved	£580,000	£380,000	

5.5 As a result of the interdependencies, the consultation exercises, and in mitigation of the equality analysis reports , the Parks and Green Spaces Service and Coast and Countryside Service can be re-engineered, in order to achieve a saving of £380,000 in 2012/13 and £330,000 in 2013/14 (subject to the extension of the Grounds Maintenance contracts). The details of the savings are to be agreed with the Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism.

5.6 It was acknowledged, during the review process, that some of the options identified are likely to have a detrimental impact on other aspects of the service if a reduction or cessation is approved. This is because the Parks & Green Spaces section and the

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Coast & Countryside section use an integrated approach to land-management/service delivery.

- 5.7 Cabinet is asked to consider the outcome of the consultation exercise, the mitigating actions identified via assessments and suggestions offered by participants.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is clear from the consultation exercise that none of the options consulted upon are supported. This is because they represent a reduction in the overall level of service provided or have direct financial implications for individuals/groups that use these services. Whilst it is accepted and acknowledged that, if approved, these options do have associated risks and impacts, it is likely that these can, to a limited degree, be mitigated via the actions identified within this report.
- 6.2 At the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 a decision will be required as to which of these options should be recommended to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need for approval.

Part B Annex A

Service Descriptions

Parks and Greenspaces

The services delivered by Parks and Green Spaces Services are as follows:

Introduction

The Parks and Green Spaces Service manages the following:

- Parks and Green Spaces (262)
- Playgrounds (50)
- Golf Courses (2)
- 90,000 trees (including street trees)
- Bowling Greens (18)
- Sports pitches (79) (football and rugby)
- Allotment sites (14)

There are an estimated 12 million visits to parks in Sefton per annum, based on the scale and popularity of parks listed in the Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy. The service has achieved many nationally recognised benchmarks for quality and performance, including 7 Greens Flags for parks in 2011/12, RoSPA Playground Safety Accreditation, and APSE Service Team of the Year finalists (2009/10/11) and the Green Apple Award for environmental sustainability.

Parks Management

The basic level of Park Management needs to address the following factors:

- Large area of land (788 hectares) in urban areas, spread throughout the Borough;
- Unsupervised, no permanent site staff presence,
- Areas of high deprivation, with Sefton ranked as 92nd most deprived authority out of the 326 English local authorities in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010
- Vulnerable to ASB and becoming hot-spots of crime which can affect the well-being of the wider community.
- Unable to close parks as most have permissive rights of way through them; Duty of Care under Occupiers Liability legislation and common law duties to manage in a safe condition, to meet minimum legal requirements.
- Complex management of hard and soft landscape and park users.

There are 4 main areas of Park Management:

- Soft Infrastructure
- Hard Infrastructure
- User Management
- Service Co-ordination & Development

In order to successfully manage parks, each of these elements needs to be resourced. Elements are all inter-connected: changing / reducing one element will affect the others, and the overall end product

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Regular maintenance (grass, shrubs, bedding, litter picking, cleansing etc) is carried out through the Grounds Management contract; tree maintenance is carried out through the Arboriculture contract; other work to hard infrastructure (paths, buildings, railings, play areas etc) is procured from various contractors via the Repairs and Maintenance budgets.

User Management is mainly carried out by the Parks Ranger Service. These are the only Front-line staff in parks apart from Contractors' staff (which will be significantly reduced should major savings be made from the Grounds Management contract).

Sports Facilities and Allotments

As part of its wider integrated responsibilities, the Parks and Green Spaces Service also manages several 'paid-for' facilities which are managed for the exclusive use of certain users or groups of users. The total number of users is approximately 7,500. This is effectively providing for people's hobbies or past-times, unlike the wider park facilities which are open to everyone. Although this is a small element of the total service, it is appropriate that it is considered separately.

The 'paid-for' facilities include:

- Formal Football pitches (adult and Junior)
- Cricket wickets
- Formal Rugby pitches (adult and Junior)
- Bowling greens
- Croquet lawns
- Allotment sites

There are currently a number of costs associated with these facilities and their associated pavilions / changing rooms, which include:

- Utilities costs (e.g. power and water for showers, heating and electricity for pavilions, water for allotment sites)
- Grounds maintenance costs (fine turf management, marking out, pitch reinstatement, watering, goal post management etc)
- Repairs and maintenance (relating to pavilions, fencing, parking etc)
- Officer time and administration costs (day to day liaison with user groups, management agreements, leases etc)

The current income to the Council from FEES AND CHARGES for these services is only £65K.

The total spent on just UTILITIES and GROUNDS MAINTENANCE to service these facilities is over £280k.

Botanic Gardens / Hesketh Park

As part of its wider integrated responsibilities, the Parks and Green Spaces Service also has a dedicated team to manage various facilities at Botanic Gardens, and the conservatory at Hesketh Park. Although this is a small element of the total service, it is appropriate that it is considered separately.

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The Plant Nursery at Botanic Gardens formerly supplied all the bedding plant material for the Council, and supplied and maintained hanging baskets. As part of the 2011/12 savings, these elements were outsourced, and 7 posts deleted.

Some functions were retained in-house:

- Managing and maintaining the Aviary and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and the Conservatory at Hesketh Park
- Growing plants for and operating a Nursery Shop at Botanic Gardens, which provides an income for the Council.

The net cost to the Council for providing this service is approximately £50,000

Hanging Baskets

In addition to the main functions of the Parks and Greenspace Service, it also provides and maintains hanging baskets which are installed at strategic points around the Borough (mainly the shopping centre areas). As this is a small element of the total service (and unconnected with the main function of the Service), it is appropriate that it is considered separately.

There are currently 556 hanging baskets supplied at strategic locations around the Borough, which are paid for by the Council. In addition, other agencies / organisations choose to sponsor hanging baskets in other locations, which the Council procures and maintains on a charged-for basis (74 in 2011/12).

Park Rangers

The Park Rangers in Sefton are the only Council front-line staff operating in the Borough's parks, open spaces. Their functions are as follows:

- To manage users across 260 urban parks and green spaces (788 hectares)
- To work pro-actively with other agencies (Police, PCSOs, Sefton Security, Community Safety), in helping to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviour by engaging the local community, and promoting proper use of the Borough's parks, and open spaces.
- To liaise with the local community and volunteers Friends of....' groups to encourage a greater number and diversity of people to use the Borough's parks and open spaces.
- To provide a visible 'meet and greet' style of presence and to act as the key point of contact on sites.
- To lead on the delivery of a programme of events and activities to widen the user audience.
- Work pro-actively with volunteers Friends of and other groups to promote and facilitate voluntary work in Borough's parks and open spaces
- Liaise with other staff to carry out minor improvements and maintenance operations on sites especially with voluntary helpers
- Lead on enforcement of byelaws and responsible park use e.g. dog fouling, litter etc

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- Education, especially of young people, to encourage future respect for Borough's parks and open spaces

Coast and Countryside Service

The services delivered by Coast and Countryside Service are as follows:

The Coast and Countryside Service is responsible for visitor and land management of the Coast and Rimrose Valley Country Park. This includes areas of international, national, regional and local importance for nature conservation and tourism. The service is responsible for managing visitors and addressing anti-social behaviour. Removing sand from promenades at Crosby and Southport and maintaining other points to the beach accessible, clearing litter from beaches and for controlling beach car parking at Southport, Ainsdale and Formby. The Coast & Countryside service also deals with the Council's responsibilities to bring nature conservation areas into 'favourable status' to meet government targets.

The Council is responsible for coastal areas spanning 39 kilometres.

The length of coastline in Council ownership is 22.5k, 10.5k of the coastline is classified as amenity/resort beach

Sefton Council is the largest landowner on the coastal area; including the foreshore, Rimrose Valley Country Park and other areas the total area of responsibility for this service is 5,968 hectares. For comparison, the Borough of Sefton as a whole is 15,210 hectares.

- Manage 3 local nature reserves, 4 tourist beaches along 21 k of coastline (5,968 hectares)
- To work pro-actively with other agencies (Police, PCSOs, Sefton Security, Community Safety, Fire Service), in helping to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviour by engaging the local community, and promoting proper use of the coast and countryside. It also includes working with other emergency services and their declared facilities, including the Coastguard, RNLI and Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority in the management of incidents such as cockling, emergency planning - oil pollution and fires
- To liaise with the local community and volunteers Friends of and other groups to encourage a greater number and diversity of people to use the Borough's coast and countryside.
- To provide a visible 'meet and greet' style of presence and to act as the key point of contact on sites.
- To lead on the delivery of a programme of events and activities to widen the user audience.
- Work pro-actively with volunteers and other groups to promote and facilitate voluntary work in coast and countryside
- Work as part of the coast and countryside team staff to carry all maintenance and improvements
- Enforcement of byelaws and environmental legislation to encourage responsible use of coast and countryside; dog fouling, litter etc
- Education, especially of young people, to encourage future respect for Borough's coast and countryside

The successful Biodiversity and Access Project is part of the Coast and Countryside Service. The nature of its full integration into the service allows increases the places available for

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adult with learning disabilities, young people excluded from education, training and employment, apprentices and unemployed schemes.

The Coast and Countryside Service are responsible for the management of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme Heritage Lottery project. A community based access and volunteer project.

The Coast and Countryside Service also manages the rural rights of way network on behalf of the Council, utilising volunteers, unemployed and its inclusion project to carry out this work. It is anticipated the cost will increase significantly if this work has to be carried out by external contractors.

The service carries out reduced work with schools and colleges following the 2011/12 budget reductions. All direct working with local mainstream schools stopped from April 2011, the Natterjack Club (young naturalists out of school scheme) ceased and the guided walks and events programme was not organised and published for the first time in 20 years in 2011. A major reduction in community, volunteer engagement and involvement of young people has already occurred.

The service reduction for 2011/12, which included 6 key posts, is already resulting in a lack of cover at key sites, with no anti-social behaviour deterrence and byelaw enforcement there is a related increase in anti-social behaviour.

Volunteers are being left in a vulnerable position and have indicated their concerns. Any future desire to increase volunteer participation will be difficult as volunteers are fearful of working on sites where staff resources have been removed or reduced; especially on sites that attract large numbers of visitors and have potential for increased crime anti-social behaviour at key sites.

The Coast and Countryside Service is responsible for responding to coastal emergencies and during the last year has had to deal with issues relating to cockling and oil pollution which proved difficult due to the limited resources that are now available following last years approved budgetary reduction.

Following the 2011 budget reduction there has also been a decrease in community and volunteer engagement and involvement of young people; all direct involvement with mainstream schools ceased from April 2011. The Natterjack Club (young naturalists stopped operating and the guided walks and events programme was not organised and published for the first time in 20 years.

The service, aware of the implications of the approved budget reduction has now established an apprenticeship scheme, concentrating on litter management and an employment scheme, centred on estate maintenance. This has helped, to limited degree, to address the shortfall in resource available to deal with such issues at peak times of the year.

Both volunteers and apprentices rely on experienced staff to lead and organise their activities and therefore the effective use of such temporary resource is governed by the capacity of the permanent workforce.

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Part B Annex B

E4.5 General Reduction in Parks Management and Maintenance Standards

Change Proposal

Service Description: General Reduction in Parks Management and Maintenance Standards (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review – Option 1)

Consultation has closed on the following option

Significant reductions in the standard of management and maintenance of parks and green spaces

- Changes in the style of management and general appearance of parks and green spaces, to meet the constraints of the reduced budgets
- Reorganisation of service

N.B. These Change Proposals flow from the Review of the Parks and Greenspaces Service

Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings overall, and try to minimise the effect on the wider Sefton community as much as possible.

Legislation Considered **Occupiers' Liability** legislation and common law duties. Failure to maintain Council owned land to a reasonable standard could lead to additional claims against the Council's insurance and or prosecution. These proposals seek to reduce but to provide adequate maintenance.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users –

Park users will experience a significant decline in the standards of park maintenance, and a change in the style / character of parks, towards a rougher, less managed and wilder type of landscape. There will be fewer facilities available as smaller play areas, ornamental gardens, etc are removed.

Making such significant savings from the budgets and reducing maintenance standards will increase the incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and make the parks feel less safe, with a consequential reduction in the number of park users.

Partners –

The current grounds maintenance contracts are 'Partnership' style contracts, where the contractor works with the Council to achieve joint aims. Reductions in the size of the contract will have a significant impact on the contractors operation, and require redundancies in their workforce.

Council -

- 2 redundancies and deletion of 4 currently vacant posts.
- Significant reductions in the value of contracted services will affect staffing levels when the contract is renegotiated / re-tendered, requiring redundancies to be made in the workforce of the Grounds Management Partner / Contractor. This may have a financial implication for the Council under TUPE regulations.
- Slower responses to problems and issues, less flexibility; more reactive and

less pro-active management.

- No new Green Flag applications for parks in near future. Current Green Flags to be reviewed with revised budgets and lower standards (may lose some of the existing GF awards)

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

See Consultation and Overview within this Annex

Equality Analysis – see Equality Analysis Report E4.5 within this Annex.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce – Soft Landscape Management

Significant reduction to Parks Grounds Management and Parks Tree element of the Arboriculture contracts: this will require a change in the style of management in parks and a different appearance (wilder and less ornamental / maintained).

Substantial savings only achieved after re-tendering of Grounds Management contracts from 2013 onwards unless the Council and contractor agree to early renegotiation of contract.

Examples of the impacts of the reduced standards on parks and on users include:

- Most areas of annual bedding (flowers) removed, mostly grassed over
- Most ornamental shrubs, hedges, herbaceous borders and rose beds removed, remaining areas less managed
- Grassed areas longer and looking unkempt – no tidy edges, and may hide litter, glass and dog fouling
- Paths more dirty and littered: sweeping reduced to monthly, frequent flooding where drains get blocked
- Significant increase in litter and dog fouling left on site (unable to respond to seasonal/ high use/ incidents)
- No daily safety inspections of play areas (completely removed) – increased risk of accidents (fortnightly play area inspections to remain (10 working day) and this is considered to be appropriate in terms of managing risk.)
- Minimum tree management (all proactive budget removed): most trees unpruned or unmanaged and trees not replaced if they have to be removed.

This work is undertaken by contract and is contractually committed until April 2013. Limited level of savings only may possibly be secured for 2012/13 by agreement / negotiation with Contractor.

Hard Landscape Management

Reduction in standards of maintenance of hard infrastructure, e.g. footpaths, walls,

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railings, furniture, play equipment etc.

Examples of the impacts include:

- Fewer repairs carried out
- Less cared-for appearance
- Increased vandalism
- Increased perception of park being unsafe, increased anti-social behaviour
- Longer response time to incidents of vandalism
- Increase in insurance claims
- Play equipment decommissioned and removed when badly damaged
- Smaller / older play areas closed

User Management

Reduction in the pro-active management of park users, by deleting activities and events budgets and summer fun days programme.

Examples of the impacts include:

- No council-funded activities or events in parks
- Summer fun days deleted, and no support for other groups to provide
- Reduced capacity to work with volunteers and Friends Groups, fewer volunteer hours
- Likely dramatic increase in complaints by users

Service Co-ordination and Management

Reduction in staffing levels involved with all the different aspects of parks management. Reorganisation of service and deletion of 6 posts.

Examples of the impacts include:

Slower response times to correspondence (currently deal with circa 1800 per month) and to requests for works to be undertaken

- Slower response to vandalism, graffiti, and general repairs
- Reduced ability to change/ amend sites to adapt to new maintenance regimes
- Loss of flexibility within service.
- Reduced capacity to deal with new issues as they arise (e.g. to contest new charges by utility companies etc)
- Land management issues

There would be staff placed at risk as a result of these proposals.

Suggested amendments following Consultation

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- Most respondents (approx 92%) are **against** the change proposal
- The following suggestions were received as alternatives:
 - Allow and promote more advertising and sponsorship in and around parks
 - Promote more volunteers
 - Retain a portion of event budget to match fund external events
- As a result of the consultation the following amendments to the proposals need to be considered:
 - Seek to prioritise dealing with dog-fouling, litter, vandalism
 - Seek to prioritise keeping paths clear to enable disabled access.
 - Determine the level of parks promotion / diversionary activities that can be provided via remaining resources.
 - Subject to outcome of change proposals to Ranger Service (E4.10, E4.11); prioritise Park Rangers to promote and co-ordinate further volunteer support for parks maintenance, to reduce anti-social behaviour, pro-active litter and dog-fouling campaigns.
 - Investigate potential part-restructure to generate resource to try and increase income from sponsorship, events and external funding.

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

Risk: Likely to be an increase in vandalism, anti-social behaviour and complaints about fewer front-line staff

Mitigating Action: Subject to outcome of change proposals to Ranger Service (E4.10, E4.11), focus Park Ranger Service on reducing anti-social behaviour; determine what, if any, resource can be used to support diversionary park activities.

Risk: Due to reduced quantities, re-tendering Grounds Maintenance contracts may increase rates and savings may be less than envisaged.

Mitigating Action: Explore feasibility of re-negotiating contracts.

Risk: Reduced maintenance may present access issues for disabled people.

Mitigating Action: Prioritise keeping paths clear; subject to available staff resources, encourage volunteer support and anti-litter / dog-fouling campaigns.

<p>Cost of whole Parks & Greenspaces Service: £3.572M</p> <p>Staffing: 20 staff (excl. management and admin, externally funded, Park Rangers and Botanic Gardens staff)</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £3.252M*</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £320,000* (Additional saving in future years)</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: Yes</p> <p>*N.B. Interdependency issue: Full savings cannot be realized if E4.10 / E4.11 taken, and savings profile would change</p>
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Consultation and Engagement Overview

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Question responses = 516)</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.87% of respondents were against this proposal. • The majority of respondents were general parks users (38.1%) • The main concerns are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased anti social behaviour ○ Reduced safety for users ○ Increased litter and dog dirt/negative environmental impact <p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the quality of the parks fall with the reduction of the grounds maintenance staff/gardeners the parks that Sefton are famous for will become a thing of the past and will never return, impacting further on the town's economy through lack of visitors • Less safe, more ASB and litter and dog fouling. Become more run down and less pleasant experience more vandalism and less respect for the area as a whole. • If the parks are allowed to run to seed and the planting neglected then I would have no pleasure in visiting the facilities and nor would day trippers etc. • The areas in my opinion are already borderline in respect of service levels and any further reductions would make them unpleasant and not fit for purpose • I have a young child I would not like her to play on unsafe park equipment and would be very concerned regarding litter and dog dirt not being disposed of as often • If they are untidy and unkempt I do not know what my children will come into contact with so would rather avoid • We live in a built up deprived area of our country – reduction in maintenance and standards would be a desperate blow to the upkeep of our local parks and coastal areas • I oppose any reduction in the park litter and dog dirt collection, and in grass cutting. A reduction in the frequency of grass cutting on the road verges, particularly the dual carriageway, would present savings.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>In Bloom Forum Meeting</p> <p>(17 attendees/ 7 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents felt that a lot of the good work done would be lost if maintenance standards dropped. • Local Authorities don't put enough importance on environmental services; second only to Social services in their importance. • The 'broken window' syndrome shows that things will go downhill quickly if not maintained properly.
<p>Friends of Parks Forum</p> <p>(30 attendees/ 12 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends will need to increasingly rely on the Council's insurance when organising events if there is no Council funding contribution (e.g. Brass Band concerts at Botanic Gardens).
<p>Mr I H F</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pace looks a dump it will soon become one. No doubt we volunteers will do more litter-picking ourselves, but only to augment a properly systematic council service, not replace it.
<p>Mr R M</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a father's, and concerned resident's point of view, I fully understand savings and cutbacks are a necessity in the current economic climate. However, I would ask if the effects of reduced maintenance and activities in such areas have been considered carefully enough? And if the impact of these particular cutbacks have been incorporated into future forecasts of the cost of other services? • Just last week, there was broken glass in Ainsdale Park which was cleared away within a very short space of time. With reduced maintenance and general cleansing, it may be predicted that if such a problem was to be in situ for a considerable length of time, it could cause the necessity for people to require hospital or GP services if they were injured on the glass - thus costing more than the existing service of removing it more quickly. Also, if the green spaces and parks become less aesthetically pleasing and, in effect, repel residents and children from attending, which facilities are envisaged to be frequented more often? • Furthermore, our Prime Minister has expressed his idea of the 'big society' via the coalition government. I understand this idea is based upon the institutions of marriage, family, the church and voluntary organisations. I would like to ask the consultation committee, how do the proposed reductions relating to park maintenance standards fit into the 'big society' idea?

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY</p> <p>(SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised with regards to the reduction in overall park maintenance particularly around issues of safety. It was felt that if there was a movement toward less formal gardens the safety of the public must still be paramount. Therefore the maintenance of any lighting, pathways and steps must still be maintained.
<p>Equal Voice</p> <p>(3 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a greater analysis of ethnicity and gender around parks and on the coast so that the potential impacts of these changes would be understood There should be increased monitoring of anti social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare period after any change is implemented with the current situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services Community Payback Teams should be used in parks for parks maintenance
<p>Parents Forum</p> <p>(28 attendees/19 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely increase of anti-social behaviour, such as graffiti and dog fouling, resulting from a reduction in maintenance in, parks and green spaces Potential loss of access to parks, through reduced park maintenance, especially for parents with buggies, the disabled, and older people Cleanliness and safety in parks go together. The parks are visited by local groups (e.g. children's centres – need to be kept up) We will lose visitors to the parks and tourism Concerns over dog fouling – everywhere particularly school sports fields Could there be provisions in place on a voluntary basis (+ improving services)? Look at sponsorship options for events in parks (i.e. launches, campaigns)
<p>Young Advisers</p> <p>(17 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% were against this proposal Parks maintenance was identified as the Young Advisers' highest spending priority Volunteers to cut grass, fix equipment etc. Set up graffiti areas so that community has an outlet for graffiti ... this may help to reduce the amount of untidy graffiti covering park and playground surfaces.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens (Written response)	?	?	If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.
Telephone survey (303 respondents)		×	52% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 39% agreed. (9% neither agreed or disagreed)
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents are against the change proposal • The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allow and promote more advertising and sponsorship in and around parks ○ Promote more volunteers ○ Retain a portion of event budget to match fund external events • As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek to prioritise dealing with dog-fouling, litter, vandalism ○ Determine the level of parks promotion / diversionary activities that can be provided via remaining resources. 			

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Impact Analysis

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.5

Details of proposal:

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E4.5 A general reduction in parks maintenance standards

This proposal will see the reduction of park maintenance, including:

- Significant reduction to Parks Grounds Management and Parks Tree element of the Arboriculture contracts
- Reductions in standards of maintenance of hard infrastructure, e.g. footpaths, walls, railings, furniture, play equipment etc.
- Reduction in the pro-active management of park users, by deleting activities and events budgets and summer fun days programme.
- Reduction in staffing levels involved with all the different aspects of parks management. Reorganisation of service and deletion of 6 posts.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above change proposals.

They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parks & open spaces▪ Playgrounds▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management▪ Trees and woodland management▪ Golf course provision▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens

Ramifications of Proposal:

E4.5 A general reduction in parks maintenance standards

The Parks service is responsible for the management of parks, playgrounds, sports pitches, bowling greens, golf courses and allotments; additionally it also manages street-side trees.

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

This proposal would result in a reduction in the resources available to carry out this work and to generally reduce maintenance standards. This would include cutting the grass less often and allowing parks to look less managed and wild, planting less flowers, removing ornamental

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planting such as annual bedding, rose beds etc, less litter picking / general cleansing and less frequent removal of dog dirt, removal (rather than replacement or repair) of Play equipment when badly damaged, not running activities in parks and an increase in response times to vandalism, graffiti, repairs and complaints.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Our consultation and research produced the following concerns/ issues:

People with Limited Mobility

Reduction in parks maintenance could lead to a build up of detritus, and delays to maintenance and repair of parks facilities (e.g. footpath repairs). This could have a disproportionate effect on wheelchair users and people with limited mobility, such as some older people, who may be prevented from gaining physical access to these areas. Those who use wheelchairs, or who have limited mobility, may be affected as the presence in parks may be reduced, so assistance would not be readily available to them should they need it.

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- Concerns were raised with regards to the reduction in overall park maintenance particularly around issues of safety.

Mitigation:

- It was felt that if there was a movement toward less formal gardens the safety of the public must still be paramount. Therefore the maintenance of any lighting, pathways and steps must still be maintained.

Children and Younger People

Play equipment in children's play areas would not be replaced if damaged or beyond serviceable use, and smaller play areas may be closed and equipment removed if it becomes uneconomic to maintain them.

Parents Forum identified the following issues:

- Likely increase of anti-social behaviour, such as graffiti and dog fouling, resulting from a reduction in maintenance in, parks and green spaces
- Potential loss of access to parks, through reduced park maintenance, especially for parents with buggies, the disabled, and older people
- Cleanliness and safety in parks go together.
- The parks are visited by local groups (e.g. children's centres – need to be kept up)

Mitigation:

- It will be the case that some play facilities will be removed from some parks. We will seek to monitor the outcome of this. There will be play facilities provided at other venues
- We will seek to prioritise dealing with dog-fouling, litter, vandalism
- We will seek to determine the level of parks promotion / diversionary activities that can be provided via remaining resources.

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Minority Communities

Equal Voice CEN identified the following issues:

- There should be increased monitoring of anti social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare period after any change is implemented with the current situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities

Mitigation:

Access: It was felt that these comments have validity but the service could be provided acceptable level of access for disabled users.

Hate crime: there may be a rise of crime but the normal course of action would be to report it to the police. This has not changed. We will work with the police to monitor the situation as normal.

Consultation

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- “In Bloom” groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south
- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton Croquet Club
- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
- Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

With regard to those with protected characteristics their views and concerns are reported above. A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

The possibility of targeting litter and detritus clearance at hot spots, and prioritising complaints from wheelchair users or people with mobility problems can be established.

Parks would be designed to allow for the natural growth of grass and trees in such a way that this would not interfere with disabled access or hinder those with limited movement.

We will work with partners to identify hate crime/vandalism.

Children’s swings etc – will be removed from some parks but retained at the larger ones with the biggest catchment area.

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What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

1. Identify work programme to make changes
2. Notify local community of time table for changes and alternative venues/sites
3. Work with partners (e.g. police) to try to identify / reduce hate crime / vandalism (subject to available staff resources / Park Rangers).

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Part B Annex C

E4.6 Service Description: Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, changing rooms and allotments

Change Proposal

Service Description: Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, changing rooms and allotments (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review – Option 2)

Categorisation: Critical, Frontline, Regulatory, Other

Consultation has closed on the following option

Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities at pavilions, changing rooms and allotments. Juniors (under 16s) to be exempt from these charges. Recharges at individual locations to be directly related to consumption.

(N.B. This change proposal flows from the Review of the Parks and Greenspaces Service and should be read in conjunction with other Parks & Greenspaces Service review options)

Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings overall, and try to minimise the effect on the wider Sefton community as much as possible.

Those who have more 'exclusive' use of facilities will therefore pay for these directly, rather than general park users.

Legislation Considered None

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Service users will have to pay for utility costs on top of the current fees and charges. The scale of this will depend on the consumption by the users at the different facilities.

Having direct responsibility for utility costs will encourage the users to reduce consumption and conserve energy and water. There is a possibility that paying for utility costs will deter some users and cause a downturn in sports participation, with associated wider health issues.

Partners - Income from facilities is in many cases obtained via management agreements with Leagues, Allotment Associations, Bowling Clubs etc. These partners would need to be involved in the agreements and management of the utility charges.

NB It may be that the leagues/ associations in question will wish to raise fees and charges to users above and beyond those described above in order to continue generating their own income

Council – New agreements would need to be drawn up with users / user groups to ensure that the payment of utility charges was formally agreed.

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Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

See the Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex

Equality Analysis – see Equality Analysis Reports within this Annex.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

All users of 'paid for' leisure facilities (indicated above) to pay for all the utilities they use (i.e. electricity, gas, water and drainage charges for pavilions, changing rooms and allotment sites) in addition to existing fees and charges.

Costs will be calculated at each facility, either by using meters, or based on previous year's consumption as shown on Utility bills. The users of each facility will be responsible for their own costs.

The table below summarises the anticipated average cost to the users (in addition to existing fees and charges).

	No of facilities	Approx. number of users (2010/11)	Current approx average income to the Council per user (existing)	Likely approx average payment to Council per user (including utility costs) i.e. this proposal	Likely approx average payment to Council per user (including utility charges and grounds maintenance costs) (as E4.7)
			See note 1	See note 1	See note 1
Football pitches (adult see note 3):	49	2,500	£5.41 per year per user £0.14 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£11.60 per year per user £0.31 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£38.20 per year per user £1.01 per week per user (over 38 week season)
Cricket wickets (adult – see note 3)	2	150	£2.29 per year per user £0.10 per week per user (over 24 week season)	As existing (currently no utilities provided)	£78.33 per year per user £3.26 per week per user (over 24 week season)
Rugby pitches (adult – see note 3)	2	35	£16.53 per year per user £0.44 per week per	As existing (currently no utilities provided)	£113.57 per year per user £2.99 per week per user

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			user (over 38 week season)		(over 38 week season)
Bowling greens:	18	1,000	£7.88 per year per user £0.23 per week per user (over 34 week season)	£42.90 per year per user £1.26 per week per user (over 34 week season)	£119.00 per year per user * £3.53 per week * (over 34 week season)
Croquet lawns:	2 (9 courts)	100	£14.04 per year per user £0.41 per week per user (over 26 week season)	As existing (currently no utilities provided)	£118 per year per user £3.47 per week per user (over 34 week season)
Allotment sites:	13	1,000	£27.00 per year per user £0.52 per week per user	£61.00 per year per user £1.17 per week per user	£61.00 per year per user £1.17 per week per user

Note 1. In most instances the relationship with individual users is via agreements with sports leagues / allotment associations. The fees/charges levied on individual users by sports leagues /allotment associations may be higher than quoted above to cover their other costs and aspirations. If these arrangements are agreed it will be necessary to complete new legal agreements with the various users.

Note 2: The approximate average future payments indicated above are based on retaining the existing number of users. Significant reductions in users would mean higher costs or closure of facilities.

Note 3. Junior sport is not listed above, as it is proposed not to increase charges for juniors

* a subsidy could be applied to the recharges for bowling as this sport, which has additional benefits in relation to park use, is generally played by older people and it may be considered inappropriate to pass on the full cost.

Suggested amendments following Consultation

- Most respondents (approx 76%) are **against** the change proposal
- The majority of those against the proposals are sports users
- The following suggestions were received as alternatives:
 - Charge juniors as well as adults (either in addition to, or within, the current proposal)
 - Subsidise older people / bowlers
- As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered:
 - Should juniors be charged, in addition to adults
 - Should any subsidies/concessions apply

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<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions– Risk: Increased costs may cause individuals and groups of users to stop using the facilities Mitigating Action: Members to consider if any subsidies / concessions should apply Risk: a number of facilities may close down due to lack of use Mitigating Action: Subject to staff resources, officers to work closely with sports user groups to look at rationalisation of facilities. Users will be encouraged to reduce consumption of utilities.</p>	
<p>Cost of utilities for sports / allotment users: £70k</p> <p>Staffing: N/A</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: 11K</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: 59K</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: No</p>

Consultation and Engagement Overview

During the consultation process E4.6 and E4.7 were consulted on simultaneously.

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Question responses: Option 1 = 402 Option 2 = 378 Option 3 = 356)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1 (charge for utilities): 76.12% are against this proposal Option 2 (charge for grounds maintenance): 87.03% are against this proposal Option 3 (charge for both): 89.04% are against this proposal. The majority of respondents to these questions were formal sports users (66.4%) <p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would support the recharge proposals for bowls IF they included a limitation in respect of grounds maintenance of 50% of the costs. The Botanic bowling club is of vital importance to the health and well being of its 200+ members.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>This is a very important source of exercise fresh air and socialization, not only for the older members of the community but also the younger members to. This mix of people forms strong bonds across age ranges and abilities which can only be a good building block for the future of our community. Whilst it is accepted that in these difficult times we all have to accept a little pain, I feel very strongly that if to heavy a financial burden is placed on the bowling club many members will not be able to afford to continue. For the older members who have contributed for countless years to the coffers of Sefton council via council tax this would be a bitter blow. Without this exercise, fresh air and socialization it is likely that many people will become more dependent on other social services supplied by Sefton Council costing significantly more in the long run. I would ask the Council to think long and hard before imposing any draconian increase in charges to the Botanic bowling club and think of this more in terms of an investment in the health and well-being of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed increases for all, at this unstable economic time is unfair for all concerned, we appreciate we have to tighten belts but so many peoples health and wellbeing will be sorely affected by such huge increases • The proposed increase in fees from £400 to approx £1,400 per season half pitch would undoubtedly lead to our club folding as we are a self-sufficiently run club without a sponsor • This is a criminal attack on grass root sports in the Sefton area, is totally unjustifiable and will lead to much short term disgruntlement and long term health and well being issues. We will do all in our power to oppose the council's proposals because football is out national sport and needs to exist from top to bottom. • The implementing of the increased costs would close our football team down. St Georges none of my players would be able to afford to play as most of them at our university some unemployed and some with part time jobs. So one of the few enjoyments they young players look forward too would be taken away from them. Football keeps young men on the straight and narrow and teaches respect for others. Ridiculous proposals.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would hope that any extra costs for allotment holders would be pro rata for the size of allotment. As a new allotment holder I pay £26.50 for 1/2 allotment. A full holder paid £31 this is a considerable increase I would hope that water charges for 1/2 allotment holders would be only half that of a full holder I also think allotment holders would be asked to reduce the use of water. It is known for some to leave hoses or sprinklers on for hours (especially those with homes backing on the allotments). More revenue could possibly be made by asking some of the full owners to relinquish half. As can be seen several allotments are not fully cultivated a lot left fallow • 1) Water wastage - The use of hoses is necessary as carrying water from the taps is physically too demanding for some members. Most wastage occurs when hoses and sprinklers are left running. Allowing only hand held hosepipe watering would minimise wastage and reduce costs 2) Council should be made more pro-active in insisting on size reduction (i.e. 250 yds - 125 sq yds) where standards of cultivation/maintenance do not meet required standards - This would produce higher revenue due to the rental costs per sq yds of the smaller units 3) Additional rent to cover water and costs should be proportional to the size of the allotment i.e. water usage for 125sq yd plot will be 1/2 of that required for a 250 sq yd unit. • Southport Croquet Club already pays for all their own utilities - water, electric, gas, etc. We also pay for a grounds man of our own. We have a lot of elderly members and as well as providing them with a mild form of exercise in the open air, we act as a support and social network for them. If the fees go up to the proposed rate, many of them will not be able to maintain their membership. I will struggle to do so. The club will fold.
In Bloom Forum Meeting (17 attendees/7 organisations)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for charging sports users and allotment holders. Contributing something would make people appreciate the value of it.
Friends of Parks Forum (30 attendees/ 12	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for proposals. • Proposed bowling charges (which represent a massive increase on existing charges) seem

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
organisations)			<p>cheap.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private lawn tennis Club and Bowling Club in Southport has comparable charges. • General feeling that 'pensioners should be protected' as well as juniors.
Southport and District Amateur Football League		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Sefton trying to eliminate all amateur sport in the area? Increase the pitch rents for Football by between 300% and 400% to such an amount that most of the clubs will have to fold. • If no Football was played on the Public parks, as appears to be the intention, not only would up to 1000 young men, many of whom are unemployed or at Higher Education be denied healthy exercise, but the Council would still have to maintain the Parks. The resultant savings would only amount to the marking out of pitches. • The facilities at the majority of the grounds are very basic and the League over the years has spent many thousand pounds to keep them at an acceptable level in addition to paying for pitch drainage and making a substantial contribution to new changing rooms at Portland Street. • If we only had to pay for the pitches we use, rather than those we don't use it would make more sense. • Do not protect junior sports • I confirm that if the proposals were adopted then the Southport and District Football League would fold.
Liverpool County FA		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are concerned that the removal of all subsidy will discourage participation in football
Botanic Gardens Bowling Club		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of my club, I welcome the suggestion under option E4.7 to limit the recharge to 50% the grounds maintenance costs
Hatton Hill Bowling Club		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of proposals 1, 2, or 3 could mean the death knell of park bowls • The bowlers are aware that they should take their share in the reductions proposed and that even a 100% increase in present costs, whilst not being desirable, would be acceptable in these exceptional circumstances
Mr I H F	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still cheap compared with the costs of most private clubs' membership
Mr L		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charges may be unlawful under the Allotments Acts
Mr B J		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would equate to a 213% increase in utility service!!!! Do you think this is fair or just? • I do not use electricity – no requirement for this service

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I and a majority of other plot holders do not use these utilities The council should be encouraging more greener/efficient ways of recycling
<p>Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY</p> <p>(SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal 3 [charge for utilities and grounds maintenance costs] was the most appropriate. This was only on the basis that the concessions mentioned within the proposal were extended to cover older people. If increased fees are introduced monitoring of possible reductions in uptake and usage are vital to assess any negative impact particularly on vulnerable groups such as older or disabled people who the services are vital in reducing social isolation and aiding physical activity.
<p>Equal Voice</p> <p>(3 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general principle of people paying for what they use was agreed to, although older people with limited income should receive some form of concession for utility and grounds maintenance costs. Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services
<p>Parents Forum</p> <p>(28 persons/19 organisations)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed increases in charges are reasonable (for footballers) If it's something people like to do, maybe they should pay? Increasing charges – pleased that proposed charges do not apply to children. If you want to play, you should support it It is a hobby and a weekly charge is reasonable (£1 to £3) Proposed savings is a LOT of money Increasing charges: charging for fitness facilities – would health suffer – because it tackles obesity – keep-fit clubs will suffer Allotment charges impact family food budget Increasing Charges: Sefton already has high levels of obesity – this could be worse Suggested consultation – speak to services users and sports groups Fixed rate for allotment holders on pensions Subsidies for older people with allotments Fundraising within sport (communities and clubs) Increasing Charges: Look at options for ownership of areas such as bowling greens Fundraising and donations – (£35 per year in some areas - £2 per week)

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Young Advisers (17 attendees)		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78% were against this proposal This was identified as their third highest spending priority, after Parks maintenance and pool lifeguard cover (People Directorate proposal) Could look for sponsors involved in sport or gardening, for example footballers or horticultural society Could look for sporting charity or eco- friendly charity sponsors
Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens (Written response)	?	?	If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.
Telephone Survey (303 respondents)		X	48% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 42% agreed. (10% neither agreed or disagreed)
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most respondents are against the change proposal The majority of those against the proposals are sports users The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charge juniors as well as adults (either in addition to, or within, the current proposal) Subsidise older people / bowlers Several clubs have expressed interest in maintaining their facilities An agreed lowering of the agreed maintenance specification to harvest alternative savings As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should juniors be charged, in addition to adults Should any subsidies/concessions apply 			

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Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.6 & 4.7

Details of proposal

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E4.6 Recharging formal sports users and allotment users the cost of providing utilities at pavilions, allotment sites etc
- E4.7 Recharging formal sports users the costs of grounds maintenance

This will mean that the costs of utilities and/or grounds maintenance, either in part or in full, will be recovered from formal sports users and allotment holders as appropriate.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above separate change proposals.

They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parks & open spaces▪ Playgrounds▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management▪ Trees and woodland management▪ Golf course provision▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': Yes

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No

Sefton Council currently provides: 79 football and rugby pitches, 18 bowling greens, 2 cricket wickets, one croquet lawn. It also has overall responsibility for 14 allotment sites. It receives a total income of £65,000, whilst the cost of providing these facilities for a small proportion of park users is around £350,000 per year. Currently the Council receives an average income of around £5.50 a year for each footballer, £8.00 for each bowler, and £27.00 for each allotment holder.

The increase to charges for formal sports users would mean:

- All users of formal sports facilities (except juniors) would pay for all electricity, gas, water and drainage, and charges for pavilions and changing rooms where provided. All allotment holders would pay the full utility costs for huts and water supply where provided. Or:
- All users of sports facilities, (except juniors) would pay for all grounds maintenance costs incurred in providing facilities (e.g. grass cutting marking out, renovation etc). Or:
- All users of sports facilities (except juniors) would pay for all grounds maintenance, electricity, gas, water and drainage, and charges for pavilions and changing rooms where provided. All allotment holders would pay the full utility costs for huts and water supply

where provided

Mitigation:

This programme has been looked at extremely carefully and there are many good reasons why people participate in the activities – some related to health and wellbeing connected to issues such as age or disability.

It was felt in general that ‘children’ (because they are completely unwaged) may experience a disproportionate negative impact. As such, the current proposal will keep subsidies in place for junior users.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Our consultation and research produced the following

Older People

Demographically, most allotment holders are between the ages of 51-64, a rate over 13% higher than the Census 2001 figure, and nearly 30% are over retirement age. The number of males using this service is also over 13% higher than the percentage of males in Sefton. Anecdotally, it is a similar profile for people using bowling greens and croquet lawns. Therefore there may be a disproportionate effect on older males if charges are increased. In the current proposal, children and young people participating in junior leagues will be exempt from the price increase.

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- If increased fees are introduced monitoring of possible reductions in uptake and usage are vital to assess any negative impact particularly on vulnerable groups such as older or disabled people who the services are vital in reducing social isolation and aiding physical activity.

Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens group identified the following issues:

- If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.”

However, whilst we agree that ‘activities’ are vital for well being, it was felt that those with a reasonable income would be expected to pay.

We would exempt children from charges and would have a mitigation programme in place if a disabled service user on extremely low income could show how the activity was linked to the treatment of the illness/disability.

Consultation

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- “In Bloom” groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south

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- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
 - Sefton Croquet Club
 - Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
 - Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

With regard to those with protected characteristics their views and concerns are reported above. A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: the service will be delivered in line with the equality act and we will have allowances to ensure those most at risk of a negative impact will be able to access service thus 'advancing equality of opportunity.

It is currently planned that children and young people participating in junior leagues will be exempt from the price increase.

Officers will work with sports groups and allotment holders to help them reduce utility costs, by conserving water, reducing electricity use, and applying to utility companies for special concessionary schemes. They will also look at reducing grounds maintenance costs e.g. by reducing the specification, or assisting groups to maintain some of the facilities themselves.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) Notify service users of new charges.
- 2) Establish mitigation process for junior users and disability
- 3) Work to reduce costs of services
- 4) Reschedule work patterns
- 5) Monitor

Part B Annex D

E4.7 Recharge formal sports users the costs of Grounds Maintenance to provide outdoor sports facilities

Change Proposal

Service Description: Recharge formal sports users the costs of Grounds Maintenance to provide outdoor sports facilities (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review – Option 3)

Categorisation: Critical, Frontline, Regulatory, Other

Consultation has closed on the following option

Recharge formal sports users the costs of Grounds Maintenance to provide outdoor sports facilities

Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings overall, and try to minimise the effect on the wider Sefton community as much as possible.

Those who have more ‘exclusive’ use of facilities (as opposed to general park users), will therefore pay more towards the costs of running these themselves.

Legislation Considered

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

Service Users – Current use of facilities is heavily subsidised by the Council and users generally pay only a small proportion of the actual costs associated with their activity. Therefore the proposed increases in income will mean that users are paying significantly more for their sports / hobbies than they are currently.

This may cause a number of people to stop using the services, with associated wider health issues.

Partners - Income from facilities is in many cases obtained via management agreements with Leagues, Bowling Clubs etc. These partners would need to be involved in the agreements and management of the increased charges.

NB It may be that the leagues/ associations in question will wish to raise fees and charges to users above and beyond those described above in order to continue generating their own income

Council - New agreements would need to be drawn up with users / user groups to ensure that the payment of increased charges is formally agreed.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

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See Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex.

Equality Analysis

See Equality Analysis Reports within this Annex

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

Maintenance of adult sports pitches will cease, unless the users / user groups fund the full costs of grounds maintenance associated with their use of the facilities.

Costs will be calculated from the costed bill of quantities in the Grounds Maintenance contract.

Bowling greens- as above, however consideration be given to part-subsidise users / user groups to offset the full cost of grounds maintenance associated with their use of the facilities.

Any pitches / greens which are taken out of use will be maintained to the appropriate grass standard.

The table below summarises the anticipated average cost to the users (including existing fees and charges and utilities costs).

	No of facilities	Approx. number of users (2010/11)	Current approx average income to the Council per user (existing)	Likely approx average payment to Council per user (including grounds maintenance) i.e. this proposal	Likely approx average payment to Council per user (including grounds maintenance costs and utility charges)
			See note 1	See note 1	See note 1
Football pitches (adult see Note 3):	49	2,500	£5.41 per year per user £0.14 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£32.00 per year per user £0.85 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£38.20 per year per user £1.01 per week per user (over 38 week season)
Cricket wickets (adult see note 3)	2	75	£2.29 per year per user £0.10 per week per user (over 24 week)	£78.33 per year £3.26 per week per user (over 24 week season)	£78.33 per year per user £3.26 per week per user (over 24 week season)

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			season)		
Rugby pitches (adult see note 3)	2	35	£16.53 per year per user £0.44 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£113.57 per year per user £2.99 per week per user (over 38 week season)	£113.57 per year per user £2.99 per week per user (over 38 week season)
Bowling greens*:	18	1,000	£7.88 per year per user £0.30 per week per user (over 34 week season)	£84.90 per year per user £2.50 per week per user	£119.90 per year per user £3.53 per week (over 34 week season)
Croquet lawns*:	2 (9 courts)	100	£14.04 per year per user £0.54 per week per user (over 34 week season)	£222 per year per user £6.53 per week per user (over 34 week season)	£222 per year per user £6.53 per week per user (over 34 week season)
Allotment sites:	13	1,000	£27.00 per year per user £0.52 per week per user	n/a (no grounds maintenance costs)	£61.00 per year per user £1.17 per week per user

Note 1: In most instances the relationship with individual users is via agreements with sports leagues / allotment associations. The fees/charges levied on individual users by sports leagues /allotment associations may be higher than this to cover their other costs and aspirations.

Note 2: The approximate average future payments indicated above are based on retaining the existing number of users. Significant reductions in users would mean higher costs or closure of facilities.

Note 3: junior sport is not listed above, as it is proposed not to increase charges for juniors

NB * Consideration be given to part-subsidising the GM costs to be recharged for bowling and croquet for the reasons stated above.

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Suggested amendments following Consultation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents (approx 89%) are against the change proposal • The majority of those against the proposals are sports users • The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Charge juniors as well as adults (either in addition to, or within, the current proposal) ○ Subsidise older people / bowlers ○ Several clubs have expressed interest in maintaining their facilities ○ An agreed lowering of the agreed maintenance specification to harvest alternative savings • As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should juniors be charged, in addition to adults ○ Should any subsidies/concessions apply 	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions–</p> <p>Risk: Increased costs may cause individuals and groups of users to stop using the facilities</p> <p>Mitigating Action: Members to consider if any subsidies / concessions should apply</p> <p>Risk: a number of facilities may close down due to lack of use</p> <p>Mitigating Action: Subject to staff resources, officers to work closely with sports user groups to look at rationalisation of facilities, and reduction in specification / costs.</p>	
<p>Extra-over cost of grounds maintenance to provide outdoor sports facilities: £218.5K</p> <p>Staffing: N/A</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £157.5K</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £61K (Further saving in future years)</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: No</p>

Consultation and Engagement Overview

During the consultation process E4.6 and E4.7 were consulted on simultaneously.

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Question responses: Option 1 = 402 Option 2 = 378 Option 3 = 356)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 (charge for utilities): 76.12% are against this proposal • Option 2 (charge for grounds maintenance): 87.03% are against this proposal • Option 3 (charge for both): 89.04% are against this proposal. • The majority of respondents to these questions were formal sports users

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would support the recharge proposals for bowls IF they included a limitation in respect of grounds maintenance of 50% of the costs. • The Botanic bowling club is of vital importance to the health and well being of its 200+ members. This is a very important source of exercise fresh air and socialization, not only for the older members of the community but also the younger members to. This mix of people forms strong bonds across age ranges and abilities which can only be a good building block for the future of our community. Whilst it is accepted that in these difficult times we all have to accept a little pain, I feel very strongly that if to heavy a financial burden is placed on the bowling club many members will not be able to afford to continue. For the older members who have contributed for countless years to the coffers of Sefton council via council tax this would be a bitter blow. Without this exercise, fresh air and socialization it is likely that many people will become more dependent on other social services supplied by Sefton Council costing significantly more in the long run. I would ask the Council to think long and hard before imposing any draconian increase in charges to the Botanic bowling club and think of this more in terms of an investment in the health and well-being of the community. • Proposed increases for all, at this unstable economic time is unfair for all concerned, we appreciate we have to tighten belts but so many peoples health and wellbeing will be sorely affected by such huge increases • The proposed increase in fees from £400 to approx £1,400 per season half pitch would undoubtedly lead to our club folding as we are a self-sufficiently run club without a sponsor • This is a criminal attack on grass root sports in the Sefton area, is totally unjustifiable and will lead to much short term disgruntlement and long term health and well being issues. We will do all in our power to oppose the council's proposals because football is out national sport and needs to exist from top to bottom. • The implementing of the increased costs would

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>close our football team down. St Georges none of my players would be able to afford to play as most of them at our university some unemployed and some with part time jobs. So one of the few enjoyments they young players look forward too would be taken away from them. Football keeps young men on the straight and narrow and teaches respect for others. Ridiculous proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would hope that any extra costs for allotment holders would be pro rata for the size of allotment. As a new allotment holder I pay £26.50 for 1/2 allotment. A full holder paid £31 this is a considerable increase I would hope that water charges for 1/2 allotment holders would be only half that of a full holder I also think allotment holders would be asked to reduce the use of water. It is known for some to leave hoses or sprinklers on for hours (especially those with homes backing on the allotments). More revenue could possibly be made by asking some of the full owners to relinquish half. As can be seen several allotments are not fully cultivated a lot left fallow • 1) Water wastage - The use of hoses is necessary as carrying water from the taps is physically too demanding for some members. Most wastage occurs when hoses and sprinklers are left running. Allowing only hand held hosepipe watering would minimise wastage and reduce costs 2) Council should be made more pro-active in insisting on size reduction (i.e. 250 yds - 125 sq yds) where standards of cultivation/maintenance do not meet required standards - This would produce higher revenue due to the rental costs per sq yds of the smaller units 3) Additional rent to cover water and costs should be proportional to the size of the allotment i.e. water usage for 125sq yd plot will be 1/2 of that required for a 250 sq yd unit. • Southport Croquet Club already pays for all their own utilities - water, electric, gas, etc. We also pay for a grounds man of our own. We have a lot of elderly members and as well as providing them with a mild form of exercise in the open air, we act as a support and social network for them. If the fees go up to the proposed rate, many of them will not be able to maintain their membership. I will struggle to do so. The club will fold.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
In Bloom Forum Meeting (17 attendees/7 organisations)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for charging sports users and allotment holders. Contributing something would make people appreciate the value of it.
Friends of Parks Forum (30 attendees/ 12 organisations)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support for proposals. • Proposed bowling charges (which represent a massive increase on existing charges) seem cheap. • Private lawn tennis Club and Bowling Club in Southport has comparable charges. • General feeling that 'pensioners should be protected' as well as juniors.
Southport and District Amateur Football League		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Sefton trying to eliminate all amateur sport in the area? Increase the pitch rents for Football by between 300% and 400% to such an amount that most of the clubs will have to fold. • If no Football was played on the Public parks, as appears to be the intention, not only would up to 1000 young men, many of whom are unemployed or at Higher Education be denied healthy exercise, but the Council would still have to maintain the Parks. The resultant savings would only amount to the marking out of pitches. • The facilities at the majority of the grounds are very basic and the League over the years has spent many thousand pounds to keep them at an acceptable level in addition to paying for pitch drainage and making a substantial contribution to new changing rooms at Portland Street. • If we only had to pay for the pitches we use, rather than those we don't use it would make more sense. • Do not protect junior sports • I confirm that if the proposals were adopted then the Southport and District Football League would fold.
Liverpool County FA		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are concerned that the removal of all subsidy will discourage participation in football
Botanic Gardens Bowling Club		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of my club, I welcome the suggestion under option E4.7 to limit the recharge to 50% the grounds maintenance costs
Hatton Hill Bowling Club		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of proposals 1, 2, or 3 could mean the death knell of park bowls • The bowlers are aware that they should take their share in the reductions proposed and that even a 100% increase in present costs, whilst not being

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			desirable, would be acceptable in these exceptional circumstances
Mr I H F	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still cheap compared with the costs of most private clubs' membership
Mr L		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charges may be unlawful under the Allotments Acts
Mr A W		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present the bowlers pay a charge of £8 to the council who maintain the bowling greens in fit condition. Also the council pay for electricity & water charges in relation to the bowling greens. I think that all would agree that such a charge is more than reasonable and probably should have been increased in past years to a more realistic figure. • The proposals outlined by Sefton Council would have a disastrous affect on the bowling community. I calculate the percentage increases as follows :- Proposal 1 – 437.5 % increase to a fee of £43. Proposal 2 – 962.5 % increase to a fee of £85 Proposal 3- 1400 % increase to a fee of £120
Mr R G		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst accepting the need for "cuts" it is hoped that the Council will consider those who are the main users of the bowling facilities. They are, of course, those of a low generally fixed income group, namely pensioners.
Mr B J		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would equate to a 213% increase in utility service!!!! Do you think this is fair or just? • I do not use electricity – no requirement for this service • I and a majority of other plot holders do not use these utilities • The council should be encouraging more greener/efficient ways of recycling
Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY (SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal 3 [charge for utilities and grounds maintenance costs] was the most appropriate. This was only on the basis that the concessions mentioned within the proposal were extended to cover older people. • If increased fees are introduced monitoring of possible reductions in uptake and usage are vital to assess any negative impact particularly on vulnerable groups such as older or disabled people who the services are vital in reducing social isolation and aiding physical activity.
Equal Voice (3 attendees)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general principle of people paying for what they use was agreed to, although older people with limited income should receive some form of concession for utility and grounds maintenance

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services
<p>Parents Forum</p> <p>(28 persons/19 organisations)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed increases in charges are reasonable (for footballers) If it's something people like to do, maybe they should pay? Increasing charges – pleased that proposed charges do not apply to children. If you want to play, you should support it It is a hobby and a weekly charge is reasonable (£1 to £3) Proposed savings is a LOT of money Increasing charges: charging for fitness facilities – would health suffer – because it tackles obesity – keep-fit clubs will suffer Allotment charges impact family food budget Increasing Charges: Sefton already has high levels of obesity – this could be worse Suggested consultation – speak to services users and sports groups Fixed rate for allotment holders on pensions Subsidies for older people with allotments Fundraising within sport (communities and clubs) Increasing Charges: Look at options for ownership of areas such as bowling greens Fundraising and donations – (£35 per year in some areas - £2 per week)
<p>Young Advisers</p> <p>(17 attendees)</p>		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78% were against this proposal This was identified as their third highest spending priority, after Parks maintenance and pool lifeguard cover (People Directorate proposal) Could look for sponsors involved in sport or gardening, for example footballers or horticultural society Could look for sporting charity or eco- friendly charity sponsors
<p>Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens</p> <p>(Written response)</p>	?	?	<p>If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.</p>
<p>Telephone survey</p> <p>(303 responses)</p>		✗	<p>48% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 42% agreed. (10% neither agreed or disagreed)</p>

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General Summary

- Most respondents are **against** the change proposal
- The majority of those against the proposals are sports users
- The following suggestions were received as alternatives:
 - Charge juniors as well as adults (either in addition to, or within, the current proposal)
 - Subsidise older people / bowlers
 - Several clubs have expressed interest in maintaining their facilities
 - An agreed lowering of the agreed maintenance specification to harvest alternative savings
- As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered:
 - Should juniors be charged, in addition to adults
 - Should any subsidies/concessions apply

Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.6 & 4.7

Details of proposal:

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E4.6 Recharging formal sports users and allotment users the cost of providing utilities at pavilions, allotment sites etc
- E4.7 Recharging formal sports users the costs of grounds maintenance

This will mean that the costs of utilities and/or grounds maintenance, either in part or in full, will be recovered from formal sports users and allotment holders as appropriate.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above separate change proposals.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above separate change proposals.

They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks & open spaces ▪ Playgrounds ▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management ▪ Trees and woodland management ▪ Golf course provision ▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens

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Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': Yes

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No

Sefton Council currently provides: 79 football and rugby pitches, 18 bowling greens, 2 cricket wickets, one croquet lawn. It also has overall responsibility for 14 allotment sites. It receives a total income of £65,000, whilst the cost of providing these facilities for a small proportion of park users is around £350,000 per year. Currently the Council receives an average income of around £5.50 a year for each footballer, £8.00 for each bowler, and £27.00 for each allotment holder.

The increase to charges for formal sports users would mean:

- All users of formal sports facilities (except juniors) would pay for all electricity, gas, water and drainage, and charges for pavilions and changing rooms where provided. All allotment holders would pay the full utility costs for huts and water supply where provided.
Or:
- All users of sports facilities, (except juniors) would pay for all grounds maintenance costs incurred in providing facilities (e.g. grass cutting marking out, renovation etc). Or:
- All users of sports facilities (except juniors) would pay for all grounds maintenance, electricity, gas, water and drainage, and charges for pavilions and changing rooms where provided. All allotment holders would pay the full utility costs for huts and water supply where provided

Mitigation:

This programme has been looked at extremely carefully and there are many good reasons why people participate in the activities – some related to health and wellbeing connected to issues such as age or disability.

It was felt in general that 'children' (because they are completely unwaged) may experience a disproportionate negative impact. As such, the current proposal will keep subsidies in place for junior users.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Our consultation and research produced the following

Older People

Demographically, most allotment holders are between the ages of 51-64, a rate over 13% higher than the Census 2001 figure, and nearly 30% are over retirement age. The number of males using this service is also over 13% higher than the percentage of males in Sefton. Anecdotally, it is a similar profile for people using bowling greens and croquet lawns. Therefore there may be a disproportionate effect on older males if charges are increased. In the current proposal, children and young people participating in junior leagues will be exempt from the price increase.

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- If increased fees are introduced monitoring of possible reductions in uptake and usage are vital to assess any negative impact particularly on vulnerable groups such as older or disabled people who the services are vital in reducing social isolation and aiding physical

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activity.

Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens group identified the following issues:

- If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.”

However, whilst we agree that ‘activities’ are vital for well being, it was felt that those with income would be expected to pay.

We would exempt children from charges and would have a mitigation programme in place if a disabled service user on extremely low income could show how the activity was linked to the treatment of the illness/disability.

Consultation

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- “In Bloom” groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south
- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton Croquet Club
- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
- Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

With regard to those with protected characteristics their views and concerns are reported above.

A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: the service will be delivered in line with the Equality Act 2010 and we will have allowances to ensure those most at risk of a negative impact will be able to access service thus ‘advancing equality of opportunity.

It is currently planned that children and young people participating in junior leagues will be exempt from the price increase.

Officers will work with sports groups and allotment holders to help them reduce utility costs, by

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conserving water, reducing electricity use, and applying to utility companies for special concessionary schemes. They will also look at reducing grounds maintenance costs e.g. by reducing the specification, or assisting groups to maintain some of the facilities themselves.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) Notify service users of new charges.
- 2) Establish mitigation process for junior users and disability
- 3) Work to reduce costs of services
- 4) Reschedule work patterns
- 5) Monitor

Part B Annex E

E4.8 Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park

Change Proposal

Service Description: Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review)
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Categorisation: Service split between Frontline (Grounds Maintenance and Trees: £2,321K + £89K), Regulatory (Land Management: £400K), Other (Tier 1: £1,057) and Trading (Golf: -£295K).
--

Consultation has closed on the following option Closing and mothballing the facilities listed above

Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings overall, and try to minimise the effect on the wider Sefton community as much as possible.

Legislation Considered

Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users –

There will be a significant reduction in the attractions and facilities at two of Sefton's 'destination' parks. The closure of these facilities will add to the reduced maintenance standards described in the separate Savings Proposal (PLR1-01), with a consequential reduction in the number of park users, which may have a knock-on effect in making the parks feel less safe.
--

Partners –

Council -

There may be significant issues with increased vandalism in the empty facilities and in the parks generally, which would have cost implications.
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There would be 3 redundancies.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

See Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex
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Equality Analysis – see Equality Analysis Reports within this Annex
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Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

At Botanic Gardens, Southport:

- Aviary to be closed.
- Fernery to be ‘closed to the public and ‘mothballed’.
- Nursery shop to cease operating.

Hesketh Park:

- Conservatory to be closed off to the public and ‘mothballed’.

Staff would be placed at risk as a result of this option.

Suggested amendments following Consultation

- Most respondents (approx 87%) are **against** the change proposal
- The following suggestions were received as alternatives:
 - Look at volunteers / voluntary organisations to manage facilities
- As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered:
 - Volunteer support / sponsorship for fernery and conservatory
 - Alternative management of aviary

Risks & Mitigating Actions-

Risk: Increase in vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and associated costs.

Mitigating Action: Subject to outcome of change proposals to Ranger Service (E4.10, E4.11), focus Park Rangers Service on reducing anti-social behaviour; seek to retain small budget for diversionary park activities.

Risk: Closure of facilities may affect Southport tourism offer

Mitigating Actions: Look at volunteer support / sponsorship for facilities, investigate alternative management for aviary

Risk: Closure of Conservatory may raise issues with Heritage Lottery Fund, who provided grant to refurbish the building in 2007/08.

Mitigating Action: Investigate volunteer support / sponsorship for conservatory

This needs to be explored further with Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cost of Botanic Gardens / Hesketh Park facilities (as listed) including staff: £50K

Staffing: 3

Other Resources:

Proposed Cost 2012/13: 0

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £50K

Council Staff at Risk: Yes

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Consultation and Engagement Overview

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Question responses = 519)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86.90% of respondents are against this proposal. • Could look for sponsors involved in sport or gardening, for example footballers or horticultural society • Could look for sporting charity or eco- friendly charity sponsors <p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting the aviary is a big reason for going to Botanic Gardens • I enjoy feeding birds @ botanic gardens I used to do @ Hesketh and was most upset when they went. My grandchildren love to feed the rabbits too. • I don't think you could, or would, re-house the birds, a great many would be killed, just to save a few pounds. Less people will visit, affecting others, including cafe I would certainly volunteer to help care for them.
<p>Heritage Lottery Fund</p> <p>(written response)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the HLF contract for the completed project at Hesketh Park, Sefton Council required to manage and maintain the park to the standards achieved by the grant for a minimum of 10 years and to ensure Green Flag standard for a minimum of 7 years following completion. • These standards and budgets are articulated in more detail in your Management and Maintenance Plan 2010, which the Council has adopted as part of the contract. To assess the impact of the proposals on the funded works it would be useful if you could provide reassurances that the standards outlined in the plan will be maintained under the proposed new structures and reduced budgets, and/or specify where and to what extent these would be reduced. • I have particular concerns relating to the conservatory closing as this was restored and made publicly accessible using the HLF grant. It is possible that we would seek to clawback all or some of this part of the grant if this was to close. • It would also be useful if you could provide reassurances about the safety of the park in light of the reduced ranger service and let us know to what extent activities will be reduced as you will be aware that one of the main aims of HLF

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>funding is to increase the range of audiences and engage people in learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In many instances the Friends group are instrumental in delivering these activities and can provide significant in kind/volunteer support and therefore withdrawal of support from this group as outlined in the proposals for reductions should be considered carefully.
<p>In Bloom Forum Meeting</p> <p>(17 attendees/ 7 organisations)</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing the aviary and fernery is 'absolutely horrific' – would affect tourism. These and the café are focal points in the park. A lot of money has been spent on the fernery and conservatory, so closing them would be a waste of this money. Need to look at sponsorship, be proactive about finding ways to keep them open.
<p>Friends of Parks Forum</p> <p>(30 attendees/ 12 organisations)</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of money been spent on upgrading Fernery and Conservatory, would be a waste if they were closed. The aviary is very popular. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Should be last choice among the options' 'Should be taken off the board completely' Suggestion that Oakbridge (who currently help to manage the conservatory) be involved to allow the conservatory to remain open Botanic Gardens is THE park in the Borough, a key tourist attraction, too valuable an asset to lose.
<p>Hesketh Park Heritage Group</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We all believe it would be very damaging to the prospect of any Lottery application if it became known to the Lottery Board that this possibility of closure of this funded conservatory was an option being considered. This group is itself working now with Council Officers to make an application for a small Lottery bid to develop an education/visitor centre in the park which will have toilets, a much needed facility.
<p>Mrs S W</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gardens are an integral part of Churchtown and its local history. All consideration should be taken to revitalise the area as in it's heyday it was a popular and well used space both for leisure and pleasure for visitors and locals alike. Losing the park would be detrimental to local people and Sefton's tourism. All efforts should be made by Sefton councillors to

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>regenerate open spaces not close them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local parks are our heritage and should be regarded as vital to tourism and the locality.
<p>Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY</p> <p>(SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum felt that although these services were important they were aware that funds had to be saved from somewhere and that the removal of these services were preferable to the closure of others. The group noted caution regarding maintaining structures to prevent them becoming dangerous and to also preserve where possible the old Victorian structures for the future as an important part of Sefton's historical legacy.
<p>Equal Voice</p> <p>(3 attendees)</p>		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services
<p>Parents Forum</p> <p>(28 persons/19 organisations)</p>		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of services and attractions at Botanic Gardens is NOT supported Parks already used for structures activities for children and groups – closing would impact on this. Risks to doves and swans Birds have been in the environment and fernery for ages and moving or disrupting birds in Botanic Gardens could cause distress and problems (would you do that to children?) Botanic Gardens is part of Sefton History Fears of deterioration/vandalism - would this be a waste of new parks and facilities Hesketh Park has come a long way – it would be a pity to lose facilities Are services advertised at the moment? Look at options for opening areas like Botanic Gardens on certain days Get coverage and advertising
<p>Young Advisers</p> <p>(17 attendees)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% are in favour of the proposal This was identified as their lowest spending priority Focus a little more on security than closing down some of the best attractions to Southport Concern about the cost of moving all the birds and ferns and also the cost to regain them and restore the building if they were ever to be used again.
<p>Telephone Survey – Aviary, Nursery, etc.</p> <p>(303 responses)</p>		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to close the Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at the Botanic Gardens and 17% agreed. (15% neither agreed or disagreed) 56% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to close the conservatory at Hesketh Park and 23%

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			agreed. (20% neither agreed or disagreed)

General Summary

- Most respondents are **against** the change proposal
- The following suggestions were received as alternatives:
 - Look at volunteers / voluntary organisations to manage facilities
- As a result of the consultation the following mitigation/action needs to be considered:
 - Volunteer support / sponsorship for fernery and conservatory
 - Alternative management of aviary

Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.8 & E4.9

Details of proposal:

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E4.8 Closing the Aviary, Fernery and Nursery Shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport
- E4.9 Stop providing Hanging Baskets

This means that hanging baskets will no longer be provided free of charge, and that the aviary, fernery and nursery shop at Hesketh Park, and the conservatory at Botanic Gardens, will be closed.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above separate change proposals.

They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks & open spaces ▪ Playgrounds ▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management ▪ Trees and woodland management ▪ Golf course provision ▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens

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Ramifications of Proposal:

E4.8 Closing the Aviary, Fernery and Nursery Shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport and E4.9 Stop providing Hanging Baskets

There is a proposal is to stop putting up the 556 hanging flower baskets in town centres in Ainsdale, Aintree, Birkdale, Churchtown, Crosby, Formby, Hightown, Litherland, Netherton, and Southport. (We may still provide these if they are sponsored / paid for. This will however depend on demand, location and having the staff resources available).

There is also a proposal to close the aviary, fernery and nursery shop at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park, Southport to public access and to mothball facilities pending a future use being identified. This would mean no public access to the aviary, which has a bird collection of 80 types of birds from across the world (This would result in the bird collection being re-housed), the recently refurbished Victorian fernery that houses a collection of 90 rare ferns and plants from across the world, as well as the nursery and shop. The recently restored Hesketh Park conservatory would also close.

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': No

None.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No.

Consultation.

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- "In Bloom" groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south
- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton Croquet Club
- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
- Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

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Those groups representing people with protected characteristics made the following comments:
Equal Voice suggested advertising to increase income
Disability noted that caution regarding maintaining the structure that may become dangerous but preferred the removal of these services rather than the closure of others.
The Young Advisors were in favour of closure (82%)

A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Closure of these facilities and services will not impact on the public sector equality duty

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

E.4.8

- 1) re-house bird collection
- 2) secure building

E.4.9

- 1) Inform local business/community of opportunity to sponsor hanging baskets.
- 2) Reorganise work schedules.

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Part B Annex F

E4.10 Cessation of Park Ranger Functions

Change Proposal

Service Description: Cessation of Park Ranger Functions (Parks and Greenspaces Service Review)
Consultation has closed on the following option Cessation of the Park Ranger functions
Original Rationale for service change proposal – To achieve a highly significant level of savings.
Legislation Considered: Occupiers' Liability legislation and common law duties
Anticipated Impact of Service Change – Service Users – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park users will experience a very significant decline in the standards of parks, and there would be no staff to help deal with the anticipated increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour caused by other cuts.• Parks will feel less safe, with a consequential reduction in the number of park users.• Slower response to vandalism, graffiti, and general repairs• Minimal support for volunteers; loss of potential 'income-in kind'• Increase in dog-fouling and litter in parks Partners – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probable disengagement of Friends of Park groups• Increased involvement required from police, Community Safety etc to address increased ASB Council - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in ability to deal with public concerns about antisocial behaviour. This may cause particular problems for the council, as other parts of the 5 tier security model referred to earlier have also been diluted. Unless severe, the police rarely consider perceived ASB in parks to be a priority issue for them. The role of the PCSOs in parks focused work has been reduced as the number of PCSOs has been reduced. The way Sefton security operates has changed. Removal of the Park Rangers will potentially leave the public feeling isolated.• Likely increase in costs due to vandalism.• 8 redundancies and deletion of 1 vacant posts.• Slower responses to problems and issues, less flexibility; more reactive and less pro-active management.
Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary See Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex
Equality Analysis

See Equality Analysis Reports within this Annex	
<p>Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –</p> <p>The Parks Ranger function will cease, and the following functions will stop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No on-site presence to deal with anti-social behaviour • No pro-active encouragement of responsible park use • Minimal capacity to work with volunteers and Friends Groups, fewer volunteer hours • No activities or events in parks • No staff to help mitigate impact of other significant service cuts. • No diversionary activities for young people in parks • No one to enforce dog fouling and litter legislation • Reduced interaction with police / community safety partnerships • Reduction in other parts of the safer and stronger parks communities model 	
Suggested amendments following Consultation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents (approx 90%) are against the change proposal • The following suggestions were received as alternatives: • <p>None</p> <p>As a result of the consultation there is no mitigation/action to consider</p>	
<p>Risks & Mitigating Actions–</p> <p>Risk: Likely to be significant increase in vandalism, anti-social behaviour and complaints about few front-line staff</p> <p>Mitigating Action: None identified</p> <p>Risk: Unable to let volunteers / voluntary groups carry out work to help maintain / improve parks, as no staff to train / supervise volunteers.</p> <p>Mitigating Action: None identified</p> <p>Risk: increased concerns about personal safety in parks, particularly with older, younger and more vulnerable users</p> <p>Mitigating Action: The section will liaise with other organisations (ie Police/PCSO's) in an attempt to respond to incidents (ASB, vandalism etc) however their response will be governed by other service pressures that they may face that are of greater priority to them.</p>	
<p>Cost of Park Ranger Function: £266,500</p> <p>(additional funding also provided to Maghull Town Council via double rating)</p>	<p>Proposed Cost 2012/13: £88.8K*</p> <p>Budget Reduction 2012/13: £177.7K*</p> <p>Council Staff at Risk: Yes</p>

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<p>Staffing: 1 Head Ranger, 4 Park Rangers, 4 Assistant Park Rangers</p> <p>Other Resources:</p>	<p>*N.B. Interdependency issue: Full savings for E4.5 cannot be realized if E4.10 / E4.11 taken</p>
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Consultation and Engagement Overview

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Question responses = 509)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89.98% of respondents are against this proposal. • The main concerns are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased anti social behaviour ○ Reduced safety for users ○ Increased litter and dog dirt/negative environmental impact <p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IF the quality of the parks fall with the reduction of the ground floor staff/gardeners the parks that Sefton are famous for will become a thing of the past and will never return the borough impacting further on the towns involved through lack of visitors • I am a keen bowls player and the rangers keep gangs of troublemakers away from the greens • I feel having Park Rangers in the parks acts as a deterrent to unruly youngsters and adults. They are a form of security. I love taking my children to the events too. Plus they are able to answer any questions relating to the parks • Definitely against the loss of the park ranger service, they have done a lot to reduce the ASB in the parks. A lot of investment has been made in the parks utilizing 106 monies this will have been wasted if the ranger service is lost and ASB returns.
<p>In Bloom Forum Meeting</p> <p>(17 attendees/ 7 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious concerns about vandalism; last time when the temporary ranger scheme finished, there was the worst period of vandalism ever in Seafront Gardens. • Devastating cut would have a major impact on the environment. • The rangers provide a major educational resource; teach young people the importance of parks. Valuable, pro-active joint working with other agencies – lowest level of anti social behaviour this year on Mischief Night due to Ranger input.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Friends of Parks Forum (30 attendees/ 12 organisations)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything would collapse if Park Rangers left • Kids behave themselves when Park Rangers are around, people feel a lot safer • Suggestion to combine the wider Parks and Coast Services to make savings rather than just the Rangers Services • There has been a big reduction in ASB since the Rangers started
Merseyside Police		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer/ Mischief diversionary activities without doubt assist with reductions in ASB - activity is meaningful and fun. • Support with neighbourhood priorities. B2 have a large number of parks and over the summer months the overriding problem is young people drinking and causing a nuisance / damage. The rangers patrol the areas and provide us with feedback. • Indecent exposure operation in June/July 2011. CM and her staff provided details of possible suspects and an arrest was subsequently made. • Streetgames initiative - combating ASB in the Parks and green spaces that was very successful and has clearly assisted in our ASB reductions this year • The common consensus is that the neighbourhoods have built up excellent working relationships with the Rangers and fear that their cessation would significantly result in an increase in anti social behaviour within their respective neighbourhoods. • I can confirm that the activities arranged over the Halloween Period certainly enabled officers to concentrate their patrolling elsewhere knowing that the locations were appropriately staffed, activity was co-ordinated and supportive and that the teams were positively contributing to reductions in ASB in the relevant areas.
Sefton CVS	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last 3 years we have forged a strong working relationship with yourselves and the staff within Parks and Greenspaces. This has enabled a number of project developments including volunteer programmes within the parks for people with learning disabilities to build on their NVQ qualifications in horticulture, supporting and development of over 34 Friends of Groups, support and successful funding bids for tree planting and sculpture trails and input into Kings Gardens bid via Volunteer Centre Sefton, Community Development Team and Sefton Young Advisors. • The partnership has also supported the development of training packages for volunteers with Park Rangers within the parks to ensure that people volunteer in a safe environment and enable added value to the Park Rangers work. • As part of the continued partnership work we are keen

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>to develop the Friends of Groups and community engagement within the parks, however without the provision of Park Rangers the probability of a development programme will be difficult to implement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are keen to continue and grow our partnership and will endeavour to work with you and your team to support and develop community engagement within the parks and greenspace and therefore we are aware that the future decisions on the budget savings will be key to this partnership progression.
Friends of Bedford Park		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Park Rangers] bring knowledge and expertise to their work drawing in and educating and inspiring young people to care for the park and the environment generally They run the young rangers, liaise with groups with learning difficulties to offer them support to carry out tasks on the park. The fear is that the loss of the ranger service will lead to the park falling into disrepair and be subject to vandalism again. The Rangers are able to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling which brings in revenue for the council.
Friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last meeting of our committee I was asked to write to the Council to express the strongly held view by our group that the service provided by Sefton's Park Rangers and particularly our current Ranger, CM, is excellent and we would be extremely sad if the services CM provides were to be diminished because of the savings the council is having to make. Last year we ran an amazingly successful summer festival with over 2000 people attending. The Rangers involvement was invaluable. This year we are running an autumn festival to coincide again with the Scarecrow competition that the Rangers have run for the last two or three years. CM's organizational skills and her contacts will we believe produce yet another great day. Without her services I fear that our group would have far less impact
Olsen House School, Great Crosby, L23		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortly after our school opened (Spring 2010), we were approached by Sefton Rangers (CM) and asked if we would like to take part in the local Scarecrow Competition. We were delighted to be invited as it is crucial for our young people to have

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>the opportunity to take part in community based activities. Since then we have been involved in a number of projects, just recently we have been helping with the redevelopment project of Marine Crescent Pond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This kind of activity is vital for our pupil's social skills development apart from the academic knowledge that they gain from the experience!
Valewood Primary School and Children's Centre		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Valewood Primary pupils benefit hugely from the educational and environmental service they all provide. We use their expertise to drive our curriculum and to enhance outcomes for our pupils. The work our Park Rangers do enriches the lives of all the community and helps us all to appreciate and take care of our local environment.
St. Luke's Halsall CE Primary School		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last few years the children at St. Luke's have benefited greatly from the many Schools projects the Ranger service has put on. We feel this is valuable work to undertake with the children, to educate them about the local environment and how they can look after it for the future. We do hope that the Park Ranger Service will still continue to exist for the future.
Holy Family Catholic High School		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I just wanted to offer our support to this wonderful service as we have had the opportunity to work with them on several projects over the years. Our pupils have helped with planting in Victoria Park, Coronation Park and in the Marine Gardens. They have designed artwork for the pavilion in Coronation Park. The pupils have made bird nests and took part in the Scarecrow competition. This has been really positive for our students as we have been able to offer these events to some of our more vulnerable students. I feel that this would be a real loss not just for the community but for our students as well.
Higham Consultancy		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am an independent research and evaluator, who has been carrying out research work with the local primary schools to this area. A number of these schools have been working with the Park Rangers at Sefton and I feel I must report that it was notable how hugely supportive the schools were of the rangers roles. These schools, in of course,

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>high areas of deprivation, are now as part of that strong partnership role, taking children out of the school arena to learn about their natural local environment on a regular basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These schools report a much higher recognition from the children of their local green area, and a greater sense of ownership. This ownership is passed along their families and we believe demonstrates that this can positively affect levels of anti-social behaviour and a real wish to look after their surroundings. • It is very hard to return to old posts and I feel that once this role has been eradicated it will probably never return. What a shame to deprive an area of such a pivotal - and perhaps largely unseen - partnership role.
St Michael's High School		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel that this decision would have a massive negative impact on the development of community relationships within Sefton. Having worked closely with the Rangers on numerous occasions I appreciate how beneficial their input has been in raising awareness of sustainability and local community issues with our young people. • Students from St Michael's High School have been fortunate enough to participate in a number of initiatives organised by CM and her team including the Art in the Park and Eco Greenhouse Projects, scarecrow making, and bulb planting sessions. These positive experiences have inspired students to initiate similar activities on their own school grounds and equipped them with the confidence to explore further possibilities within their local community. • By encouraging young people to take ownership of their parks and local community we are able to challenge anti-social behaviour together and strengthen community working partnerships.
Mr I H F		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006 when the Park Rangers lost their external funding and their jobs; the police had to put the Matrix task force into Crosby and Waterloo for five weeks to crack the antisocial behavioural consequences • We accept that they may have to be merged to provide a more flexible service.
Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY (SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32)	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group supported the option to save the most money – the cessation of Park Ranger services. • Overall the group felt that the roles of the park and coast rangers were vital in maintaining safety

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
attendees)			<p>within parks and countryside but that in these times of financial cuts other vital services needed to be prioritized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group felt that if any changes were to take place within the park and coast ranger teams it was vital that the maintenance of access around the coast were maintained, in particular pathways, the prom and key access points to ensure that disabled people have equal access to enjoying these spaces as none-disabled people.
<p>Equal Voice</p> <p>(3 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cessation of Parks Rangers could lead to a rise in anti-social behaviour. There should be greater analysis of ethnicity and gender around parks and on the coast so that potential impacts of these changes could be understood. There should be increased monitoring of anti-social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare the period after any change is implemented with the present situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities.
<p>Parents Forum</p> <p>(28 persons/19 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children need to be taught in schools how to look after their environment and protect it for future generations. Rangers are active across the borough in (local parks) We feel safer with Rangers about. Rangers have not been seen at night in local areas – problem areas particularly.
<p>Young Advisers</p> <p>(17 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% were against the cessation of the Park Ranger Service Despite the score, this was identified as their third lowest spending priority
<p>Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens</p> <p>(Written response)</p>	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.
Mrs D L		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have been a volunteer gardener at Hesketh Park for some years. I was saddened to hear that due to cut-backs the position of some of the park ranger staff is at risk. Apart from the security and gardening aspects their positions hold, they also give so much on

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>special occasions, in helping organise creative events for children and adults. Events such as these give such enjoyment to those who may not be able to afford similar events where payment is required and encourage interest in the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To lose them would soon show a decline in security and deterioration in the upkeep of the parks.
Ms. S S		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to the park rangers' service: Have the public safety aspects been considered and the ultimate costs around vandalism. This will affect residents access to these amenities
Ms. M A		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would be a shame, and we at Ainsdale Village Park have always valued their assistance. If the service were to remain, I would like to see them undertake a greater roll in patrolling our parks e.g. fining dog walkers for not picking up dog mess.
Telephone survey (E4.10) (303 responses)		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% disagreed with the proposal and 15% agreed with the proposal. (5% neither agreed or disagreed)
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most respondents are against the change proposal The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None As a result of the consultation there is no mitigation/action to consider 			

Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.10 & 4.11

Details of proposal:

The change proposals covered by this equality analysis are:

- E4.10 The cessation of Park Rangers
- E4.11 The merger of the Ranger functions on the coast and the Park Rangers into a single unit.

The Parks and Green Spaces Service is a part of Landscape Services, and are located within the

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Street Scene Directorate. This Equality Analysis covers the above change proposals. They provide a range of services to both the public and internally within the council:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks & open spaces ▪ Playgrounds ▪ Grounds maintenance/ contract management ▪ Trees and woodland management ▪ Golf course provision ▪ Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens
Service	Provides
Coast and Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of coast and countryside ▪ Tourist beaches and promenades ▪ All Estate maintenance ▪ Litter management/beach cleansing ▪ Coastal Oil Pollution Coordination ▪ RNLI/partnership management ▪ Woodland and Tree management ▪ Biodiversity and Access Inclusion Project ▪ Management of SSSI's/nature reserves ▪ Litter and sand clearance management ▪ Litter and dog order enforcement ▪ Enforcement of byelaws ▪ Maintains the rural right of way network ▪ Coastal access ▪ Sefton Coast HLF Landscape Partnership

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

E4.10 The cessation of Park Rangers and E4.11 The merger of the Ranger functions on the coast and the Park Rangers into a single unit.

Park Rangers currently help the Council manage 260 parks and green spaces by making people feel safe and welcome. Ceasing the Park Ranger Service would potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and vandalism in parks and a reduction in the number of Council run activities in parks and educational work with children and young people. Additionally there would be less opportunity to work with the community, volunteers and Friends of Parks groups as well as a reduced on-site presence and less enforcement of by-laws.

Mitigation:

Currently there are rangers in the Coast and Countryside Service and in the Parks and Green

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Space Service. One of the proposals is to merge the rangers from the two areas of service into a single team to make a saving from the economies of scale that the merger will bring. Although they operate differently and have some different functions, there are some similarities between the two roles. Park Rangers help the Council to manage its parks and green spaces, Coast and Countryside Rangers help the council to manage the coast and Rimrose Valley country park. Rangers in both services help make people feel safe and welcome. They work with the local community, the Police, Community Support Officers, Fire Service and other organisations, deterring anti-social behaviour, vandalism and enforcing by-laws. They also organise activities, work with volunteers and Friends of groups to encourage more, and better use of our parks. Both work with children and young people to educate them about having respect for the environment and biodiversity, in parks, the coast and countryside. There would be a reduction in community and volunteer engagement, anti-social behaviour deterrence, bylaw enforcement, and education of young people.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

A number of issues were identified during consultation:

Older People

Older people may feel less safe using the parks if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction or cessation of Ranger services.

Sefton Pensioners and Older Citizens group identified the following issues:

- If older citizens do not participate in physical and social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.”

People with Limited Mobility

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- If any changes were to take place within the park and coast ranger teams it was vital that the maintenance of access around the coast were maintained, in particular pathways, the prom and key access points to ensure that disabled people have equal access to enjoying these spaces as non-disabled people.

Minority Communities

Equal Voice CEN identified the following issues:

- There should be a greater analysis of ethnicity and gender around parks and on the coast so that the potential impacts of these changes would be understood
- There should be increased monitoring of anti social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare period after any change is implemented with the current situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities

Children and Younger People

Cessation of Park Rangers or the merger of these with Coast and Countryside Rangers would impact on young people due to the cessation or reduction of education and volunteer programmes that they are involved in. Children and younger people may feel less safe in parks if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction or cessation of the Ranger

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service.

Mitigation: : if a merged service is formed, it will try to take in to account these issues and ensure that access to the facilities will continue to be open and safe to the general public.

Consultation

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- “In Bloom” groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south
- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
 - Sefton Croquet Club
 - Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
 - Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Young Advisers CEN

With regard to those with protected characteristics their views and concerns are reported above.

A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

The service provision will continue to be provided in line with the Equality Act.

The consultation has highlighted some possibly of positive action work to help advance equality of opportunity. These will be pursued in developing the new **provision**

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

1. Reorganise work teams
2. Reschedule and prioritise work plans
3. Monitor
4. Work with partners (e.g. police) to help identify and treat potential and actual hate crime within in this service area.

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Part B Annex G

E4.11 Merger of Parks and Coastal Ranger Functions

Change Proposal

Service Description: Merger of Parks and Coastal Ranger functions (Parks & Greenspaces / Coast & Countryside reviews – Option 7)

Categorisation:

Service split between

Frontline (Grounds Maintenance and Trees: £2,321K + £89K), (beach lifeguarding and sand clearance (282,500)

Regulatory (Land Management: £500K)

Other (Tier 1: £1,057)

Other (Tier 2: £380,750)

Trading (Golf: -£295K).

Consultation has closed on the following option

The merger of the Parks and Coast and Countryside Ranger Services.

Original Rationale for service change proposal – Budget savings driven. This is further rationalisation of the management of the coast, countryside, parks and other open spaces.

Legislation Considered The Environmental Protection Act, Wildlife and Countryside Act, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Occupiers Liability Act

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

- A reduced service means there will have to be an emphasis on identifying other opportunities to support management of parks, open spaces and the coast and how a reduction in the ability to respond to community and environmental needs can be supported by volunteers, employment schemes and possibly inclusion partnerships.
- As there may be an increase in anti-social behaviour in the short-term, an increased involvement of the friends/volunteers as ‘eye and ears’ should be seen as a priority to assist in lowering problems with anti-social behaviour across Sefton.

Service Users –

- Users will experience a decline in the standards as there would be fewer staff to help deal with the anticipated increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour caused by other cuts. New opportunities to enhance a reduced merged service through the use of Volunteer Rangers, apprenticeship, employment schemes and inclusion projects will be investigated.
- Slower response to vandalism, graffiti, and general repairs
- Potential increase in dog-fouling and litter in parks, reduced maintenance on coast and countryside sites

- A merged service could deliver inclusion projects with New Directions, other providers and young people excluded from education, employment and training
- Work experience for young people can continue through a merged but reduced service.
- Liaison with schools and other educational establishments on sites will continue and the ability to re-build this element of both services following 2011/12 reductions will be enhanced through a targeted education programme across a wide spectrum of service users.

Partners –

- Increased involvement required from police, Community Safety etc to address increased ASB
- The merger of the ranger services will allow for some cover where it may be potentially lost due to service reductions in respect of the management of some open spaces and nature reserves.

Council

- There will be less staff to deal with issues that may arise, leading to prioritisation of responses.
- Slower responses to problems and issues, less flexibility; more reactive and less pro-active management.
- A targeted programme of developing opportunities for the community through volunteer rangers, activities and skill development can support a reduced merged service.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

See Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex.

Equality Analysis

See Equality Analysis Report within this Annex.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce –

The following Parks Ranger functions will reduce:

- Less on-site presence to deal with anti-social behaviour
- Less pro-active encouragement of responsible park use
- Less capacity to work with volunteers and Friends Groups, fewer volunteer hours
- Fewer activities or events in parks
- Fewer staff to help mitigate impact of other significant service cuts.
- Fewer diversionary activities for young people in parks
- Less enforcement of dog fouling and litter legislation
- Reduced interaction with police / community safety partnerships
- Reduction in other parts of the safer and stronger parks communities model

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On Coast and Countryside sites, exactly which activities are reduced, and when, will depend on the staff resources available and the issues being faced at any particular time. A flexible and responsive, rather than planned and proactive approach will be adopted for the following:

- Revised and reduced management of beach car parking -Southport and Ainsdale
- There will be further reductions in onsite management of car parking
- Reduced level of sand clearance from promenades and access points
- A reduced level of plant/equipment and staffing will result in sand blocking the promenade and adjoining paths and/or being in situ for longer periods.
- Reduced level of litter clearance from the Resort beaches, Crosby Coastal Park and Rimrose Valley Country Park
- In general there will be further reductions in cleansing activity on all the main amenity beach areas and reduced cleansing on other coastal areas, including the hinterland, nature reserves and pinewoods.
- Reduced Habitat management of the protected sites and discharge of Habitat Regulations obligations to seek to meet Favourable Status
- All of the coastal operations within the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) are 'consented activity' agreed with Natural England.
- Reduced patrolling of the 39km of coastline and Rimrose Valley.

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

- A substantial amount of the work undertaken by these services is already supplemented by; volunteers, training scheme placements (e.g. work experience, Future jobs fund etc) and an inclusion project. This has been the case for many years.
- Although a reduction in the overall number of rangers will affect the ability to manage volunteers and trainees etc there is potential to further develop arrangements with Friends/Volunteer groups to take the lead in management of sites in future.
- The ability to draw down and manage external funding such as lottery and other environmental schemes could be reduced, but opportunities may be available through the development of partnerships with communities and service partners
- Whilst efforts will be made to plug any gaps with volunteers and trainees. It should be noted that a substantial apprentice initiative and an employment scheme were active on the coast in 2011, which lessened the impact of budget reductions. However, it is difficult at this stage to predict whether and how much supplementary support will available in the future as Government policy in respect of employment schemes has changed and funding contributions towards apprenticeship projects may not be available. In addition, how these can be managed and supported to assist service delivery will need to be carefully considered as the ability to supervise such schemes is greatly reduced following service reductions.

Cost of Ranger services; ~£315k

Staffing:

2 x Coast and Countryside

8 x Parks and Open Spaces + 1 vacant

Notes –

- **1 additional Ranger post is externally funded within the Coast and Countryside section.**
- **1 ranger post is affected by the Coast & Countryside Service Review – Option 1 proposal**
- **All Park Ranger posts are potentially affected by Cessation option E4.10**

Other Resources:

Proposed Cost 2012/13: approx £285K

Budget Reduction 2012/13: £30K

Council Staff at Risk: Yes

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Consultation and Engagement Overview

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
<p>e-Consult Feedback</p> <p>(Parks questionnaire question responses = 504, Coast questionnaire question responses = 295)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.12% of respondents to the Parks questionnaire were against merging Coast and Countryside Rangers with the Park Ranger Service. • 71.52% of respondents to the Coast and Countryside questionnaire were against merging Coast and Countryside Rangers with the Park Ranger Service <p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think merging the services would be a bad idea. The expertise that they have in their particular area (i.e. parks or Coastal conservation) are very different. I have small children and I imagine if the services merge there will be less attention given to parks. We may go there less if the service/ cleanliness in the parks deteriorates. • The function of coastal rangers is entirely different to that of urban green space staff. There are different issues to deal with that require different training. A coastal ranger has important first aid / life guard skills etc that are not required of a regular park ranger. • To merge the two is missing the point of having trained coastal staff and then on the other hand trained staff to deal with urban green space issues such as access, cleanliness and horticultural issues. • As a dog walker and recreational walker, I would be very annoyed if you reduced the presence of rangers and their activities. The friends of Waterloo Seafront Gardens are working tirelessly to improve things and we deserve the support of the authorities • I can only speculate that the merge would be unsuitable as the coast and the parks use different skills and knowledge to manage. I can imagine that sharing the resources (if there are enough to share) would be ideal, but the merging of the two services completely would not be beneficial. • Experts would still have to exist separately and a thorough understanding of each site would be crucial in managing sensitive habitats (SSSIs, NNRs etc) compared to manicured parks. I do understand security and basic management (bins and fences) would be compatible between the two

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>services but habitat management and legal requirements for the whole range of sites are complicated and specialist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to my disability I would feel isolated knowing that if I fell over or had an accident there would be nobody there to help me or come to my aid • Fully appreciate the work done by Rangers on Rimrose and aware that should reduction occur the park will undoubtedly end up overgrown and frequented by youths. Wouldn't feel as safe. • Without the presence of coast and countryside staff making a safe, pleasant environment for visitors and users I would be less confident using this coast and feel less safe. Also I think the nature that is so important here would not be as well looked after so perhaps less reason to come here • Amphibian and Reptile Conservation staff and volunteers will try and assist the Rangers more often, though we have limited numbers of local representatives to assist. Our capacity to directly assist will also be hampered due to staff loss and budgetary costs. • Certainly there are no easy options though the further loss of Ranger staff, resources and knowledge will have a huge negative impact on tourism, public use, favourable conservation status of sites and the ability and capacity of the remaining staff to deal with these issues e.g. the Rangers have been very successful at securing European funding to assist with local initiatives, at no or limited local cost, this may not be possible with further staff reduction.
<p>Friends of Parks Forum</p> <p>(30 attendees/ 12 organisations)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to combine the wider Parks and Coast Services to make savings rather than just the Ranger Services
<p>In Bloom Forum Meeting</p> <p>(17 attendees/ 7 organisations)</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we need 2 sets of management structures for Coast and Parks?
<p>Mr I H F</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We accept that they may have to be merged to provide a more flexible service.
<p>Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group did not fully support this option, as a number of options listed under this were felt to have major implications for the lives and

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
(SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)			<p>experiences of disabled people within the borough and also visiting key coastal attractions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The point around the management of beach car-park was supported if it was not costs effective. The point regarding sand clearance from the promenade and access areas were not, and serious health and safety implications were raised for disabled people with limited mobility and those with visual impairments. Points of concern were also raised regarding litter, habitat maintenance and graffiti as the group were aware of projects within the borough around increasing visitor numbers of Sefton and particularly coastal areas. And that a dirty, vandalised and generally scruffy Sefton would send out the wrong messages to visitors and would seriously put people and families off visiting.
Equal Voice (3 attendees)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger of the Coast and Countryside Rangers with Parks Rangers could lead to a rise in anti-social behaviour. There should be greater analysis of ethnicity and gender around parks and on the coast so that potential impacts of these changes could be understood. There should be increased monitoring of anti-social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare the period after any change is implemented with the present situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities. Community Payback Teams should be used on the coast and in parks for sand clearance, habitat management and parks maintenance
Parents Forum (28 persons/19 organisations)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If we don't teach our children about the environment, they will not preserve the coastal areas and the countryside. We need the rangers to do this.
Young Advisers (17 attendees)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% were against this proposal This was identified as their fourth highest spending priority Ask volunteers to work alongside the coastal and park rangers to help lighten the burden of their work
Sefton	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If older citizens do not participate in physical and

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Pensioners and Older Citizens (Written response)			social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.
Telephone Survey (E4.11) (303 responses)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% agreed with the proposal and 19% disagreed with the proposal. (10% neither agreed or disagreed)
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most respondents are against the change proposal The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None As a result of the consultation there is no mitigation/action to consider 			

Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.11 (R)

Details of proposal:

E4.11 The Merger of the Ranger functions on the coast and the Park Rangers into a single unit.

This will involve the merger of the two services in to a single unit, and a reprioritisation of work load potentially leading to the cessation or reduction of some Ranger led activities.

Other Coast and Countryside option identified in E4.12

(The Coast and Countryside Rangers were reduced by three posts (50%) as part of the budget measures for the financial year 2011/12 totalling £305,000).

Other Park Rangers option identified in E4.10

The Coast and Countryside Service and Parks and Green Spaces Service provide a range of services:

Service	Provides
Parks and Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks & open spaces Playgrounds Grounds maintenance/ contract management Trees and woodland management Golf course provision Outdoor sports pitches and bowling greens

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Service	Provides
Coast and Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of coast and countryside ▪ Tourist beaches and promenades ▪ All Estate maintenance ▪ Litter management/beach cleansing ▪ Coastal Oil Pollution Coordination ▪ RNLI/partnership management ▪ Woodland and Tree management ▪ Biodiversity and Access Inclusion Project ▪ Management of SSSI's/nature reserves ▪ Litter and sand clearance management ▪ Litter and dog order enforcement ▪ Enforcement of byelaws ▪ Maintains the rural right of way network ▪ Coastal access ▪ Sefton Coast HLF Landscape Partnership

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': No

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

E4.11 The merger of the Ranger functions on the coast and the Park Rangers into a single unit.

Park Rangers and Coast and Countryside Rangers currently help the Council manage 260 parks and 6,000 Hectares of green spaces, coast and countryside by making people feel safe and welcome. Reducing Ranger Service's would potentially result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and vandalism across the Borough and a reduction in the number of Council run activities relating to educational work with children and young people. Additionally there would be less opportunity to work with the community, volunteers and Friends of groups as well as a reduced on-site presence and less enforcement of by-laws.

Mitigation:

Currently there are rangers in the Coast and Countryside Service and in the Parks and Green Space Service. One of the proposals is to merge the rangers from the two areas of service into a single team to make a saving from the economies of scale that the merger will bring. Both sets of rangers perform similar duties but in different areas of the borough. Park Rangers help the Council to manage its parks and green spaces, Coast and Countryside Rangers help the council to manage the coast and Rimrose Valley country park. Rangers in both services help make people feel safe and welcome. They work with the local community, the Police, Community Support Officers, Fire Service and other organisations, deterring anti-social behaviour, vandalism and enforcing by-laws. They also organise activities, work with volunteers and Friends of groups to encourage more, and better use of our open spaces. Both work with children and young people to educate them about having respect for the environment and biodiversity, in parks, the coast and countryside. There would be a reduction in community and volunteer engagement, anti-social behaviour deterrence, byelaw enforcement, and education of young people

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes.

- 1) The service reduction may mean delays in clearing access points and maintenance of access features such as paths and disabled boardwalks which may have access issues for disabled / elderly users and families with prams/push chairs and who may use on-beach car parking.
- 2) A lack of Rangers may lead to higher incidents of crime including hate crime.

Mitigation:

- 1) Key access spots have been identified in consultation with disabled community and there will be 'priority' access spots that will continue to be kept clear – so access to parks, beach/ attraction will always be maintained. Continued dialogue with the disabled community will enable us to identify further task/ improvements and to inform the community of accessible sites.
- 2) Whilst the Park Rangers and Coast and Countryside Service report crimes and request support from the Police, when they are not available the community contacts the police in the normal manner – we will make it clear that the police should be contacted and we work with partners to ensure that Hate crime is reported and acted on.
- 3) Although issues of antisocial behaviour are generally a police matter, enforcement of byelaws is the responsibility of Sefton Council. There will be a reduction in enforcement, but we will continue to provide evidence and support the Council legal Department and the police within our resources.

Consultation.

Older People

Older people may feel less safe if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction of the service. This is more apparent at Crosby, Formby and Ainsdale when increased problems are observed by groups of young people during the summer months.

People with Limited Mobility

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- If any changes were to take place within the parks and coast and countryside teams it was vital that the maintenance of access around the coast were maintained, in particular pathways, the prom and key access points to ensure that disabled people have equal access to enjoying these spaces as non-disabled people.

Minority Communities

Equal Voice CEN identified the following issues:

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- There should be increased monitoring of anti social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare period after any change is implemented with the current situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities

Children and Younger People

The merger of these Ranger services may impact on young people due to the cessation or reduction of education and volunteer programmes that they are involved in. Children and younger people may feel less safe if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction of the service. This is more apparent at Crosby, Formby and Ainsdale where considerably increased anti social behaviour takes place by groups of young people during the summer months.

Consultation took place between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- “In Bloom” groups
- Allotment users
- Bowlers
- Equal Voice CEN
- Football League Committees – north and south
- Formal sports pitch clubs and users
- Friends of Parks
- General Park users
- Public – via drop-in sessions and electronic questionnaires
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton Croquet Club
- Sefton CVS
- Sefton Sports Council
- Southport Flower Show Ltd
- Beach Management Forum
- Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Forum
- Sefton Coast Partnership
- Sefton Cycling Forum
- Friends of Parks
- General coast and countryside users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Sefton CVS
- LINK
- Young Advisers CEN

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- Formby Civic Society
- Beachsafe
- Church Ward Forum

With regard to those with protected characteristics their views and concerns are reported above.

A full consultation report has been prepared and is available.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: we will continue to deliver services in line with the equality act and ensure that the facilities are accessible by the disabled and elderly community members. We will continue to work with the police in identifying hate crime.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) Reorganise work schedules
- 2) Ensure system is in place to identify 'hot spots' for access issues and prioritise them.
- 3) Inform public of any changes to services.
- 4) Monitor service provision.

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Part B Annex H

E4.12 Coast and Countryside Reduction in Site and Visitor Management

Change Proposal

Service Description: Reduction to Coast and Countryside Site Management and Visitor Management

Categorisation: Critical, Frontline, Regulatory, Other

£282,500 frontline, (beach lifeguarding, sand clearance)

£100,000 regulatory, (occupiers liability)

£380,750 Other Tier (2) (rest of service)

£763,330 total

N.B: the coast and countryside review recommends that these budgets should be aggregated and the whole service considered as frontline.

- Visitor and land management of the Coast and Rimrose Valley Country Park. This includes areas of international, national, regional and local importance for nature conservation and tourism. The service is responsible for managing visitors and addressing anti-social behaviour. Removing sand from promenades at Crosby and Southport, clearing litter from beaches and for controlling beach car parking at Southport, Ainsdale and Formby. The Coast & Countryside service also deals with the Council's responsibilities to bring nature conservation areas into 'favourable status' to meet government targets.
- The Council is responsible for coastal areas spanning 39 kilometres. The length of coastline in Council ownership is 22.5k, 10.5k of the coastline is classified as amenity/resort beach
- Sefton Council is the largest landowner on the coastal area; including the foreshore, Rimrose Valley Country Park and other areas the total area of responsibility for this service is 5,968 hectares. The Borough of Sefton as a whole is 15,210 hectares.

Consultation has closed on the following option –

Reduction to Coast and Countryside Site Management and Visitor activities

Original rationale for service change proposal –

Budgetary saving. This is further rationalisation of coast and countryside management

Legislation Considered –

The Environmental Protection Act, Wildlife and Countryside Act, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, Occupiers Liability Act.

Anticipated Impact of Service Change –

There will be less capacity to proactively manage, protect and respond to community and environmental needs

Service Users

There will be reduced interaction with the public e.g. at Ainsdale, soft sand is a major problem. In 2010, 1700 vehicles were assisted after getting stuck in sand on the beach car park or at the entrance. The capacity of the Coast and Countryside Service to deal with this issue will be reduced. Visitors/drivers may need to seek assistance from

motoring breakdown organisations in such circumstances in future.

Partners

A reduction in staffing will have an impact on the management of SSSI's and other sites designated under European legislation and the ability of partners on the coast to manage their land (as incidents that occur that do not respect boundaries) with reduced support from Sefton

Council

There will be less staff to deal with issues that may arise, leading to prioritisation.

The Council is responsible for dealing with and coordinating other incidents such as cockling activity .The Coast and Countryside Service currently lead on the beach management side of any oil pollution incident on behalf of the Council. In the future, the Councils ability to react will be greatly reduced.

Communications, Consultations & Engagement Summary

See Consultation and Engagement Overview within this Annex

Equality Analysis

See Equality Analysis Reports within this Report.

Risks & Mitigating Actions–

- A substantial amount of the work undertaken by this service, along the entire length of the coast, is already supplemented by; volunteers, training scheme placements (e.g. work experience, Future jobs fund etc) and an inclusion project. This has been the case for many years.
- Whilst efforts will be made to plug any gaps with volunteers and trainees. It should be noted that a substantial apprentice initiative and an employment scheme were established in 2011, which lessened the impact of budget reductions. However, it is difficult at this stage to predict whether and how much supplementary support will available in the future as Government policy in respect of employment schemes has changed and funding contributions towards apprenticeship projects may not be available. In addition, how these can be managed and supported to assist service delivery will need to be carefully considered as the ability to supervise such schemes is greatly reduced following service reductions.

Having taken consideration of the consultation and engagement activity undertaken the following activity will change, stop or significantly reduce

The following activities have been substantially reduced as a consequence of savings made for 2011/12 and these activities will now be further reduced.

Exactly which activities are reduced and when will depend on the staff resources available and the issues being faced at any particular time. A flexible and responsive, rather than planned and proactive approach will be adopted for the following;

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- **Revised and reduced management of beach car parking -Southport and Ainsdale**

There will be further reductions in onsite management of car parking

- **Reduced level of sand clearance from promenades and access points**

A reduced level of plant/equipment and staffing will result in sand blocking the promenade and adjoining paths and/or being in situ for longer periods.

- **Reduced level of litter clearance from the Resort beaches, Crosby Coastal Park and Rimrose Valley Country Park**

In general there will be further reductions in cleansing activity on all the main amenity beach areas and reduced cleansing on other coastal areas, including the hinterland, nature reserves and pinewoods.

- **Reduced Habitat management of the protected sites and discharge of Habitat Regulations obligations to seek to meet Favourable Status**

All of the coastal operations within the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) are 'consented activity' agreed with Natural England.

- **Reduced patrolling of the 39km of coastline and Rimrose Valley**

Cost of Service: £763,330 Staffing: 3 Admin 12 Staff (including 3 ranger posts) 5.5 Temp FTE (summer staff) Other Resources:	Proposed Cost 2012/13: £60,000 Staff at Risk: Yes
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Consultation and Engagement Overview

Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
e-Consult Feedback (Question responses = 296)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.22% of respondents are against the reduction in management of Sefton's coast and countryside areas • The main concerns are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased anti social behaviour ○ Negative environmental impact, especially regarding litter and habitat management ○ Negative impact on tourism ○ Negative impact on access, especially for the infirm and disabled

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>Examples of comments received from the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you reduce the management of the coast the species and habitats I come to the coast to enjoy will disappear. If they disappear I will no longer visit. • They will be used more by undesirable members of society and will therefore become dangerous for individuals, groups and dog walkers. As the area is also used by schoolchildren going to and from school it would only be a matter of time before something really bad occurred. • As I use the beach location for my hobby (power kiting) and its managed well here which attracts me to fly here and that will no longer be available to me. • I will still use the same, but will not be able to bring my daughter who is a wheelchair user if the sand is not cleared away. • I feel the benefit to the whole community in terms of well being, exercise, fitness etc., of using the facilities available within Sefton coastal and countryside areas make any decision to reduce the management of these areas extremely questionable particularly if the decision is being driven purely by budgetary requirements. • While I appreciate savings have to be made please consider that the Sefton Coast is a very special place not only to the people of Sefton but Countrywide. It is a "lung" for the people on low incomes living in Bootle to have a good day out with little expense. Please do not cut back too much on this excellent and lovely facility. It is needed not only by affluent Formby but by all residents. Maybe an increase in parking charges might help a little. • The stretch of coastline that Sefton is responsible for is well-known beyond Merseyside. Accordingly the Council does need to consider its responsibilities carefully before taking precipitate measures that may require a very long time to put right in the future. • It would be very easy to make cuts to your countryside service, but it would be false economy. The Sefton Coast attracts large numbers of people who come for the wildlife and the freedom, open spaces. If facilities and coverage are further reduced, the whole area will

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>be much less attractive. Anti-social behaviour will increase and the whole atmosphere will suffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the coastal area is left to degrade it will massively affect tourism. Not only the people of Sefton come to visit the coast but also people from the whole of the North West bringing in trade to the area. It has taken many many years of management to the coast to protect the flora and fauna and if left unmanaged it will take many many years to re-establish the endangered flora and fauna. The coastal dunes also act as a massive sea defence which if left unmanaged could eventually cause coastal flooding. NOT AN OPTION A NECESSITY. • The Coast has always been under-resourced and is undervalued by many people who use it. It is unique, highly dynamic and internationally important for a variety of habitats and species of wildlife. It is often held up as an example of best practice and has been recognised and aspired towards by other agencies and authorities. Further additional cuts to coastal management may even compromise the safety of the visitors who enjoy the beaches, dunes, woodlands and nature reserves. Fewer coastal staff will lead to an even further reduced capability to deal with antisocial behaviour, environmental crimes like fly tipping or pollution incidents. The presentation of the Council's coastal estate and access to it, will suffer and claims against the Council will become more difficult to defend. • I manage the beaches / foreshore for a major resort in the south west. My primary concern when reading the proposals was the detrimental effect this could have on the built and natural environment. When cuts of this type are made the first effect is that the area becomes untidy with an uncared for feeling. This will very quickly spread to minor vandalism, graffiti etc. It will be seen from other areas where environmental care is reduced that this is just the beginning of a steady spiral in to a general degradation of the open spaces which affects the way a population negatively identifies with and treats their surroundings. When attempting to turn around areas of deprivation the first job is always to get it tidied up. Learn from this.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Heritage Lottery Fund (written response)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In regards to the ongoing Sefton Landscape Partnership Scheme, you will be aware that we have awarded £1,174,000 towards conservation and access improvements on the coast. • As part of the HLF contract, the Coast and Countryside Department undertook to provide £31,450 of in kind support to the scheme and a cash contribution of £59,250. • On completion, as with Hesketh Park, the Council is contractually obliged to maintain the benefits of the scheme and in view of this £108k over 10 years was committed for this purpose. • It is clear that the scheme has already been hit hard by the economic downturn with a number of projects having to be reorganised as partners have suffered cuts or even abolished, as such despite the efforts of a very strong project team the scheme is well behind targets at this stage. • I would therefore be grateful if you could confirm whether these commitments are still in place, and if not which elements of the scheme and/or maintenance will be reduced. • If the change is significant and the benefits of the scheme are greatly reduced, we would need to consider whether the project should be taken back to our Board of Trustees.
Merseyside Police		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I work in conjunction with 'ALL' Merseyside councils in relation to Wildlife Crime incidents that take place in parks / coast / open spaces across Merseyside. By far, Sefton are more professional in their approach. Over recent months, there has been issues at the cockle beds on the Ribble Estuary which is a Marine Conservation Area. Due to the fact that Sefton planned extremely well, I am sure that incidents of Wildlife Crime would have been significant, but from a human aspect there have been 'no' risks posed to human life. I am certain that if the Coastal Services had not been run in such a tight manner, fatalities would have been reported this year. • I can only congratulate Sefton on their approach to the Coast Line and Coastal services and the hugely varied eco system it presents (one of the most significant in Europe). Mr McAleavy has exceptional skills in this area and I feel that any potential loss to this service would be devastating not only to the Wildlife that inhabits the Coast Line, but would put human life at risk.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
National Trust		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton Coast and Countryside Service has a reputation for excellence in dune and coastal management which extends to international audiences. The management of the beaches and natural dune areas and recreational activities in these areas brings huge benefits to local residents and visitors from a very wide area. • Well managed coastal access here brings positive benefits to the visitor economy in local towns and villages like Southport, Formby and Crosby. The services provided by Sefton are similar to those provided by the National Trust here at Formby Point although the area of landscape managed by Sefton is very much larger. • We are concerned that the proposed savings of £60,000 will further reduce the capacity of the Coast and Countryside Service which had to make very significant savings with losses of staff in 2011. Whilst the service has continued to deliver significant benefits this year, the cumulative reductions in funding will clearly make these harder to sustain. • As an organisation with similar goals to conserve natural landscapes and deliver a range of benefits for people, we are concerned about the proposal to disinvest in one of England's finest natural assets. • We are also concerned about the threat to productive partnership working going forward. At Formby, we face particular challenges in working with and adapting to natural changes of dune erosion and sand blow. We need to be able to work with Sefton to consider options which will sustain public benefits of access and enjoyment as well as landscape conservation going forward.
One Vision Housing		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton's own research has shown that Tourism is worth over £400m to the local economy through 10m tourist days and through supporting 5000 jobs. Cuts proposed to the tourism budget and to the Environmental Conservation and Coast Management Budget will have a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ direct impact on the ability of Sefton to maintain its appeal to tourists though: ○ Inaccessible beaches and parks if sand is not removed consistently ○ Loss of habitat and wildlife ○ Lack of support to tourists through removal

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p style="text-align: center;">of the tourist offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to the Tourism budget will also have significant impact on Sefton's ability to deliver upon the City region priorities laid out in the Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020 including the regeneration of Southport and the promotion of Sefton's Coast. • Cuts to this budget will provide a short term saving which will have long term negative economic impacts on the borough as a whole making Sefton a less attractive place to visit and live.
<p>Lancashire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>(Represents over 1000 members)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sefton Coast is arguably the country's most important site for nature conservation and almost all of it enjoys statutory designation as SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site, with concomitant obligations for all its landowners/managers. • Our overwhelming concern, though, is that the level of service provided by Coast & Countryside should be maintained at its present level, particularly in respect of land management and public interface. • The presence of a Ranger Service on the Council's landholding on the Sefton Coast forms a critical resource, together with staff from the National Trust, Natural England and ourselves, in implementing the objectives of the Sefton Coast Partnership in respect of habitat management, lifelong learning, tourism, engagement of the public and enhancing the image of the borough. • The ability of the Coast & Countryside Service to deliver these objectives has already been hard hit, suffering an approximate cut of 50% in funding and staffing during 2011/12. This has resulted in their having to cease educational provision and significantly reduce both their ranger and beach staff. The Formby/Ravenmeols area, for example, is now without any dedicated staff during winter, the period when most habitat management work needs to be carried out. • The Council's landholding is by far the largest on the coast and Sefton Council has over the years built a national and international reputation for innovative and consistent habitat management, especially of sand dunes, but equally for its leading role in bringing together nature conservation organisations, tourism interests, educationalists, local communities and others under the umbrella of the Sefton Coast

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>Partnership as an exemplar of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Further cuts would seriously jeopardise this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation document puts forward the possibility of making good possible staff losses through increased use of training schemes etc. Useful as such schemes have proven to be, they require dedicated staff in order to function - not just in respect of direct supervision of trainees but critically from rangers with their intimate knowledge of the coast and its requirements. Lose those staff and you run the risk of losing permanently many years of accumulated knowledge and experience. We have similar reservations with the proposal to make good gaps in provision through the use of volunteers. Our organisation is extremely reliant on volunteers to assist in carrying out all aspects of our work – we have 200 or so in Sefton alone. But our experience has shown us that this is by no means a ‘free’ option. Large expenditure of staff time is required in order to recruit, train, supervise and above all enthuse volunteers, they can rarely be left just to ‘get on with things’ and do not appreciate being asked to. Further staff cuts are therefore much more likely to result in a decrease rather than an increase in volunteering.
<p>Sefton Council Cycling Forum (11 attendees)</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was put forward proposed by JF and seconded by DH. Motion: That the Cycle Forum does not support the further reduction in the Coast & Countryside operational budget as it would be detrimental to the level of service provided particularly in the removal of wind blown sand from Crosby & Southport promenades which are key components of the Sefton Cycle Network and coastal path enjoyed by many Sefton residents and visitors. Agreed This motion was agreed by the Members of the Cycle Forum
<p>Beach Consultation Group (now Sefton Beach Management Forum)</p>		<p>x</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affecting the capability of the Coast and Countryside Service to look after internationally important species and habitats could seriously devalue the coast.

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
(31 attendees) (Dr) Philip H. Smith MBE		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coast & Countryside Service is responsible for the management of land that has international, national, regional and local importance for nature conservation and tourism. Indeed, the one feature for which Sefton Borough is internationally renowned is its coastal sand-dune system which is the largest in England, the fourth largest in Britain and is increasingly recognised as the most biodiverse in northwest Europe. SMBC is the largest land-owner on the dune coast and has an international responsibility for its duneland holding, most of which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a European <i>Natura 2000</i> site. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to maintain the areas so designated in "favourable condition". For over 30 years, through its involvement in the Sefton Coast Management Scheme and Sefton Coast Partnership, the Council has gained an enviable reputation for best practice in coastal dune conservation and management. This is now threatened by proposed cuts in services. Already, the 2010/11 cuts have adversely impacted the Coast & Countryside Service's ability to manage effectively the Council's sand-dune property. Further proposed cuts are likely to have serious and potentially disastrous long-term implications for the future of this internationally important natural resource
Ms. LH	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If this is the way in which money is being managed then I am quite sure that the £384,000 due to be spent on the Ainsdale and Birkdale dunes could be put to far better use in a Sure Start nursery, or to help retain staff for SEN children, or keep payments to care providers, would it not?
Sefton Access Forum/ABILITY (SAF = 16 attendees, ABILITY = 32 attendees)		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The groups did not fully support this option, as a number of options listed under this were felt to have major implications for the lives and experiences of disabled people within the borough and also visiting key coastal attractions. The point around the management of beach car-park was supported if it was not costs effective. The point regarding sand clearance from the promenade and access areas were not, and serious health and safety implications were raised for disabled people with limited mobility and those

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
			<p>with visual impairments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points of concern were also raised regarding litter, habitat maintenance and graffiti as the group were aware of projects within the borough around increasing visitor numbers of Sefton and particularly coastal areas. And that a dirty, vandalized and generally scruffy Sefton would send out the wrong messages to visitors and would seriously put people and families off visiting.
<p>Equal Voice (3 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater use should be made of advertising to support income to the services Community Payback Teams should be used on the coast and in parks for sand clearance, habitat management and parks maintenance <p><i>Note: Community Payback Teams are already in use by this service. Their use is restricted operationally.</i></p>
<p>Parents Forum (28 persons/19 organisations)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued cuts would increase the build-up of sand on the Promenades particularly in Waterloo. Where there is no or little sand clearance which affects accessibility for bikes, prams and wheelchairs. Do we not have a human right to walk freely on the promenades or is it for able-bodied people? The sand was at least 6 feet high! I live on the Formby Coast and I am proud of how clean and safe it is. To take away this service will be a disadvantage to local people, visitors and wildlife. Reduction in maintenance already been noticed The Crosby Coastal Area is cleaner now than it was 40 years ago. The Squirrel Reserve needs to be kept clean and safe We need to keep the beach clean and safe for local residents and visitors. Ocean Plaza – main beach (can we do something about grass growing through?)
<p>Young Advisers (17 attendees)</p>		x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 62% were against this proposal This was their fifth highest spending priority Ask volunteers to help with cleaning of the coast and countryside and could have a coast & countryside award for so many hours service Volunteers (e.g. university students or people with a keen interest in the coast) to take school groups and youth groups out and explain the coast and wildlife etc. University students could also contribute to the maintenance of habitats and preservation of our wildlife and rarer species
Sefton	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If older citizens do not participate in physical and

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Respondent	For the Proposal	Against the Proposal	Comments Received
Pensioners and Older Citizens (Written response)			social activities, and do not “get out of the house” there is a much greater likelihood that they will suffer from social isolation and, consequently, physical and mental health problems. In the long term this will generate extra costs for both the local authority and the NHS.
Telephone survey (303 responses)		✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of respondents disagreed with this proposal and 28% agreed. (11% neither agreed or disagreed)
General Summary			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents are against the change proposal • The statutory management of habitat has been highlighted as being of national and international importance • The following suggestions were received as alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask volunteers to help with cleaning of the coast and countryside ○ Use of Community Payback Teams to help with cleaning of the coast and countryside ▪ As a result of the consultation there is no mitigation/action to consider 			

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Impact Assessment

Equality Analysis Report

Committee paper code: Annex

Reference E4.12 (R)

Details of proposal: E4.12 The Reduction to Coast and Countryside Site Management and Visitor activities by £60K (less than 10%) from a total budget of £763.330 (including the RLNI Lifeguarding contract)

The Coast and Countryside Service has already been reduced by £356,000 as part of the budget measures for the financial year 2011/12. Budget reductions for the five year period up to and including the figure for 2011/12 total £434,000 or 57%.

The Coast and Countryside Service provides a range of services:

Service	Provides
Coast and Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Management of coast and countryside▪ Tourist beaches and promenades▪ All Estate maintenance▪ Litter management/beach cleansing▪ Coastal Oil Pollution Coordination▪ RNLi/partnership management▪ Woodland and Tree management▪ Biodiversity and Access Inclusion Project▪ Management of SSSI's/nature reserves▪ Litter and sand clearance management▪ Litter and dog order enforcement▪ Enforcement of byelaws▪ Maintains the rural right of way network▪ Coastal access▪ Sefton Coast HLF Landscape Partnership

Ramifications of Proposal:

Is there a consequence to 'Threshold': NO

Is there a consequence to 'Capacity': Yes

- Reduced management of beach car parking (Southport / Ainsdale)
- Reduced levels of sand clearance from promenades and access points
- Reduce level of litter clearance from resort beaches/coastal park/Rimrose valley country park
- Reduce Habitat management from protected sites
- Reduce patrolling of the 39km coastline & Rimrose valley

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

Yes.

- 3) The service reduction may mean delays in clearing sand from access points and maintenance of access features such as disabled boardwalks which may have access issues for disabled / elderly users and families with prams/push chairs and who may use on-beach car parking.
- 4) Lack of Coast and Countryside Rangers will lead to higher incidents of crime including hate crime.

Mitigation:

- 4) Key access spots have been identified in consultation with disabled community and there will be 'priority' access spots that will continue to be maintained subject to prevailing conditions and resources. Continued dialogue with the disabled community will enable us to identify and further inform the community of accessible sites.
- 5) Whilst the Coast and Countryside Service report crimes and request support from the Police, when they are not available the community contacts the police in the normal manner – we will make it clear that the police should be contacted in the instance of serious offences and we work with partners to ensure that Hate crime is reported and acted on.
- 6) Although issues of antisocial behaviour are generally a police matter, most matters are dealt with by rangers without Police involvement, especially relating to the enforcement of byelaws which is the responsibility of Sefton Council. There will be a reduction in enforcement, but we will attempt to continue to provide evidence and support the Council legal Department and the police within our resources.

Consultation.

Visitor demographic research was carried out by the Sefton Coast Partnership for Sefton's Natural Coast in 2008 and prepared by England's Northwest Research Service in the form of a report in 2009. The report identified the following age group profiles:

16-24	6%
25-34	14%
35-44	22%
45-54	23%
55-64	20%
65+	15%

In terms of gender, the split was 50%/50%

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Over half respondents were in employment (61%) and a quarter being retired.

85% of respondents were described as “white British/other” and 6% came from other ethnic groups.

In total 9% of all those interviewed as part of the survey indicated that had some form of disability, although this varied considerably by location and was higher on sites managed by the Coast and Countryside Service than other partner sites on the coast;

Disability % of respondents for Sefton Council managed sites is described as:

Ainsdale Beach	10.3%
Discovery Centre	2.1%
Hall Road	12.3%
Birkdale	19.6%
Ainsdale/Birkdale NR	5.1%
Formby LBR	18.8%
Crosby	10.3%

Consultation took place between 20th November 2011 and 16th January 2012, and included the following groups:

- Beach Management Forum
- Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Forum
- Sefton Coast Partnership
- Sefton Cycling Forum
- Equal Voice CEN
- Friends of Parks
- General coast and countryside users
- Parents Forum – north, central and south
- Sefton Access Forum CEN
- Sefton CVS
- LINK
- Young Advisers CEN
- Formby Civic Society
- Beachsafe
- Church Ward Forum

Older People

Older people may feel less safe if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction of the service. This is more apparent at Formby and Ainsdale by groups of young people is experienced during the summer months.

People with Limited Mobility

Sefton Access Forum and ABILITY CEN identified the following issues:

- If any changes were to take place within the coast and countryside teams it was vital that the maintenance of access around the coast were maintained, in particular pathways, the prom and key access points to ensure that disabled

people have equal access to enjoying these spaces as non-disabled people.

Minority Communities

Equal Voice CEN identified the following issues:

- There should be increased monitoring of anti social behaviour on the coast and in parks to compare period after any change is implemented with the current situation, to detect any increase in hate crime against minority communities

Children and Younger People

Cessation of Rangers or the merger of these Ranger services would impact on young people due to the cessation or reduction of education and volunteer programmes that they are involved in. Children and younger people may feel less safe if there is an increase in anti-social behaviour due to a reduction of the service. This is more apparent at Crosby, Formby and Ainsdale where considerably increased anti social behaviour takes place by groups of young people during the summer months.

A full report is available on request.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will continue to be met?

Yes: we will continue to deliver services in line with the equality act and ensure that key facilities are accessible by the disabled and elderly community members. We will continue to work with the police in identifying hate crime.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by Cabinet & Council?

- 1) Reorganise work schedules, but take into account that other operational aspects of the service will not take place
- 2) Ensure system is in place to identify 'hot spots' for access issues and prioritise them.
- 3) Inform public of any changes to services.
- 4) Monitor service provision.

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Transformation Programme 2011- 2014 Part C

Budget option E2.1 to review all services that are funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund.

Purpose/Summary

As Members are aware extensive consultation has been undertaken in order to provide an evidence base of the needs and views of the local communities, together with other data and information relating to the relevant service areas. This part of the report contains an option which relates to Supporting People. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the feedback on the consultation and engagement activities associated with the option to:

- E2.1 to review all services that are funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund.

This option is identified as potentially having complex and far reaching impacts either across all the community or on the most vulnerable. The option has been amended in the light of the consultation, further analysis and risk assessment are continuing. This part of the report gives Members the opportunity to carefully consider the information available at this stage.

The report contains the following Annex –

Annex A – Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council’s consultation on the option to reduce the budget for Supporting People.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to

- a) note and take into account the key messages identified from the results of the consultation
- b) give careful consideration to this information
- c) identify any further information required by Members for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need
- d) at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 give further regard to the information contained in this report and any additional information provided and determine if this proposal will be recommended for approval by Council. Such proposal to include a further period of consultation on commissioning priorities for the remaining resources and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be delivered whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts i.e. a further review. That further review to be completed by May 2012 so that it identifies the services to be ceased/de-commissioned, rationalised and resources targeted to maximise effect on the basis of those commissioning priorities. The ambition is to reduce the budget in 2012/13 by £2m and by £3m in 2013/14.

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- e) Members will be advised in June 2012, following the conclusion of the consultation and review, as to whether and how it will be possible to deliver the full-year budget saving of £3m.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal LD

This budget provides a myriad of services. In completing the further review any legislative basis for such support will need to be considered. In addition tailored equality analysis reports will need to be completed, risks and mitigating actions identified in order to allow Members to reach informed decisions.

Human Resources

There are currently no staffing implications associated with this report. A reduction in the Supporting People Admin staffing is contained in Part A of the Transformation report. Regular consultation on proposed changes will continue with the trade unions and employees will be informed of developments by their respective Service Directors. Employees within service areas are aware that their status may change subject to the outcome of these reviews.

Equality See Section 3

The Corporate Commissioning Team holds the responsibility for taking an overview on Equality Impact Assessments and assessing the impact of decisions. These will be published on the Council website.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. No Equality Implication | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

In relation to compliance with the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, Members need to make decisions in an open minded balanced way showing due regard to the impact of the recommendations being presented. Members need to have a full understanding of any risks in terms of people with protected characteristics and any mitigation that has been put in place. Equality Impact Assessments, including consultation, provide a clear process to demonstrate that Cabinet and Council have consciously shown due regard and complied with the duty.

Impact on Service Delivery:

Should this option progress there will be a reduction in the number of clients that will be able to be supported due to a reduction in units available, together with a change in the level of support available. This may have an impact on the community.

There is a related saving (E2.2), to review staffing support for the Supporting People commissioning functions, which will be progressed alongside E.2.1 and as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources. This is likely to result in a reduction in the

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number of staff directly supporting the Supporting People commissioning functions. Impact will be managed through and a more integrated commissioning approach.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

Regular and ongoing consultations have taken place with Strategic Directors, Director of Older People, Director of Commissioning, Head of Personnel, Head of Corporate Finance & ICT, Head of Legal Services and Trade Unions.

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A consultation plan was drafted by the Head of Service Commissioning and Partnerships and agreed by the consultation panel on 21st October 2011. It was agreed that the public consultation on the proposal would take place between 21st October 2011 and the 16th January 2012.

In respect of option E2.2, consultation with staff has been undertaken and some feedback received. This consultation will continue, taking into account feedback received, as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

None.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following 16th February Council 2012.

Contact Officers:

Robina Critchley, Director of Older People
0151 934 4900

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1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 This part of the report seeks to provide feedback from the consultation exercise for consideration by the Council prior to making decisions on specific change proposals which may impact upon the final 2012/13 budget.
- 1.2 Members are asked to identify any further information required for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 16th February 2012 in order to inform their recommendation to 1st March 2012 Council based on an understanding of local need.
- 1.3 Supporting People is a discretionary programme that funds housing-related support services to help vulnerable people live independently in their own accommodation or to move from temporary accommodation into a more permanent place. The programme supports the following client groups:
 - People with learning disabilities;
 - Older people with support needs;
 - People with mental health problems;
 - Young People at risk (including Care Leavers and teenage parents);
 - Homeless people with support needs (including single people, families
 - Offenders and people at risk of offending;
 - People with drug/alcohol misuse problems;
 - People with physical or sensory disabilities;
 - People at risk of domestic violence;
 - People with HIV/AIDS; and
 - Home Improvement Agency.
- 1.4 The programme funds a mixture of short-term (from a few weeks up to a maximum of two years) and long-term services, falling mainly into the following categories:
 - *Accommodation-based services* – where the support is linked to the person’s accommodation, either temporary (e.g. Homeless units; Women’s refuge etc.) or permanent (e.g. sheltered housing), and aims to provide a stable environment and extra help for vulnerable people.
 - *“Floating support” services* - where the support is provided in the person’s home and aims to support people who need help to remain independent in their home (e.g. help and advice with rent, bills, managing money, keeping to a tenancy agreement etc.); and
 - *Assistive Technology* – this is a “lifeline” community alarm system provided either as part of the accommodation (e.g. sheltered accommodation) or within someone’s own home.
- 1.5 Supporting People funded services in Sefton support in the region of 5300 people at any one time, with the short-term services having a large throughput of clients.

2. Consultation and Engagement Overview

- 2.1 The approach to consultation was agreed by the Consultation panel on 21st October 2011. A full consultation of residents, service users and interest groups was carried

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out between 21st October 2011 and 16th January 2012 and included e-Consult online questionnaires, paper questionnaires, an “easy-read” version; attending various stakeholder meetings and forums, and visits to services to assist service user participation.

- 2.2 A total of 747 completed questionnaires were returned, although 1 was so incomplete that it was not included within the analysis. The remaining 746 responses were as follows: 436 from Services Users, 203 from employees, managers or volunteers from Service Providers, and 61 from Friends/Family/Carers of Service Users, The 436 service user responses represents approximately 8.2% of the total current Supporting People service users, indicating a margin of error for service user answers of around +/- 5%.
- 2.3 Of the service users who responded to the diversity questions, 262 were female, 152 were male and 204 considered themselves to have a disability.
- 2.4 From the responses received the overwhelming majority (86.8%) do not agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced. 388 of these responses were from service users and 179 were from providers. 95 respondents did agree that the budget should be reduced, of these 71.6% stated that they thought the reduction should be between 5-10%, 22.1% stated it should be between 15-20% and the remaining responses totalling 6.3% stated a reduction of between 25-40%. Of the respondents who stated yes to a reduction in funding 38 (40.0%) were Service users and 26 (27.4%) employees, managers or volunteers with a service provider.
- 2.5 When asked to prioritise the client groups receiving support, respondents identified the highest priority Client Groups as: older people with support needs; people with physical/sensory disabilities; people with mental health problems; homeless families with support needs; and people at risk of domestic violence all of whom had essential/high priority rates over 82%. Indeed over half of the client groups currently supported by Supporting People funding were identified as essential or high priority by more than 50% of all respondents.
- 2.6 A significant number of respondents agreed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would impact on the community. 90.1% agreed or completely agreed that there would be increased pressure on social care services whilst 82.0% of respondents agreed that there would be an increase in homelessness. 91.6% of respondents claimed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would have an impact on them or somebody they know.
- 2.7 Over 70.2% of respondents stated that they did not know how services could be delivered differently to reduce costs. 164 respondents (29.8%) stated that services could be delivered differently to reduce costs. Suggestions for ways in which services might be delivered differently included suggestions relating to: greater efficiency; improved effectiveness to gain better value for money; different ways of working, including increased use of volunteers; and means-testing for services.
- 2.8 In addition to the responses to the consultation questionnaire representation has been made by a number organisations in letter format, these responses are attached within Annex A to this report.

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2.9 The full results of the consultation are contained within Annex A.

2.10 Cabinet is asked to note the consultation feedback as part of the decision making process.

3. Risk Management Overview

3.1 When considering this in principle budget option, to reduce the Supporting People budget by up to £3m, Members should be aware there will be consequences for both the threshold (eligibility criteria) and capacity (numbers of services users) of the programme, with a reduction in the number of clients that will be able to be supported and the level of support available.

3.2 There is a potential that a reduction in Supporting People funding will lead to negative impacts for the vulnerable adults supported by the funded services, including those with protected characteristics of age, disability and gender. The table below shows the range of services provided to those with protected characteristics –

Client Group	Protected Characteristic	Amount and percentage of current funding	Support units available and percentage of total*
People with Learning Disabilities	YES – DISABILITY Services specifically designed for people with disabilities	£2,043,471 29.94%	206 3.84%
Older People with Support Needs i.e. Sheltered Housing and Community Alarm Services	YES – AGE Services specifically designed for persons 60+	£1,217,385 17.84%	3025 56.43%
People with Mental Health Problems	YES – DISABILITY Services specifically designed for people with disabilities	£915,917 13.42%	183 3.41%
Young People at Risk	YES – AGE Services specifically designed for 16 – 19 year olds	£678,593 9.94%	74 1.38%
Generic	NO	£660,507 9.68%	1002 18.69%
Single Homeless with Support Needs	NO – however of the 2 of the 5 schemes under this client group are specifically for young people aged 16 – 25 which accounts for 22 of the units	£468,063 6.86%	86 1.60%
Offenders or People at Risk of Offending	NO	£235,389 3.45%	60 1.12%
Home Improvement Agency	NO – A high percentage of clients who use this service are older people	£139,406 2.04%	528 9.84%
Physical/Sensory Disabilities	YES – DISABILITY Services specifically designed for people with disabilities	£136,434 2.00%	49 0.91%
People with Substance Mis-Use Problems	NO	£112,350 1.65%	10 0.19%
Women at Risk of Domestic Violence	YES – SEX Service specifically designed for females	£99,155 1.45%	103 1.92%
Teenage Parents	YES – AGE Services specifically designed for 16 – 19 year olds	£57,952 0.85%	18 0.34%
Homeless Families	NO	£30,650	10

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Client Group	Protected Characteristic	Amount and percentage of current funding	Support units available and percentage of total*
with Support Needs		0.45%	0.19%
Young Parents	NO	£19,266 0.28%	6 0.11%
People with HIV/AIDS	YES – DISABILITY Services specifically designed for people with disabilities	£11,204 0.16%	1 0.019%

3.3 The commissioning priorities will be influenced by the initial consultation and the next phase of consultation, but for illustrative purposes only, they might include some or all of the following:

- Targeting remaining funding at the most vulnerable and those at greatest risk;
- A more integrated approach to the commissioning of services across the Council and other partners to ensure the most effective use of the total available resources;
- Reconfiguring services in order to target resources where they can be most effective;
- To minimise the impact on high cost statutory services;
- Ensuring an appropriate spread of services according to need;
- Ensuring that all targeted client groups have access to services ;
- Maximising value for money; and
- Agreeing clear and measurable outcomes for all funded services.

3.4 There are additional risks that a significant reduction in access to preventative services funded through Supporting People could increase the pressure on higher-cost statutory services, including, adult and children’s social care services and services provided to meet the Council’s statutory homelessness duties. These risks can be reduced by a more integrated approach to commissioning and the provision of early intervention and prevention services to ensure the most effective use of the total available resources. Service users with the highest needs will continue to receive services if they meet the social care eligibility criteria for adults or children’s services.

4. The Proposal /Options for Consideration

4.1 Consultation on option E2.1, to review all services that are funded by Supporting People by looking at outcomes, contractual arrangements and diversity of services that this may fund, has confirmed a number of significant risks to vulnerable people as well as the potential to increase pressure on higher-cost statutory services.

4.2 In light of the consultation to date and recognising that where services are to be discontinued/de-commissioned providers will need to undertake correct legal employment processes, it is proposed to amend the original option to the extent that, should Members approve this in principle budget option, the review of services funded by Supporting People would include a further period of consultation on commissioning priorities for the remaining resources and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be delivered whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts. That review to be completed and services ceased/de-commissioned on the basis of those commissioning priorities by the end of June 2012, to achieve an in principle full-year

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budget reduction of £3m in 2013/14 and a £2m saving in 2012/13. Members would be advised in June 2012, following the conclusion of the consultation and review, as to whether it will be possible to deliver the full-year budget saving of £3m

- 4.3 The rationale for Budget Option E.2.2, to review staffing support for the Supporting People programme was that if the Supporting People budget is reduced (E.2.1), activity and commissioning will reduce and less staff would be required. It is proposed that if Members approve option E2.1, that E2.2 remains unchanged, that consultation continues with staff, changes/reductions are implemented as part of a wider review of departmental commissioning resources but that the timescale for implementation is extended to June 2012 in accordance with the timescale and workload now proposed in respect of E2.1. This would result in a likely reduction in the 2012/13 saving achieved through E2.2 from £57,000 to £42,750.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is clear from the consultation that there is little support from respondents for a significant reduction in Supporting People funding and services. If accepted, this option does have associated risks and impacts for vulnerable people, it is likely however, that these can to some extent be mitigated by the actions identified within this report, including more co-ordinated commissioning and delivery of early intervention and prevention services.

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Part C Annex A

Responses and Analysis to Sefton Council's consultation on the option to reduce the budget for Supporting People.

(Ref: E 2.1)

Consultation Period:

21st October 2011 – 16th January 2012

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Background

Following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review and settlement the Council forecast a significant budget gap over the three years 2011-2014.

An initial package of potential budget options was approved by Cabinet, 13th October 2011, to commence consultation and engagement. In relation to these, consultation activity took place with service users, the general public, partners, key stakeholders, staff and Trade Unions. The consultation on the budget options closed on Monday 16th January 2012.

This report summarises the response for the option of reducing the budget for Supporting People.

Consultation Methodology

The methodology used followed Sefton's Public Engagement and Consultation framework and was approved by the Sefton's Engagement and Consultation panel.

A consultation plan was drafted by the Head of Service Commissioning and Partnerships and agreed by the consultation panel on 21st October 2011. It was agreed that consultation on the proposal would take place between 21st October 2011 and the 16th January 2012. The consultation was made available online and in hard copy format which included an easy read version. Forums and face-to-face consultation events with service users also took place and available notes are attached.

An email was sent to all providers and partners of the programme raising awareness of the council's budget options for 2012/13 highlighting the proposal E2.1 Review of Services – Supporting People and encouraging people to complete the questionnaire on line. A copy of the consultation was attached to the email with a request for providers to distribute and support clients in their service to take part.

Members of the supporting people team visited 32 services to raise awareness and to help clients to complete questionnaires on a one to one basis. Prior to the visit, posters were produced and distributed to scheme managers to display in communal areas to promote the visit. Notes were made of any questions raised at the visits.

Supporting People staff also attended awareness sessions/forums for Equal Voice, Ability, People First, The Parenting Board and The Learning Disabilities Partnership events. The Health and Social care forum was attended by Peter Moore and Margaret Milne on behalf of the Supporting People team.

This option was also included in the telephone survey.

Executive Summary

A total of 747 completed questionnaires both hard copy and e-consult were returned, although 1 was so incomplete that it was not included within the analysis. Of the 746 responses 203 were received from Providers of Supporting People Services 203, Services Users 436, and 61 Friends/Family/Carers of Service Users.

Of the service users who responded 262 were female and 152 were male. 204 service users considered themselves to have a disability.

From the responses received the overwhelming majority (86.8%) do not agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced. 388 of these responses were from service users and 179 were from providers.

95 respondents did agree that the budget should be reduced, of these 71.6% stated that they thought the reduction should be between 5-10%, 22.1% stated it should be between 15-20% and the

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remaining responses totalling 6.3% stated a reduction of between 25-40%. Of the respondents who stated yes to a reduction in funding 38 (40.0%) were Service users and 26 (27.4%) employees, managers or volunteers with a service provider.

When asked to prioritise the client groups receiving support, respondents identified the highest priority Client Groups as: older people with support needs; people with physical/sensory disabilities; people with mental health problems; homeless families with support needs; and people at risk of domestic violence all of whom had essential/high priority rates over 82%. Indeed over half of the client groups currently supported by Supporting People funding were identified as essential or high priority by more than 50% of all respondents.

Out of the 746 respondents a total of 539 (72.2%) said that they had either worked in or used a Supporting people service.

A significant number of respondents agreed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would impact on the community, 90.1% agreed or completely agreed that there would be increased pressure on social care services whilst 82.0% of respondents agreed that there would be an increase in homelessness.

91.6% of respondents claimed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would have an impact on them or somebody they know, with over 70% of respondents saying that they did not know how services could be delivered differently.

Of the 695 respondents who answered the question about gender 60.9% were submitted by females. Of the 655 responses to the age question 45.7% were submitted by people aged 60+, the data has also shown that 46.4% of 642 respondents have a disability.

The report provides details on each of the questions and also provides detailed comments received from respondents that provide their thoughts around:

- Why the Supporting People budget should or should not be reduced
- The impact(s) that a reduction in funding may have on communities
- Any other concerns about a reduction in funding for the Supporting People budget
- Any other thoughts about reducing costs i.e. delivery services in different ways

In addition to the responses to the consultation questionnaire representation has been made by a number organisations in letter format, these responses' are attached in appendix 2. All responses show concern that reducing the Supporting people budget would have detrimental impacts on both clients and community.

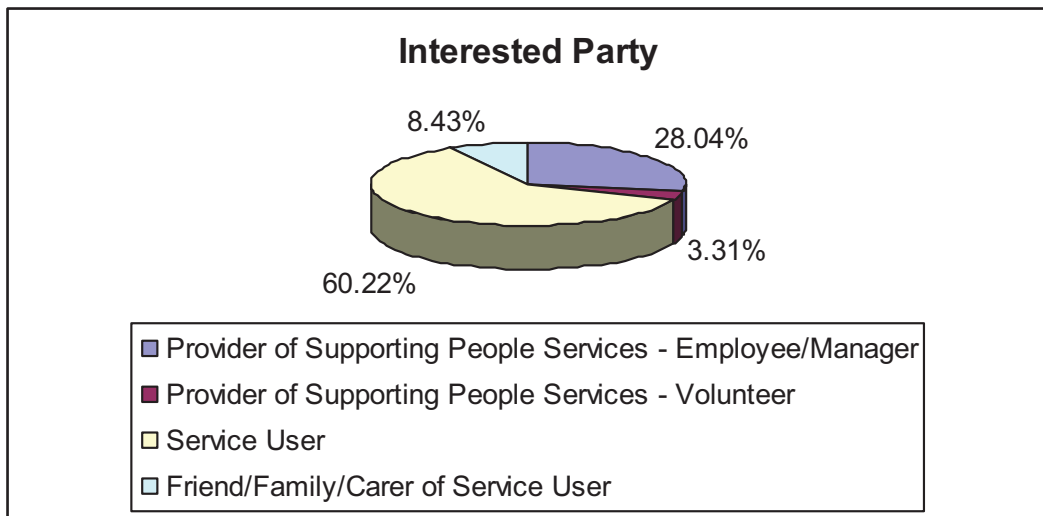
89% of respondents to the Telephone Survey disagreed with the proposal to reduce housing related support services for older people and others who have support needs. 5% agreed, 5% neither agreed or disagreed.

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The Consultation Analysis

Question 1: Why are you interested in this option?

There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 724 respondents answered this question.



Provider – 28.04% = 203 respondents

Of the 203 responses 183 entered a gender, from the 183 gender entries 73 were Male and 110 were female. Of the 183 respondents 165 entered an age, this data is shown below:

	Gender	16 - 25	26 - 59	60+
Male	73	2	44	21
Female	110	2	67	29

Of the 203 respondents 35 stated a disability, 1 respondent did not enter a gender.

	Disability	Disability All
Male	20	35
Female	14	
Total Answers	34	

Service User – 60.22% - 436 respondents

Of the 436 interested responses 414 entered a gender, from the 414 gender entries 152 were Male and 262 were female. Of the 414 respondents 394 entered an age, this data is shown below:

	Gender	16 - 25	26 - 59	60+
Male	152	18	55	75
Female	262	22	50	174

Of the 436 respondents 210 stated a disability, 6 respondents did not enter a gender.

	Disability	Disability All
Male	86	210
Female	118	
Total Answers	204	

Friend/Family/Carer of Service User – 8.43% - 61 respondents

Of the 61 interested responses 53 entered a gender, from the 53 gender entries 26 were Male and 27 were female. Of the 53 respondents 49 entered an age, this data is shown below:

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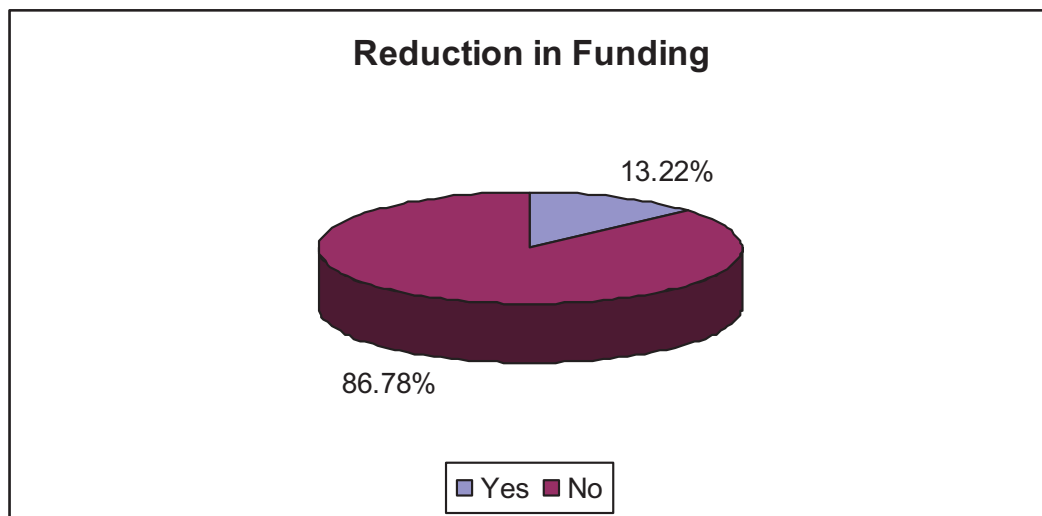
	Gender	16 - 25	26 - 59	60+
Male	26	2	15	8
Female	27	2	11	11

Of the 61 respondents 23 stated a disability, 2 respondents did not enter a gender.

	Disability	Disability All
Male	11	23
Female	10	
Total Answers	21	

Question 2: Do you agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced? – All data

There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 630 respondents stated that the funding should not be reduced with 95 stating that a reduction in funding should be made.



Question 2: Do you agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced? – “No” data

Of the 746 questionnaires submitted 630 people responded to this question, *668 options were identified; the following table outlines the “No” option by gender.

Gender – Number of people who responded “NO”	630	Female	Male	No Data
		369	218	43
Provider of Supporting People Services - Employee/Manager	179	100	62	17
Provider of Supporting People Services - Volunteer	16	6	6	4
Service User	388	237	131	20
Friend/Family/Carer of Service User	48	25	15	8
Not Stated	37	16	16	5
Total Options identified	*668			

*Some of the respondents identified more than one option

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Of the 746 questionnaires submitted 630 people responded to this question, *668 options were identified; the following table outlines the “**No**” option by Age group.

Age - Number of No answers - 630		Age Range		
		16 - 25	26 – 59	60+
Provider of Supporting People Services - Employee/Manager	179	5	96	48
Provider of Supporting People Services - Volunteer	16	0	10	2
Service User	388	39	89	225
Friend/Family/Carer of Service User	48	4	18	16
Not Stated	37	2	10	18
Total Options identified	*668			

*Some of the respondents identified more than one option

Of the 630 respondents, 36.83 % (232) of respondents considered themselves to be disabled.

Question 2: Do you agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced? – Yes data

Do you agree that the Supporting People budget should be reduced? – % of yes respondents by reduction %

The following table details the 95 respondents who requested a reduction and what reduction they felt would be viable, of the respondents that answered yes to a reduction 71.58% felt that a reduction of between 5% - 10% was most suitable.

Budget to be reduced by:	Number of respondents	Male	Female	Not Stated
5%	48	26	19	3
10%	20	11	7	2
15%	14	4	10	0
20%	7	3	4	0
25%	1	1	0	0
30%	1	0	1	0
35%	2	0	2	0
40%	2	1	1	0
TOTAL	95	46	44	5

26 (27.37%) of the 95 respondents who stated yes to a reduction in funding were Provider of Supporting People Services - Employee/Manager, whilst 38 (40.00%) of the respondents were Service users.

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Question 3: Indicate how you would prioritise these services by ticking the relevant boxes

The table below shows the responses for the question – please indicate how **you** would prioritise these services.

A high percentage of respondents, 92.05% indicated that the client group of Older People with Support Needs was either an essential or high priority service, whilst People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities and People with Mental Health Problems 84.80% and 83.95% respectively were also regarded as essential to high priority.

=> Column Option	Essential			High Priority			Medium Priority			Low Priority			Not a Priority			Total	
Answer Option	Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %
		col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		Response %
Older People with Support Needs	553	14.26	75.75	119	5.15	16.30	31	1.50	4.25	14	1.70	1.92	13	2.32	1.78	730	7.57
Homeless Families with Support Needs	364	9.39	51.70	227	9.83	32.24	89	4.30	12.64	10	1.21	1.42	14	2.50	1.99	704	7.30
People with HIV/AIDS	166	4.28	24.70	162	7.02	24.11	214	10.35	31.85	74	8.97	11.01	56	10.00	8.33	672	6.97
People with Mental Health Problems	382	9.85	54.26	209	9.05	29.69	81	3.92	11.51	19	2.30	2.70	13	2.32	1.85	704	7.30
People with Substance/Alcohol Mis-Use Problems	191	4.93	27.36	129	5.59	18.48	184	8.90	26.36	113	13.70	16.19	81	14.46	11.60	698	7.24
Teenage Parents	161	4.15	23.30	138	5.98	19.97	230	11.12	33.29	100	12.12	14.47	62	11.07	8.97	691	7.17
Young Parents	149	3.84	22.07	132	5.72	19.56	240	11.61	35.56	96	11.64	14.22	58	10.36	8.59	675	7.00
Home Improvement Agency	173	4.46	25.52	115	4.98	16.96	195	9.43	28.76	105	12.73	15.49	90	16.07	13.27	678	7.03
Single Homeless with Support Needs	273	7.04	39.06	197	8.53	28.18	173	8.37	24.75	34	4.12	4.86	22	3.93	3.15	699	7.25
Offenders or People at Risk of Offending	181	4.67	26.27	146	6.32	21.19	173	8.37	25.11	113	13.70	16.40	76	13.57	11.03	689	7.15
People with Learning Difficulties	346	8.92	49.29	199	8.62	28.35	112	5.42	15.95	30	3.64	4.27	15	2.68	2.14	702	7.28
People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities	396	10.21	56.25	201	8.71	28.55	75	3.63	10.65	24	2.91	3.41	8	1.43	1.14	704	7.30
Generic	168	4.33	28.33	135	5.85	22.77	184	8.90	31.03	71	8.61	11.97	35	6.25	5.90	593	6.15
People at Risk of Domestic Violence	375	9.67	53.50	200	8.66	28.53	87	4.21	12.41	22	2.67	3.14	17	3.04	2.43	701	7.27
Total	3878	40.23		2309	23.95		2068	21.45		825	8.56		560	5.81		9640	100.00

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The results in the table below are data sorted from the table above in descending percentage order of Essential – High priority service provision. The medium to low columns reflect the results of the corresponding service provision.

Client Group	Essential - High	Medium	Low - No Priority
Older People with Support Needs	92.05%	4.25%	3.70%
People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities	84.80%	10.65%	4.55%
People with Mental Health Problems	83.95%	11.51%	4.55%
Homeless Families with Support Needs	83.94%	12.64%	3.41%
People at Risk of Domestic Violence	82.03%	12.41%	5.57%
People with Learning Difficulties	77.64%	15.95%	6.41%
Single Homeless with Support Needs	67.24%	24.75%	8.01%
Generic	51.10%	31.03%	17.87%
People with HIV/AIDS	48.81%	31.85%	19.34%
Offenders or People at Risk of Offending	47.46%	25.11%	27.43%
People with Substance/Alcohol Mis-Use Problems	45.84%	26.36%	27.79%
Teenage Parents	43.27%	33.29%	23.44%
Home Improvement Agency	42.48%	28.76%	28.76%
Young Parents	41.63%	35.56%	22.81%

The client group with the highest essential – high percentage, Older People with Support Needs had 672 responses:

- 402 Females answered (59.82%) of which 222 were from the 60+ age range (33.04%).
- 232 Males answered (34.52) of which 105 were from the 60+ age range (15.63%)
- 245 (36.45) respondents considered themselves to be disabled who prioritised the Older people Services.

The following table outlines responses to essential – high service provision by gender and age group response:

	Female	Male	16 - 25	26 - 59	60+	Age Not Stated
Older People with Support Needs	402	232	42	222	327	43
Homeless Families with Support Needs	350	201	44	222	250	35
People with HIV/AIDS	198	110	32	137	120	19
People with Mental Health Problems	346	211	45	214	263	35
People with Substance/Alcohol Mis-Use Problems	174	125	38	174	74	13
Teenage Parents	165	113	44	141	79	14
Young Parents	151	111	43	135	73	11
Home Improvement Agency	169	109	20	97	142	19
Single Homeless with Support Needs	275	165	46	196	174	24
Offenders or People at Risk of Offending	183	121	32	165	90	17
People with Learning Difficulties	324	186	45	196	236	33
People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities	353	208	45	211	274	31
Generic	188	97	19	100	146	20
People at Risk of Domestic Violence	338	199	47	211	246	33

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Question 4: Have you or someone you know worked with/used one of the above support services?

Answer Option	Response #
Yes	539
No	155

Of the 539 respondents who indicated yes:

- 323 of the respondents to this question were female
- 186 of the respondents to this question were Male
- 198 of the respondents considered themselves to be disabled.

If you ticked Yes, please state which support service it is/was:-
See comments Appendix 1

Of the 746 respondents 506 gave comments for this question. A categorised summary of those support services contained within their comments is contained in the table below.

Support Service	Response #
Affordable Warmth	5
Domestic Violence	1
Generic	3
Home Improvement Agency	4
Homelessness/Hostel	21
Mental Health	49
Miscellaneous	65
Multiple Services used	129
Not Recorded	240
Offender Services (Including Offending or risk of offending)	15
Older People with Support Needs	162
People with Learning Difficulties	20
Physical Difficulties	5
Substance/Alcohol Misuse	10
Supported Lodgings/Housing	14
Teenage Parent	1
Young People	2
Total	746

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Question 5: Would you agree that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults in Sefton would impact on your community in any of the following ways?

A significant number of respondents agreed that a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults would impact on the community, 90.09% agreed that there would be increased pressure on social care services whilst 81.96% of respondents agreed that there would be an increase in homelessness.

=> Column Option	Completely Agree			Agree			Agree Nor Disagree			Disagree			Completely Disagree			Total		
	Answer Option	Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %		Response #	Response %
			col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		col %	row %		
No development of new support services	436	14.09	64.02	126	14.77	18.50	63	15.25	9.25	35	17.33	5.14	21	13.46	3.08	681	14.43	
Less choice of support services	435	14.05	64.06	145	17.00	21.35	49	11.86	7.22	25	12.38	3.68	25	16.03	3.68	679	14.39	
Lower quality services	469	15.15	69.38	108	12.66	15.98	46	11.14	6.80	28	13.86	4.14	25	16.03	3.70	676	14.33	
Increased Crime	420	13.57	62.87	94	11.02	14.07	93	22.52	13.92	42	20.79	6.29	19	12.18	2.84	668	14.16	
Less support for victims of domestic violence	408	13.18	61.08	148	17.35	22.16	66	15.98	9.88	25	12.38	3.74	21	13.46	3.14	668	14.16	
Increase in homelessness	420	13.57	62.59	130	15.24	19.37	68	16.46	10.13	32	15.84	4.77	21	13.46	3.13	671	14.22	
Increase pressure on social care services	507	16.38	75.00	102	11.96	15.09	28	6.78	4.14	15	7.43	2.22	24	15.38	3.55	676	14.33	
Total	3095	65.59		853	18.08		413	8.75		202	4.28		156	3.31		4719	100.00	

A total of 423 females responded to this question and 299 stated that increased pressure on social care services was their greatest concern (70.69%)

A total of 272 males responded to this question and 181 stated that increased pressure on social care services was their greatest concern (66.54%)

Question 6: Would a reduction in funding for services supporting vulnerable adults in Sefton have any impact on you, your service or somebody you know?

Answer Option	Male	Female	Response #
Yes	202	356	591
No	21	29	54
Blank	49	38	87

There 190 individual comments made by the respondents to this question details of which are in appendix 2

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Question 7: Are there any ways you think that services supporting vulnerable adults in Sefton can be delivered differently to reduce costs?

Answer Option	Male	Female	Response #
Yes	57	94	164
No	139	231	387
Blank	76	98	174

If you ticked Yes, please state which support service it is/was:-

There 158 individual comments made by the respondents to this question details of which are in appendix 2

Other Responses (see Appendix 1)

Notes from all visits to Supporting People Services.

Margaret Lambert - Facilitator, Sefton Older Persons Forum

Greta Morphet - Chief Executive Officer, Light for Life.

Roy Williams – Chief Executive Officer, One Vision Housing

Chris Allen – Interim Chair, Supporting People Providers Forum, Chief Executive Officer, Forum Housing

Alternative Options Proposals

None

Monitoring Information

Respondents by Post Code

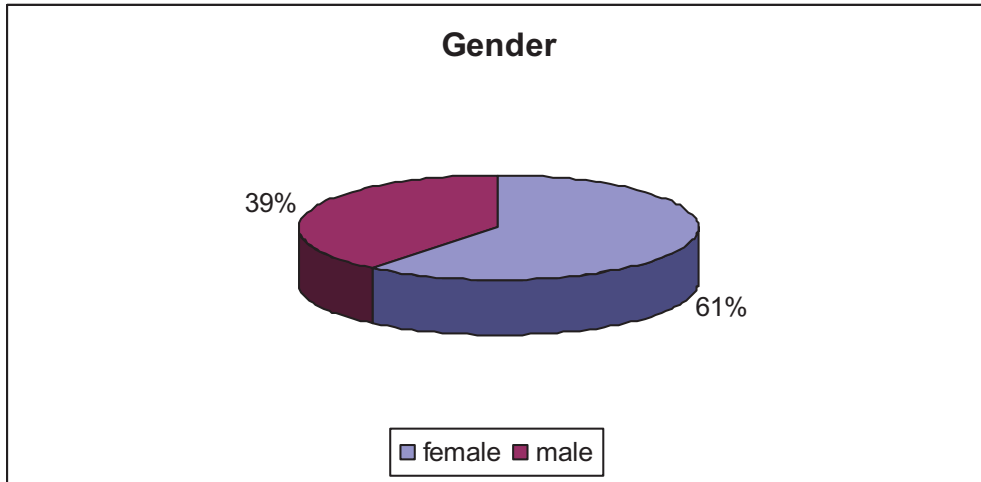
There were 746 questionnaires received in total, the following table indicates the response of clients from the areas where they reside.

Post Code	Number
L9	2
L10	0
L20	166
L21	86
L22	66
L23	48
L29	0
L30	42
L31	37
L37	9
L38	2
PR8	72
PR9	69

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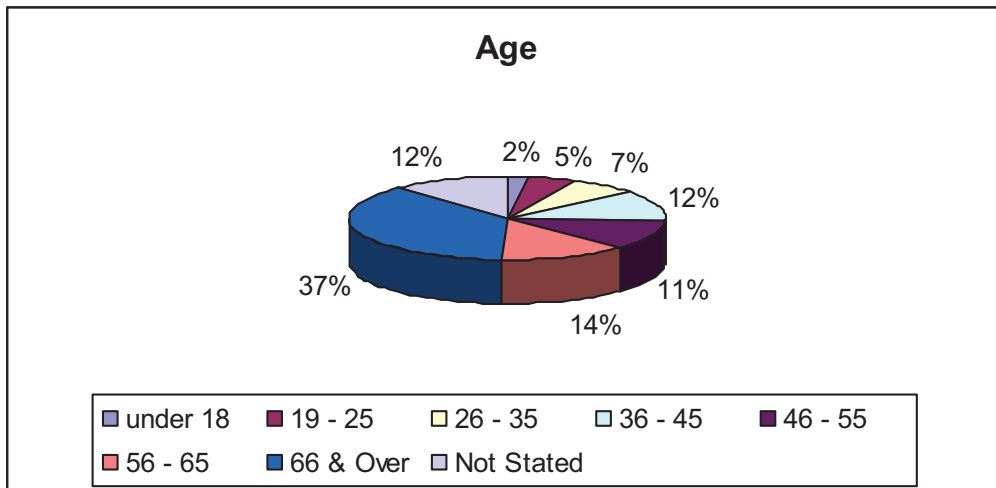
Gender

There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 695 respondents answered the gender question, 423 Females and 272 males.



Age

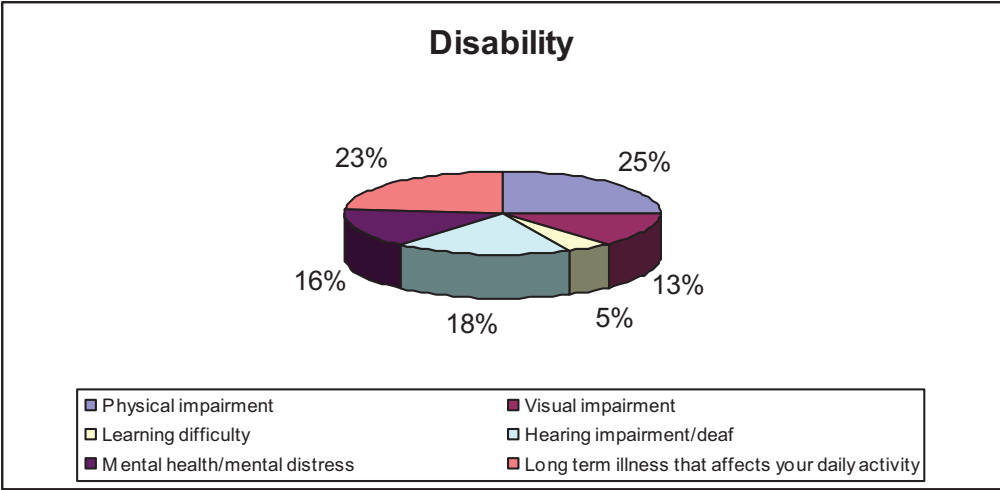
There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 655 respondents answered the age question.



Disability

There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 642 disabilities were identified from the questionnaires.

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Ethnicity

There were 746 questionnaires received in total, 680 respondents answered the ethnic origin question, 16 ethnicities were identified within the responses.

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage
Black – African	1	0.15%
Black - Caribbean	1	0.15%
Chinese - Chinese	3	0.44%
Chinese - Other Chinese Background	1	0.15%
Mixed Ethnic Background - Asian & White	2	0.29%
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black African & White	1	0.15%
Mixed Ethnic Background - Black Caribbean & White	1	0.15%
Mixed Ethnic Background - Other Mixed Ethnic Background	1	0.15%
White – British	335	49.26%
White – English	303	44.56%
White – Irish	16	2.35%
White - Scottish	7	1.03%
White – Welsh	1	0.15%
White – Polish	2	0.29%
White – Latvian	1	0.15%
White - Other White Background	4	0.59%

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Appendix 1 – Detailed Responses

COMMENTS

Question 2 Comments

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

REDUCTION IN THE BUDGET WILL RESULT IN A CUT IN THE SERVICE AT PRESENT FOR ELDER VULNERABLE PEOPLE
PEOPLE NEED THE SUPPORT TO CONTINUE SO THE SERVICE DOESNT SUFFER
SERVICES ARE NEEDED
IF ITS CUT IT COULD MEAN THAT MY SERVICE CLOSES AND I WOULD BE HOMELESS. MIGHT END UP IN JAIL.HAVE BEEN CLEAN FOR 7 MONTH DUE TO THIS SERVICE
COULD MEAN US BEING HOMELESS IF OUR SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IS CLOSED DOWN.
OUR CLIENTS WOULD BE HOMELESS & I COULD END UP WITHOUT A JOB.
BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD END UP WITH NOWHERE TO LIVE
WILL LEAD TO PROBLEMS LATER ON
ELDERLY PEOPLE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE
ELDERLY PEOPLE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT THEY SE
MY LIFESTYLE WILL NOT BE AS GOOD
IMPACT ON MY LIFESTYLE
IMPACT ON LIFESTYLE
MY LIFESTYLE WILL NOT BE AS GOOD
IT MAY AFFECT MY LIFESTYLE
INPUTTER MESSAGE: THE CLIENT RESPONDED AS HAVING TWO OPTIONS AND IF THERE WAS TO BE A REDUCTION IT WOULD BE 5% - THE TENANTS IN THIS SCHEME ARE ALL LOW INCOME
I THINK THAT THIS IS THE LAST SERVICE THAT SHOULD BE CUT, IT GIVES SUPPORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN SOCIETY, AND WILL IN THE LONG TERM COST A LOT MORE IF THESE SERVICES ARE STOPPED.
NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT AT THE MOMENT
COSTS ARE HIGH ENOUGH, WITH RENT COUNCIL TAX ETC.
IT WILL AFFECT PEOPLES CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE
PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED CUTS
NO FURTHER CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OVER 60s WOULD SUFFER
OVER 60s QUALITY OF LIFE WOULD SUFFER
REDUCTION IN QUALITY OF FUTURE LIFE
PERCEIVED LACK OF FUTURE QUALITY OF LIFE
LACK OF CONFIDENCE RE LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR THE FUTURE
NOT A SERVICE USER YET, BUT IF WE HAVE NO REAL CHOICE, PLEASE LET IT BE SMALLEST
NO WERE TO LIVE
IT IS HIGH ENOUGH
IT SHOULD BE INCREASED
NO REASON TO REDUCE IT
10% IS A VIABLE OPTION AS THIS IS AN EQUATABLE VALUE TO THE CONTROLABLE BUDGET
NO MONEY SHOULD BE REDUCED AS ALL SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL
BECAUSE IT'S NEEDED
IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE
BECAUSE IT IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE VITAL TO PEOPLE AT RISK FROM DANGER
BECAUSE IT HELPS ME TO KEEP MY HOME LIFE IN THE CUSTOM THAT I AM USED. IF IT IS REDUCED I MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP UP MY STANDARD OF LIVING.
NOT ENOUGH IS PROVIDED YOU NO
TO MAINTAIN EXISTING LIFE

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

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I THINK THAT MONEY FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE
IT HELPS WITH MY RENT AND SAVES ON SOME OF THE CHARGES
TO MAINTAIN MY STANDARD OF LIVING
SUPPORT IS NEEDED BY ALL
MY LIFESTYLE WOULD NOT BE AS GOOD AS IT NOW.
PENSIONERS IN THE UK ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE EUROPE. YOU CANNOT LIVE ON YOUR
PENSION LIVING STANDARDS AMONG OAPS ARE POOR - YOU EXIST
PEOPLE NEED SUPPORT
EVERYONE NEEDS SUPPORT
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY VULNERABLE ADULTS & CHILDREN DEPENDING ON THE SERVICES
PROVIDED. IF THERE IS A REDUCTION IT IS A QUESTION OF THE DEPENDENTS BEING PUT ASIDE &
BECOMING MORE DEPENDENT.
BECAUSE THESE PROVIDERS ARE IN PLACE FOR A REASON, OTHERWISE THE COMMUNITY GETS
AFFECTED, IF THERE NO HOSTELS.
BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED SERVICE
BECAUSE THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICES WOULD CHANGE
BECAUSE IT HELPS PEOPLE
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN IS ALREADY FALLING SHORT WITHOUT A 44%
CUT
THEY SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER FOR THIS
SUPPORTING PEOPLE OFFERS PEOPLE A LIFELINE, VALUABLE SUPPORT NEEDED TO LIVE
INDEPENDENTLY, TO BUILD SKILLS AND IT ALSO PROMOTES SOCIAL INCLUSION.
BECAUSE IT IS A NECESSARY AND WORTHWHILE SERVICE
SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN SEFTON MUST BE MAIN PRIORITY, SO SHOULD BE 100% FINANCE
TOWARDS THIS SERVICE
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD QUITE A LOT OF FUNDING INT HE PAST, WE STILL NEED FUNDING FOR
TUTORS. IT IS OF THE UPMOST IMPORTANCE OUR CLIENTS HAVE A GOAL IN LIFE AND WITH
LIMITED OPTIONS THIS QUEST WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
FUNDING ESSENTIAL TO KEEP SERVICE, BE BACK ON STREETS WITHOUT IT
IT IS ESSENTIAL FUNDING. THERE WILL BE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR ALL SERVICES IF
SUPPORT SERVICES ARE CUT.
I HAVE DEMENTIA AND NEED EXTRA HELP. I.E FOR TRANSPORT TO MY DAY CENTRE
BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL & PHYSICAL DISABILITIES WHO NEED THAT EXTRA
HELP
EVERYONE BECOMES OLD & THEREFORE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEEDS BECAUSE THEY OLDER
SHOULD NOY HAVE FUNDING REDUCED THEY HAVE PAID IN ALL THEIR LIVES AND ARE ENTITLED
TO HELP GROUPS THAT HAVE NOT PAID INTO THE POT SHOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING OUT
IT WILL IMPACT ON MY HEALTH
IT WILL IMPACT ON MY HEALTH
IT WILL IMPACT ON MY HEALTH
THE CURRENT BUDGET PROVIDED TO THIS DOES NOT REFLECT THE VALUE OF SUPPORT
PROVIDED. A REDUCTION WOULD ONLY HAMPER FURTHER SUPPORT
COMMUNITY BASED HELP IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AS IT ENABLES THEM TO MAINTAIN
A SECURE LIFESTYLE. SUPPORTED LODGINGS HAS HELPED THE YP I CARE FOR CONTINUE IN
STUDIES ETC
SUPPORTING PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE CUT AS THEY ARE OUR
FUTURE GENERATION AND AS SUCH NEED A GOOD SECURE GROUNDING
BECAUSE IT IS A VERY A INPORTANT SERVICE
AMOUNT PAID FOR HOUSEHOLDER SUPPORT REQUIRED/GIVEN IS NOT REFLECTIVE OF
TIME/EFFORT SPENT ALREADY. A REDUCTION WOULD MEAN LESS TIME/EFFORT AND SUPPORT.
THIS WOULD BE AT THE DETRIMENT OF SUPPORT REQUIRED. THE VALUE CURRENTLY PAID IS
NOT EXCESSIVE AND WOULD ALMOST BE DEEMED TO BE UNDERVALUED.
I WOULD BY PREPARED TO TRY AND MAKE SAVINGS IF POSSIBLE

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

THE YP'S ARE OUT CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE. THEY DESERVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO
RECEIVE LOVE, BE GIVEN A STABLE, HAPPY ENVIRONMENT AND AN EDUCATION. WITHOUT
STABILITY, THE CHANCES OF THE YP HAVING A BRILLIAN FUTURE ARE DRAMATICALLY REDUCED.
PEOPLE WHO USE THESE SERVICES USE THEM FOR A REASON. THEY NEED IT! CUTS TO ADMIN
I.E. STATIONERY ETC CAN BE LOOKED AT BUT CUTTING STAFF AND PEOPLE ON THE GROUND
WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL USERS AND THE SUPPORT NEEDED BY CARERS ETC.

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THE SUPPORT PEOPLE SERVICE IS A MUCH NEEDED SERVICE, IN PARTICULAR THE YOUNG PERSONS SUPPORTED LODGINGS. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS SERVICE.

BECAUSE YOU KEEP TAKING FROM THE YOUTH THEN THEY WILL END UP IN THE PLACE WE DON'T WANT THEM! THEY NEED SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE:- I DO UNDERSTAND THAT COSTS ARE BEING MADE EVERYWHERE, BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT

IT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE TO GO ON FURTHER EDUCATION AND WITHOUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO TRY FIND JOB

THIS WILL AFFECT NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS AVAILABLE

BECAUSE IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT SERVICE

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET IS CRUCIAL TO PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THOSE MOST UNRELIABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

THIS IS A NECESSARY BUDGET THAT SUPPORT END PROTECTS AND NATURES YOUNG PEOPLE, WHOM ALOT IN MY EXPERIENCE OF (16 YRS) WOULD COST THE GOVERNMENT SO MUCH MORE MONEY IN THE FUTURE

THE MONEY IS USEFUL FOR MANY REASONS FOR EXAMPLE HELPS WITH TRAVEL, AND TO STAY IN FULL TIME EDUCATION WHICH WILL BENEFIT IN THE LONG RUN

I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO COLLEGE. T WOULDNT HAVE THE SUPPORT I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE.

IF THE CUTS HAPPEND YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD REDUCE THEMSELVES TO MORE CRIME, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND THERE WILL BE MORE PROBLEMS ON THE STREET

BECAUSE SUPPORTED LODGINGS GIVES A HOME TO THOSE WITHOUT THE THAT CAN NOT LIVE ALONE WITH A BUDGET CUT LESS PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO BE ACCOMODATED

LIMITS PEOPLE IN NEED OF A SERVICE

BECAUSE VERY MANY PEOPLE RELY ON IT. PERHAPS COUNCILLORS COULD CUT DOWN ON THEIR CIVIC RECEPTIONS AND OTHER PERKS IF THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT SAVING MONEY

OLDER PEOPLE NEED HELP AT HOME

SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE SERVICE TO NEEDY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY EVERY PENNY IS PUT TO GOOD VALUE

A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE SUPPORT, RELY ON THIS SERVICE ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LIVE IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION AND (ARE VULNERABLE). IF WE DID NOT HAVE THIS SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY FROM OUR (SCHEME MANAGER) THEN THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE FOR LOTS OF US WOULD BE TO MOVE INTO (CARE HOMES) LOSE OUR INDEPENDENCE, AND OF COURSE (COST MUCH MUCH MORE)

I CANNOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION

BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE TO PAY MORE WITH MY RENT AND I CAN'T AFFORD IT OR LOSE THE SERVICE PROVIDED

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH BUDGET FOR THIS SERVICE AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME

IT IS A VERY VALUABLE SERVICE TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN GOING INTO ADULTHOOD AND SOME ADULTS SEE THIS A THEIR FULL TIME JOB. COMPARE THIS BUDGET TO CHILDRENS HOMES AND INDEPENDENT LIVING!!!

I HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD FOR MY OLD AGE. I GAVE UP MY HOME AND LIVED IN A HOSTEL IN LONDON BECAUSE THAT S WHERE I COULD WORK. I BELIEVED THIS WAS A FREE COUNTRY WHERE I COULD CHOOSE TO WHOM I GAVE MY MONEY. IT SEEMS IT IS NOT.

THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET IS DIRECTED TOWARD THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE CUTS NEED TO BE BORN BY THOSE WHO CAN MOST AFFORD IT NOT THE LEAST ABLE TO.

TIMES ARE HARD FOR LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE AT THE MOMENT AND THEY NEED HELP AND SUPPORT

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

BECAUSE YOU WOULD BE CUTTING DOWN ON VITAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

BECAUSE YOU WOULD BE CUTTING DOWN ON VITAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

SERVICE USER NEEDS SUPPORT. IF SUPPORT IS REDUCED IT WILL IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES EG HOSPITALS GP'S

SERVICE USER NEEDS SUPPORT, IF SUPPORT IS REDUCED IT WILL IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICESD E.G. HOSPITALS, GPS ETC

PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITHOUT THE HELP OF SUPPORT WORKER

THE SERVICE IS A TREMENDOUS HELP TO ALL WHO ATTEND, ALSO HOME VISITS ARE A BRILLIANT HELP IN TIMES OF NEED

THERE ARE MANY VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO DO NOT HAVE A VOICE OR WHO'S VOICES ARE NOT EXERCISED DUE TO A MIND FIELD OF BUREACY AND RED TAPE

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BECAUSE IT IS AN IMPORTANT SERVICE AND THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE IS IMPORTANT AND IS USED FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT
IT IS A RELATIVELY LOW COST SERVICE WHICH FILLS THE GAP THAT STATUTORY SERVICES DON'T FILL. INDIVIDUAL IMPACT VERY HIGH
SUPPORTING PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL FOR PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED HELP, NOT PEOPLE WHO BRING PROBLEMS ON THEMSELVES
SOME PEOPLE NEED SUPPORT
IT IS FALSE ECONOMY TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM THE MOST NEEDY IN SOCIETY.
REDUCTIONS IN THIS SUPPORT WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN INCREASES IN DEMAND IN OTHER AREAS - E.G. HEALTHCARE, EMERGENCY SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS, ASB ETC.
I BELIEVE THESE TYPES OF SERVICES ARE ALREADY DONE AT THE BARE MINIMUM AND THAT THERE MUST BE OTHER BUDGETS WHICH SHOULD BE LOOKED AT FIRST.
IT WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE USERS AND OVH SERVICES AND LEAD TO LOSS OF JOBS
WE NEED ALL THE MONEY WE CAN GET AS WE GET OLDER WE NEED HELP MORE & MORE VITAL SERVICES
THESE ARE ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND WITHOUT THEM MANY OF THE SERVICE USERS WILL CAUSE OTHER PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY - THEY NEED THE SUPPORT
BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING A LOT OF GOOD, TO EVERYONE THEY HELP
SUPPORTING PEOPLE SUPPORT BUDGET SHOULD REMAIN INTACT FOR THOSE WHO IT APPLIES TO. NO CUTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SERVICES WHICH PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED TO BE USED TO. SOME AREAS COULD BE CUT BACK BUT MOST ARE VITAL
OLD AND INFIRM PEOPLE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT THEY CAN GET
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
WORKED ALL MY LIFE NOW I NEED A LITTLE BACK TO MAINTAIN MY INDEPENDENCE
MY PARENTS NEED SUPPORT TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY
OLD PEOPLE NEED THIS SUPPORT THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SUBSIDISE THIS GET THE MONEY FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE IE BANKERS
BUDGET SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED AS NATURAL REDUCTION IS ALREADY OCCURRING. DUE TO REDUCTION IN STAFF AND INCREASE IN COSTS OF MATERIALS
ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COUNCIL MUST MAKE SPENDING CUTS, THIS QUESTION CANNOT BE ANSWERED UNLESS IT IS KNOWN HOW SUCH PERCENTAGE CUTS WOULD AFFECT SPECIFIC SERVICES
IT WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT SERVICE USERS
BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN THE HOMES SAVES IN THE LONG RUN. I.E PREVENTING OLDER PEOPLE GOING INTO CARE/HOSPITAL. VULNERABLE PEOPLE SUSTAINING TENANCIES.
NO INFORMED ENOUGH TO FEEL ABLE TO GIVE A DECISION
LOSS OF JOBS
THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE. WE NEED THIS SERVICE.
WE NEED THE SUPPORT
IT WILL STOP CARE TO PEOPLE THAT NEED IT
I HAVE A MENTAL PROBLEM AND NEED A LOT OF SUPPORT

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

WE ALL NEED SUPPORT

ZERO. WE NEED THE SERVICE

WE NEED THE SERVICE

WE NEED THE SERVICE

IT WILL AFFECT STANDARDS OF LIFE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE

VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL BE AT MORE RISK THAN EVER

DISABLED PEOPLE NEED THE HELP AND THE ELDERLY

THE SERVICES PROVIDED ARE ESSENTIAL AND ANY REDUCTION IN FUNDING WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO SERVICE USERS

I CONSIDER THE SERVICE ESSENTIAL, WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET

AS AN OLDER PERSON, WITH SUPPORT NEEDS. I FIND THE WEEKLY VISIT OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN. MR BRIAN CHURCHILL, ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL BRIAN IS A LIFELINE FOR ME, AS I LIVE ALONE. HE IS ALWAYS HELPFUL AND PROFESSIONAL AND VITAL FOR ME.

PREVENTS MORE EXPENSIVE OPTIONS DOWN THE LINE

I THINK THEY DO A BRILLIANT JOB TOWARDS TENANTS

THE OLDER PEOPLE IN THE BUNGALLOS NEED THE WARDEN WE HAVE ON A PERMANENT BASIS PLEASE CONSIDER THIS BEFORE YOU TAKE ACTION

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BECAUSE I NEED THE SUPPORT
BECAUSE THEY WORK HARD TO SERVE OTHER PEOPLE
BECAUSE THEY WORK HARD TO SERVE OTHER PEOPLE
CUTS TO THIS BUDGET WILL MEAN A GREAT DEAL OF HARDSHIP AND MISERY FOR MANY OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN SEFTON. THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGETS ALLOW PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENT AND FULFILLED LIVES. I BELIEVE SHORT TERM CUTS IN THIS AREA WILL LEAD TO GREATER EXPENDITURE ELSEWHERE, PROVING TO BE A FALSE ECONOMY. I ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS NO REALISTIC AND VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR PROVIDING THESE SERVICES AND ONCE CUT WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO RECOVER SHOULD THE BUDGET SITUATION IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT AND ESPECIALLY IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE THIS WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE OVERALL EFFECT ON CARE
THE INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS WITH THE MOST NEEDS ARE BEING PLUNDERED BY THIS AUTHORITY VIA THE GOVT. THE LEAST ABLE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF ACTUAL CUTS AND IMMEDIATE AND LONG TERM SHORTCOMINGS. AND MANY HAVE NEEDS THAT CAN SIMPLY BE CATORGARISED INTO THE USED BOXES
WE ARE PAYING FOR AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE
WE ARE BEING IN TO MORE HARDSHIP
BECAUSE IT COULD CAUSE MORE HARDSHIP
AS A PENSIONER I FEEL THAT SUPPORT IS NEEDED, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLEY WITH NO FAMILY SUPPORT
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF I THINK WHEN EVERYTHING DONE WHY ALTER IT
SCHEME MANAGERS ESSENTIAL
WITHOUT JEANETTE SCHEME WOULDN'T BE THE SAME L GRIFFIN
WE NEED OUR OUR SCHEME MANAGER
BECAUSE WE NEED THEM
WUD HAVE MORE HARDSHIPS
THINGS ARE VERY HARD AS IT IS
NOT A GOOD IDEA. PEOPLE HAVE A HARD TIME ALREADY. IT WOULD CORSE MORE HARDSHIP. THIS BUDGET IS VITAL IN SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF SEFTON AND PROVIDES A LIFE LINE FOR MANY PEOPLE
BECAUSE A LOT OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER IF THEY DON'T GET HELP
NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT TO DATE
SUPPORTING PEOPLE DELIVERS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES
I THINK THEY NEED MORE MONEY NOT LESS
CANNOT SURVIVE MORE CUTS

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

SERVICES ARE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO ENGAGE CURRENTLY. AS AN AGED PERSON I ANTICIPATE MY NEEDS TO GROW, NOT LESSEN. REDUCED PROVISION WOULD MAKE THE END OF MY LIFE MORE DIFFICULT AS WELL AS THAT OF THE MANY OTHERS IN MY SITUATION. ALL OF US WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO SERVICES IN OUR LIFE.
BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SCALE OF SUCH CUTS THEY HAVE DONE THERE BIT NOW DO YOURS
ON A STRICT BUDGET, I'M LUCKY IF I BUY CLOTHES ONCE A YEAR. ANY REDUCTION MEANS LESS FOOD.
BEFORE YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT REDUCING THE SERVICE SUPPORTING PEOPLE, JUST THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON THE OLDER PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON THIS SERVICE
PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION ARE MAINLY ELDERLEY AND THEY FEEL LESS VUNRABLE KNOWING SOMEONE IS HERE TO HELP IF THEY ARE NEEDED
YOU WOULD FIND MORE VULNERABLE PEOPLE OUT ON THE STREET WITH NO HELP & HAVE HAVE FOUND AS I HAVE GOT OLDER NEEDING SUPPORT THIS HAS KEPT ME INDEPENDENT (INDEPENDENT)
AT THIS TIME OF LOW ESTEEM PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE LOST EVERYING BETWEEN SAVINGS, STOCK MARKET AND AGENCIES? AND FEEL THAT WHAT THEY HAVE LEFT IS NOT A LOT BUT THERE SANITY AND THEIR HEIALTH, OR DISABILITIES. I DO THINK THAT ANY SUPPORT IS A BIG HELP WHEN NEEDED, AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED NOT RESTRICTED TO FAIL AS YOU ASKING.
THE ANSWER IS IN THE QUESTION NO.
DON'T WANT TO LOOSE OUR SCHEME MANAGER
A SCHEME IS VERY MUCH NEEDED
SERVICES ARE ALREADY SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
NO REDUCTION OF SCHEME MANAGER VITAL TO SMOOTH RUNNING OF SCHEME

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DON'T WANT TO LOOSE MANAGER
MUM NEED A LOT OF SUPPORT & THESE PEOPLE PROVIDE A LOT OF HELP AND WE ALL MIGHT NEED THERE HELP SOME TIME IN OUR LIFE TIME
I FEEL THIS HELPS SUPPORT MY MUM AND WE AS A FAMILY AS CARERS & WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WORK IF THERE WAS NOT THE SUPPORT
WE NEED HELP
LEVEL OF SUPPORT NEEDS TO BE HIGHER NOT REDUCED
MANY VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL BE AFFECTED
AM SUPPORTED WITH THE HELP OF MY SISTER & COMMUNITY NURSES OVER WORKED SUPPORT FROM SCHEME MANAGER
THESE CUTS ARE ILLEGAL, FLY IN THE FACE OF THE GOVERNMENT PROVISIONS FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND SEFTON COUNCIL WILL BE TAKEN TO COURT IF THEY PURSUE THIS WHICH WILL COST EVEN MORE MONEY
ONLY GIVE ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON WITHOUT REDUCING IT.
THIS WOULD REDUCE HELP THAT OLDER PEOPLE NEED AND POSSIBLY INCREASE STRESS
PEOPLE ACCEPTED AS SERVICE USERS HAVE PROVED ALREADY THAT THIS SERVICE IS REALLY NEEDED
THE ELDERLY DON'T RECEIVE AS MUCH HELP AS THEY NEED NOW TO CUT IT IS IMMORAL AND SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE AGENDA
HAPPY WITH CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE DON'T WANT IT CHANGED LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE BECAUSE THE FACILITIES ARE THERE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED THE SUPPORT (SIMPLE)
ALREADY POORLY FUNDED
HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION
BECAUSE I RECEIVE THIS SERVICE
I RELY ON SUPPORTING PEOPLE
PENSIONERS WHO ONLY HAVE THE STATE PENSION TO LIVE ON NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET
PEOPLE STILL NEED SUPPORT. THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE NEEDING SUPPORT HASN'T DECREASED SO WHY SHOULD THE BUDGET?
THE YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED ARE AT A VULNERABLE AND CRITICAL TIME IN THEIR LIVES. THIS SERVICE CAN PROVIDE THE STABILITY REQUIRED TO ALLOW THEM TO GO ON TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL ADULTS.

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

CUTTING THE BUDGET WILL RESULT IN YOUNG PEOPLE NOT BEING SUPPORTED AND ACCOMMODATED RESULTING IN INCREASED HOMELESSNESS AS WELL AS ASSOCIATED BEHAVIOUR SUCH AS CRIME. THIS MAY SAVE MONEY ON THIS PARTICULAR BUDGET BUT NOT SAVE SOCIETY ANYTHING. LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE
THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICES AFFECTS THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. BUDGET CUTS ARE INEVITABLE IN MOST CASES BUT FRONTLINE ESSENTIAL SERVICES SHOULD HAVE MINIMUM IMPACT AS HARDSHIP FOR SERVICE USERS WOULD BE THE RESULT OF CUTS.
IT IS A VITAL SERVICE TO ALL WHO USE IT IT CAN NOT BE REDUCED PEOPLE NEED IT FAR TOO MUCH
N/A
N/A
SEE ABOVE
SEE ABOVE
REDUCED BUDGET MEANS REDUCED SERVICE
SOMEONE WILL BE LEFT HELPLESS
THE HELP GIVEN BY THE SUPORTING PEOPLE TEAM IS INVALUABLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES KEEPS THE COMMUNITY INFORMED OF WHATS HAPPENING AND ALSO THE NEED OF COMMUNITY OFFICERS WHEN INCIDENTS HAPPEN
IT WOULD REDUCE OUR LIVING STANDARDS
I WOULD LOOSE SUPPORT
PEOPLE NEED SUPPORT
I BELIEVE THAT SOCIETY OWES IT TO DISADVANTAGED GROUPS TO SHOW COMPASSION AND SUPPORT, THIS IS CORE OF WHAT MAKES UP A REGULARLY ORGANISED SOCIETY. REDUCING THESE SERVICES WILL CAUSE HARDSHIP TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP THEMSELVES.
I FEEL LOSING THE SUPPORT WOULD LEAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE VUNERABLE
DON'T THINK MONEY SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM RETIRED PEOPLE 80-90YRS
IT WILL REDUCE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING

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PEOPLE ON PENSION CREDIT HAVE HAD THEIR MONEY REDUCED, FUEL BILLS ON THE UP PRICES IN SHOPS GOING UP EVERY WEEK THEIR GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING GOING DOWN PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS SHOULD GET MORE HELP, NOT LESS IF THE BUDGET IS CUT IT HELPS PEOPLE WHO CAN'T GET HELP ANYWHERE ELSE
THE SP BUDGET IS PROVEN TO REDUCE THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL STRAIN ON THE PUBLIC PURSE. £2.11 FOR EVERY £1 SPENT IS SAVED (CAPGEMINI) REDUCING THE SP BUDGET WILL INCREASE COSTS IN THE LONG TERM AND REDUCE THE ABILITY OF THE SERVICE TO DELIVER TO THE MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS AT A TIME WHEN DEMAND IS HIGHER THAN EVER. REDUCING THE SP BUDGET WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUT LIVES AT RISK
I'M ALMOST 77. IN THE PAST I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN HELPING THOSE SLEEPING ROUGH "N.F.A." (NO FIXED ABODE) BEYOND ANY DOUBT IT'S IMMORAL TO REDUCE SUPPORT TO THE VULNERABLE WHETHER A PERSON, GROUP OR COMMUNITY. I HAVE VIVID MEMORIES OF WHAT HITLER DID. FIRST THE JEWS THEN THE OLD, INFIRM DISABLED ETC ETC
ALREADY TAILORED TO ESSENTIAL NEEDS. THE VALUE OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES IN £'S TERMS MEANS SUSTAINING IS THE ONLY OPTION TO PREVENT CHAOTIC/COSTLY OUTCOMES
ESSENTIAL HELP FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE
WITH INFLATION AT 5% ANY REDUCTION WOULD ADD TO THIS %
THIS SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL AND SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED
VERY HAPPY WITH THE SERVICE SUPPLIED
SERVICES WILL BE REDUCED
THE SERVICES ARE GOOD SO WE WANT TO KEEP THEM
THE SERVICE IS GOOD
SERVICE IS GOOD & ESSENTIAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE UK THAT GENUALLY NEED HELP AND SUPPORT AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES!
SERVICES PROVIDED ARE ESSENTIAL FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY NOW, WHEN PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH JOBS, BILLS ETC.

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

BECAUSE VENUS HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC AND HELPED ME LOADS OVER THE PAST IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO ALL THE PEOPLE THEY HELP
I AM IN ILL HEALTH & I DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT OF THE GROUP
I NEED IT I NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET TO STAY LIVING IN MY OWN HOME
THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE IS VITAL TO OUR COMMUNITY
BECAUSE I NEED THE SUPPORT
IF REDUCED MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE AT RISK AND AS WE ALREADY LIVE IN AN AREA OF HIGH HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, SO REDUCING MONEY FROM SUCH AN AREA WOULD BE SENCELOSS AND INCONSIDERABLE TO INDIVIDUALS LIVES
THE PROVIDER CAN'T MANAGE THE MONEY ITS GOT. TO CUT THAT AMOUNT WOULD CAUSE ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHO SHOULD GET WHAT AMOUNT OF MONEY AND COULD RESULT IN BITTER RIVALRY BETWEEN SERVICES
PEOPLE WHO NEED WHATEVER SUPPORT SHOULD GET THAT SUPPORT
WE KEEP GETTING TOLD THAT THE POPULATION OF ELDERLY IS ON THE RISE IN SEFTON, THIS LEADS TO MORE PEOPLE REQUIRING HELP, AS IT IS THE SYSTEM IS CUT TO THE BONE. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT INSTEAD OF CUTTING THE BUDGET IT SHOULD BE INCREASED.
BECAUSE WE NEED THEM VERY MUCH
SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE ALLOWS ME TO MAINTAIN MY INDEPENDENCE, DIGNITY AND QUALITY OF LIVE IT SUPPORTS ME IN MY OWN HOME AND GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND AND A SENSE OF WELLBEING
AS IT WILL CAUSE DISTRESS TO ALL THE CLIENTS AND STAFF LIKEWISE
WE NEED THE HELP THIS SERVICE GIVES AND ITS NICE TO NO YOU ARE NOT ALONE LIKE MANY OLD PEOPLE ARE
BECAUSE THEY COME TO SEE ME TO SEE IF I AM OK SOMETIMES I DON'T SEE PEOPLE FOR A FEW DAYS JUST A LITTLE TALK TO THEM IS GREAT
I FEEL VERY VULNERABLE IF OUR WARDEN DOESN'T CONTACT ME AS I HAVE VARIOUS AILMENTS WHICH WILL GET WORSE. THE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN USEFUL
TO ENSURE EXISTING SUPPORT SERVICE IS MAINTAINED
I FEEL WE NEED A SCHEME MANAGER ON SITE DAILY
THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE IS NECESSARY TO HELP OLD AGE PENSIONERS AND OTHER VULNERABLE PEOPLE TO HELP THEM LIVE A DECENT LIFE
REDUCING THE BUDGET WOULD PUT VULNERABLE PEOPLE AT RISK, ALSO MANY OF THE PEOPLE ENJOYING AN INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE WOULD LOSE THIS INDEPENDENCE IF THE BUDGET WAS

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CUT.

ALL THE RESIDENTS AROUND HERE LOOK VERY MUCH FORWARD TO Name provided CALLING, NEVER MIND CUTS Name provided SHOULD HAVE A RAISE IN SALARY. Name provided IS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR. HER NAME SHOULD BE SUPERWOMAN. IF YOU CUT WAGES, DO YOU NOT THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE TO LEAVE BECAUSE OF WAGES, THEY ALL HAVE OUTGOINGS IN LIFE. AS FOR ME, I WOULD PUT SOMETHING TOWARDS SUE'S PAY, THAT'S HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO US ALL. AT THE MOMENT I CAN AFFORD TO PAY FOR THIS SERVICE.

AS AN OLD (83) TENANT, I NATURALLY THINK THAT SUPPORTING PEOPLE - YOUNG AND OLD - IS IMPORTANT. YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB AS THINGS ARE. MANY THANKS PENSIONERS, ESPECIALLY THE VERY OLD ARE VULNERABLE. MANY LIVE ALONE AND HAVE NO FAMILY AND NEED A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT.

THIS SERVICE IS VERY MUCH NEEDED

I WORK WITH MENTAL HEALTH. WORKING ON THE EXISTING BUDGET IS DIFFICULT AS IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT. AS A WORKER IN MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER SERVICES - IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT ON EXISTING BUDGETS, I FEEL THAT A CUT IN BUDGETS WILL IMPACT ON SERVICE USER NEEDS AND IMPACT ON DETERIORATION OF MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR UNIT.

REDUCING SERVICES ADDS TO THE LONELY EXISTING LIFE LOTS OF SERVICE USERS EXPERIENCE NOW. COST OF HEATING ETC, LONELY, SOLITUDE IS WELL KNOWN TO BE THE HIGHEST REASON FOR DEATH. MORE INPUT SHOULD BE IN PLACE NOT TAKEN AWAY.

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

I WORK IN MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER SERVICE - IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT ON THE EXISTING BUDGET - I CANNOT SEE HOW A BUDGET CUT WILL NOT IMPACT ON THE AMOUNT OF TIME EACH SERVICE USER NEEDS IN OUR UNIT

PEOPLE NEED SUPPORT AND SOMEWHERE THEY CAN LIVE

I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE REDUCED AS A LOT OF US BENEFIT FROM ONE TO ONE WITH MEMBER OF STAFF

I DON'T WANT HOME CARE TO BE SCRAPPED

QUALITY OF LIFE WILL BE AFFECTED LOSS OF SERVICES

FEAR OF REDUCED SERVICES

PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS NEED THE SUPPORT AS MUCH AS THEY CAN

IT IS A FALSE ECONOMY TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM THE MOST NEEDY IN SOCIETY.

REDUCTIONS IN THIS SUPPORT WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN INCREASES IN DEMAND IN OTHER AREAS - E.G. HEALTHCARE, EMERGENCY SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS, ASB ETC.

BECAUSE PEOPLE NEED THE SUPPORT

MY LIFE AS I KNOW IT WILL CHANGE, AND MY QUALITY OF LIFE AS I KNOW IT WILL NOT STAY THE SAME

PROVIDERS NEED THIS MONEY TO PROVIDE ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR EACH SERVICE PROVIDED THEY ARE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN NEED OF HELP

BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS WILL SUFFER

BECAUSE SUPPORTING PEOPLE IS A GOOD CAUSE AND WE NEED TO INCREASE AND NOT DECREASE FUNDING IN THIS AREA

THEY ARE VALUABLE TO PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE NO HELP

SP IS TOO IMPORTANT TO CUT

REDUCING THE BUDGET WOULD HAVE A CATASTROPHIC AFFECT ON THE SEFTON AREA

IF WE LOOSE OR HAVE A % PERCENTAGE TAKEN AWAY IT CAN ONLY EFFECT OUR CONFIDENCE OF WE WER OR WANTED POSATIVATY THAT WE GAIN FROM THE SERVICE USER GROUPS ETC.

ACTIVITIES TOO.

BECAUSE SUPPORT SHOULD NOT BE CUT 1% NEVER MIND 44%

It will have a negative impact.

The most vulnerable members of our community should not be penalised when there are other areas which can be cut

lots of vulnerable people will be left to fend for them selves

It provides funding for essential services. If the funding was reduced considerably then many people would suffer severe hardship. The services that Supporting People provide, enable shelter for people who would otherwise be homeless. Surely when considering any budget cuts this service must be protected so that the vital work we do can continue.

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The value for money delivered by supporting people services was demonstrated through government research in 2009. Reductions in funding will result in short term financial gains for local authorities but will ultimately cost more. There is also the danger of creating situations where the people who need support most are unable to access it or afford it.

A reduction in any funding will have a major impact on the level of services/quality and support that can be offered to those in need - vulnerable people

Me and my fellow service users, don't feel capable of undertaking day to day tasks such as appointments, shopping, cooking etc without the support of our support workers. As I can't cope with lots of people around me, and get panic attacks sometimes, I feel the support helps me deal with this and makes me feel less fearful in these situations. And I feel I could do with more support rather than less, so I can go on physical activities such as swimming etc. And going outside in the community.

I believe that the support packages in place are sometimes unsubstantial at present, without further cuts.

These services are too important to lose

Supporting people, particularly floating support for older people has been proven to save over £6 for every £1 invested (Research into the financial benefits of the Supporting People programme, 2009 by Dept of Communities and Local Government). Therefore, cutting this budget would be counter productive financially in a very short time period.

Low cost preventative service.

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

They provide a vital service. Allow people to remain living in their own homes as long as possible. Ultimately saving costs of long term care - nursing homes ect

Supporting People was established to meet the needs of the most marginalised, vulnerable and hardest to reach people within our society - quite often the services provided under the SP umbrella are essential front line services - but are not legislatively required - so are often the easiest to cut. It may well be the case that to cut in order to save money might produce a short term remedy - it is almost inevitable that the longer term consequence is disastrous for social cohesion, fairness and equitability.

This is a vital service not only for current service users but for future users. If this service is cut it there will be a significant impact on jointly funded provision. In addition to this it is highly likely that emergency and urgent hospital admissions will increase, thereby increasing hospital waiting lists and increasing the overall costs of providing care.

Sefton Affordable Warmth Partnership Group comprises of Sefton Councillors, officers from Sefton energy team, private sector housing, adult social services and children's services. Along with other support agencies such as Age Concern, Department of Work and Pensions, NHS Sefton, Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre, Housing associations, Merseyside Fire and Rescue service and the energy saving trust (to name just a few).

The group has been meeting for the past four years, with the joint aim to reduce fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in Sefton. We are concerned that proposed cuts to the Supporting People budget could put the Fuel Poverty service in Sefton at risk, as Sefton's Affordable Warmth Workers (AWW) are funded through a supporting people project. The Affordable Warmth Workers are front line staff and visit vulnerable residents in their homes, this means they have access to vulnerable residents that would otherwise slip through the net. They see issues first hand and can refer to issues to social services promptly before the problem becomes out of hand. Their intervention prevents residents ultimately being admitted to hospital or having to move into long term care. Due to the current economic climate and rising gas and electric prices, affordable warmth issues are increasingly important and the demand for support is rising. All of our organisations refer to the AWW on a regular basis, they provide a focal point we everyone can refer and know that residents will be assisted with heating & insulation measures, fuel debt issues and energy saving advice, along with further referrals to other support agencies. Without the service, our staff would either have to inform residents they can't be helped or waste a lot of time searching for information (as they don't have the specialist knowledge). This would result in increase numbers of excess winter deaths in vulnerable adults and children and more residents in fuel debt.

The loss of the AWW would mean that vulnerable Sefton residents would be without access to affordable warmth as there is no other service in like it in Sefton, this is due to the fact that the Affordable Warmth Coordinator post was lost in August 2010 and not renewed, along with the Home Repair Assistance (HRA) loans previously offered through private sector housing, no longer being available. Loss of AWW would directly impact and add cost to other departments within the council (e.g. social work teams).

I think this could put some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents at risk.

Reductions in funding would cause hardship and increase long term costs eventually as more people would need to be rehoused in residential, become homeless, revert back to criminal activities, have children moved into care etc etc as there would be no one available to provide the support they need to remain in their home.

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Housing Related Support services are preventative and allow customers to live independently without heavy reliance on other services. If SP funding is reduced or withdrawn and customers cannot afford to access these services levels of dependency may increase and costs in social care services and the NHS may increase. The savings made would be counteracted by increased costs in these areas and could lead to financial hardship for individual customers

There is no obvious service that can stand in for these services that may be lost as a result of these budget cuts. The pressure of these services will then be placed onto social services

due to areas of Sefton being the most deprived area in the UK - max reduction of 5%

These services are essential to enable vulnerable people to continue to and to improve their skills to live independently in the community. If these services are not available many would not receive the support that they need to keep themselves safe and in secure appropriate accommodation. Many more tenancies and placements would fail and people could become homeless, hospitalised or institutionalised. The long term costs of any budget reduction now could be multiplied many times later and could have long term effects on many individuals and families health and wellbeing.

Support currently stretched and is insufficient to meet all the needs now

Most vulnerable, people with physical and/or mental ill health find it too difficult to deal with processes to get and maintain suitable affordable housing and deal with finances/know about entitlements, without support

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

10 Vulnerable adults with addiction and crime problems are likely to be rendered homeless.

The budget provides preventative measures for the client groups that wouldn't receive any help by statutory funding. This in turn, reduces the cost to the tax payers in the long term by preventing crisis and reducing hospital admissions and custodial sentences.

The services supporting people fund are critical services, which have recently taken a reduction in funding through making savings in other areas, to reduce funding even further, would be reducing services and delivery of the services to vulnerable people, which in future would be an increase in emergency services being used more frequently. As vulnerable people would not have their needs met through services currently being provided by supporting people

Supporting people have already passed on a 5% reduction in the funding it provides to its projects. At present Supporting People provides £55,000pa to Sefton Councils Energy Team to fund two Affordable Warmth Workers salaries and expenses. We believe this is already great value for money in terms of the increasing demand for the service, the number of residents we assist and revenue generated from benefit entitlement checks and monies raised towards heating, insulation, fuel debt from grants, funding streams and benevolent funds. Due to already operating efficiently on a modest budget any further reduction in funding would dramatically reduce the service we can offer, thus resulting in an increased cost to other council departments that don't have the specialist knowledge to assist the 800-1000 vulnerable households assisted each year. The fuel poverty service - I understand is funded from supporting people budget and it has literally saved many lives of the most vulnerable and isolated people in Sefton.

will take funding away from the most vulnerable members of society

Clearly the SP budget needs to make a contribution to the overall financial savings required by the Local Authority. However, it is unwise to cut the SP services as the vast majority actually save money by providing a timely intervention which prevents the client from requiring more expensive interventions, e.g. care package uplifts, supported accommodation, imprisonment costs, etc. The SP services are highly regulated and monitored and the National Outcomes Framework clearly evidences the impacts achieved by the SP services in maintaining independent living but also in a wide range of other areas, eg. economic wellbeing, health, education, training, social inclusion, substance misuse, supervision of statutory orders, etc. Cuts in the region of 10% may allow the provider to re-jig services and seek efficiency savings through streamlining functions. Cuts of higher than 10% will leave the provider with nowhere to move other than to either reduce the capacity of the service or reduce salaries to staff which will detrimentally affect the service quality. It may also lead to providers leaving the arena altogether. The clients that SP services provide will not disappear but will present in other arenas either as homeless presentations, increased offending, increased substance misuse, etc. The reality is that the overall costs are not likely to be saved. The benefits of the Supporting People programme were specifically recognised in the 2010 budget with the grant reduction of 12% over four years and the recognition that £1 million spent on SP services will save £5 or £6 million.

I feel the budget should not be cut due to the amount of vulnerable people within Sefton who would be placed in a more vulnerable position if services were cut because it is an essential service

this is an essential service which ultimately prevents people from becoming homeless and/or hospitalised Supporting People funding is allocated to the most vulnerable members of Sefton's community and any reduction in the current levels of funding would have a serious detrimental effect not only on the most vulnerable individuals in Sefton & their families but also on the whole community. I anticipate that if funding was cut, local crime levels would rise, for example, reports of and repeat incidences of domestic violence,

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crime committed by individuals with mental health issues etc. Also, the vulnerability of certain client groups, like older people, people with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities etc would increase and therefore the burden on health services and care services would increase, causing a greater drain on the local resources. Similarly, the burden upon statutory homelessness services would increase because vulnerable individuals would not be able to access levels of preventative support currently available.

It is a vital support for vulnerable families that we work with.

If reduced this will effect a lot of other agencies who provide supporting services.

I feel that services within Sefton for excluded groups are limited already. Many Sefton service users have to access Liverpool services as we do not have the capacity within this borough to cope with demanding need, hence putting more pressures on other neighbouring boroughs. Our services are preventative services and they provide a much needed resource for statutory services and prisons.

Question 2 Comments

If NO, please give reasons

The budget has already suffered a 5% cut and offers good value for money. Many services provide services that others will not or cannot provide.

This question cannot be answered unless the effects of the percentage cuts are known. It is understood that some cuts must be made. Before any amount of cut can be suggested, specific detail of how they would impact must be stated

Proposed cutbacks can be gleaned in other ways.

Majority of the services payed for by supporting people do not get money from anywhere else so they need all they can get to make sure people remain supported in the community.

because there are a lot of people out there who need help and who aren't getting it. I have used the mental health crisis house several times and have found it has helped me live a normal life. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to.

I do not think vulnerable people especially in my area of work get enough funding

The AP Scheme and AP carers have already accepted a 5% reduction last year. There havent been any uplifts to pass on to our carers since the funding was set up in 2003. Meanwhile both the AP Scheme and our AP Carers have had to meet inflationary cost of living increases across all day to day expenditure.

Supporting People was originally implemented to help identify and deliver services to the most vulnerable people in our country. To reduce the budget for any service would be detrimental to the people receiving the support and losing any preventative service will have a knock-on effect on demand for more critical services.

Any reduction in the budget could also result in job losses and contribute to unemployment in the Borough.

The SP programme demonstrates good value for money, intervention such as this at an earlier stage can reduce increased need for intervention at a later date. If support for the groups mentioned in the above box are not provided with support, or their support package is reduced, their support needs will be displaced, they will not dissappear. These vulnerable groups should be given the support services they need to function in society, otherwise they face further polarisation. This disconnect from services now, will in the longer term will drain the public purse.

Services to vulnerable groups identified by SP meet needs far and above the money that is currently allocated.

If funds are cut further these groups will add considerable tensions to the sectors that support them. The goodwill of the voluntary, community and faith sector far outweighs any contributions made by statutory input and if funding is continually removed from these groups and providers are forced to remove contact with vulnerable individuals, then the Local Authority will have greater problems to overcome. More people forced onto the streets, mental health increasing, < A and E departments taking on more, children and families moving further into poverty.

Cuts can result in a reduction of choice and quality of life for vulnerable groups

how can i just say by what percentage. this is just a finger in the air

Young people find it very difficult to access accommodation if family breakdown, sofa surfing no answer

Support for vulnerable people to maintain tenancies is vital.

Supporting People provides the support necessary to allow service users to live independently. This is turn reduces the risk that alternative higher-cost services will be needed. The reduction could be a false economy if applied to all Supporting Client groups and services equally without a proper assessment of the risks and implications of change.

Too many implications for service users and the general community. Cuts in this budget are highly likely to lead to increased costs in other budgets. Implications to service users and general public are not restricted to finance but also health and wellbeing and even public safety

SP Budget provides essential services to the most vulnerable in society and without this funding many would suffer, particularly within the offender services which has demonstrated that services provided reduce re-offending, there is the danger that if some services were cut there would be an increase in homelessness and therefore an increase in re-offending rates.

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Question 4 Comments

<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS, PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL MIS USE PROBLEMS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORT.
WAS A CLIENT
OFFENDER SERVICE ST CATH'S. CRI TREATMENT SERVICE. ARMSTEAD - WORKING ON THE STREET
ST CATHERINE'S (HOSTEL) BOOTLE, L20 7AL
WORK AT ST CATHS
HOSTEL
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
MARYFIELD - ANCHOR
MARYFIELD - ANCHOR
MARYFIELD ANCHOR SHELTERED HOUSING
ANCHOR - MARYFIELD
ANCHOR SHELTERED HOUSING
JHC - ARENA
JAMES HORRIGAN COURT
ANCHOR - DELPH
ANCHOR. DELPH COURT
ANCHOR HOUSING
ANCHOR DELPH
DELPH COURT
DELPH COURT
DELPH COURT
JAMES HORRIGAN COURT
JHC ARENA
JAMES HORRIGAN COURT
JHC - ARENA
SHETLAND ACCOMMODATION
SUPPORTING PEOPLE. GENERIC
HELP WITH MENTAL & DISABILITY NEEDS
A CLOSE RELATIVE WITH DEMENTIA
QUEEN ELIZABETH COURT
QUEEN ELIZABETH COURT
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES
OLDER PERSONS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT SERVICES QEC
QEC
QEC
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS

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OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
ELDERLY RELATIVES - NOW DECEASED
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
ANCHOR MAPLE COURT
ANCHOR MAPLE COURT
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
ANCHOR MAPLE COURT
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS OR PEOPLE AT RISK OF OFFENDING
ST CATHS L11 20 7AL
OLDER PEOPLE
HANDRAIL, BATH STOOL
O.U.T
AGE CONCERN LIVERPOOL/SEFTON O/T FAZAKERLEY HOSPITAL
HOMELESS
I DO
SATINS
SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND ELDERCARE
HOME IMPROVEMENT
I AM A SERVICE USER
AM LIVING IN THE SEAD PROJECT
AM IN THE SEAD PROJECT
I'M A SERVICE USER
SEAD PROJECT
I AM A SERVICE PROVIDER
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE SERVICE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES- WORKED ELDERLY CARE SERVICES SUPPORT SERVICES TO OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT HOURS PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
MY WIFE WORKED WITH PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
YOUNG OFFENDER MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ALCOHOL/DRUG DEPENDENCY HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE
HOMELESS SERVICE
I WORK WITH THE LADS IN THE HOSTEL & IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE LADS & THE COMMUNITIES WERE THERE, HOMELESS & CRIMES.
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
HOUSING AND SUPPORT
MENTAL HEALTH
MYSELF

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ALL OF THE ABOVE EXCEPT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE
MENTAL HEALTH C.R.I
I HAVE WORKED AS A PROJECT WORKER FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS AT BOSCO SOCIETY, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO SINGLE HOMELESS MEN
I OFTEN USE AS MANY SERVICES AS POSSIBLE
YES, SUPPORT WORKER IN SEFTON WITH HOMELESS MALES, MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG ALCOHOL ABUSE
AS STATED I HAVE BEEN A VOLUNTEER FOR 8 YEARS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SUPPORTING PEOPLE FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS AND REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH ORGANISATIONS
BOSCO HOUSE FORUM SEAD
PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP INSTEAD OF CUTS TO OUR PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE LEARNING DISABILITY MENTAL HEALTH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
I HAVE TRANSPORT TO MY DAY CENTRE WHICH I THOROUGHLY ENJOY
I LIVE IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION
SHELTERED ACCOM
OLDER PERSONS SERVICE
SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION
OP
OP
O.P.
SUPPORTED LODGINGS : I HAVE CARED FOR 2 YP SO FAR AND I AM ABOUT TO TAKE IN A THIRD PERSON. THEY NEED ALL THE SUPPORT THEY CAN GET
YOUNG HOMELESS ALCOHOL ABUSE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DOMESTIC ABUSE
MAPS CARER
SUPPORTED LOGINGS
SOCIAL SERVICES SOUTHPORT CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY SERVICE RESULT FINAL DIAGNOSIS OF ASPERGERS SYNDROME GIVEN BY ANNE STAFFORD CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
SEFTON SUPPORTED LODGINGS
PHYSICAL DISABILITY SINGLE HOMELESS
SEFTON SUPPORTED LODGINGS
SUPPORTED LODGINGS
SUPPORTED LODGINGS (HOUSEHOLDERS)
SINGLE HOMELESS AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK
I WAS HELPED A LOT WITH A SUPPORT GROUP
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
MAPS SERVICE USER
TEENAGE PARENTS SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS

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ALL OF THE ABOVE!
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS MENTAL HEALTH ALCHOL MISUSE DISABILITES
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
I AM CURRENTLY IN SUPPORTED LODGINGS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE/ ALCOHOL MISUSE
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
OLDER PEOPLE
PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
I LIVE IN SHELTERED HOUSING
RENT
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
IN SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING FULL TIME WARDEN
MOST OF ALL THE SCHEME MANAGER, WHO HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN MANY PROBLEMS WHICH I MYSELF HAVE HAD HERE AT POULTON COURT SOUTHPORT, ALSO THE CALL CENTRE
MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
ALL
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
LIGHT FOR LIFE SUPPORTS BOTH SINGLE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF BEING SO. LIGHT FOR LIFE ALSO SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK.
PROBLEMS MENTAL HEALTH
AINSDALE CARE IN THE COMMUNITY
AINSDALE CARE IN THE COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH
OLDER PEOPLE AND ALSO MENTAL DIFFICULTIES
HOME IMPROVEMENTS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
CARE AGENCY. SCHEME MANAGER
CARE AGENCY, SCHEME MANAGER
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
HABINTEG

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PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
OLDER PEOPLE HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
OLDER PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT HOME IMPROVEMENTS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE POST NATAL SUPPORT GROUP AND I AM AWAITING A CRB TO VOLUNTEER PART TIME TO SUPPORT WOMEN
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
SUPPORTED LODGING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED LODGINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
CARE ALLOWANCE
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
I AM A SUPPORT WORKER TO SERVICE USER WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
SUPPORTING SERVICE USER WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
ONE VISION HOUSING
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL/ SENSORY DISABILITIES
HOUSING OPTIONS TEAM, VVAT, SUPPOTED ACCOMMODATION
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS & PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MY DAUGHTER AND MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY CARERS SUPPORT TEAM
OLDER PEOPLE - PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE, WITH SUPPORT NEEDS.
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

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PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
SUPPORTING PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORT SERVICES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE
YOUNG PARENTS HOMELESS
AFTER 2 HIP OPERATIONS ON BOTH OCATIONS I USED THE CARE SERVICES FOR A LIMITED TIME, ALSO THE MANAGER HEAR ARRANGED FOR AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS TO BRING EQUIPMENT TO MAKE IT EASIER TO COPE IN MY OWN FLAT
SUPPORT
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING WITH SCHEME MANAGER AND PULL CORD EMERGENCY
SCHEME MANAGER IN SHELTERED HOUSING
HAVE WORKED WITH AND NOW AM A USER
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY
PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMLESS FAMILY WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMELESS HOSTEL
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT MENTAL HEALTH CARELINE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
HOMELESS
SUPPORTED HOUSING
SUPPORT PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE
MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORTING PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE
SUPPORTING PEOPLE
MENTAL HEALTH OLDER PERSONS
SUPPORTED PEOPLE
MOSTLY OLDER PERSON MENTAL HEALTH
MOSTLY OLDER PERSON MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORTING PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE - MENTAL HEALTH - ALCOHOL
SUPPORTED PEOPLE
SUPPORTED HOUSING
WARDEN CONTROLLED
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
THE COMMUNITY WARDEN name provided IS A POSITIVE RE ASSURANCE, THAT I AM NOT LEFT ISOLATED IN THE COMMUNITY. HIS HELPFULNESS AND CARING ATTITUDE HELPS ME FEEL ABLE TO LIVE ALONE.
OLDER PEOPLE - TEENAGE PARENTS - MENTAL HEALTH - OFFENDERS - SUBSTANCE/ALCOHOL - LEARNING DIFFICULTIES - D.V.
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS AND DISABILITY

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WEEKLY WARDEN VISIT I THINK IS ESSENTIAL TO OLDER PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BUNGALOO'S
MYSELF
I HAVE WORKED WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT PROVIDE THE SERVICES OVERLEAF AND I HAVE WITNESSED FIRST HAND THE DRAMATIC EFFECT THEY CAN HAVE ON TURNING PEOPLES LIVES AROUND AND ALLOWING THEM TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.
ALL OF THE ABOVE SERVICES
A FRIEND
MY GRANDAUGHTER WORKS IN A CARE HOME FOR EMI - LONG HOURS LOW PAY
A FRIEND
A FRIEND
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE/ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
ONE VISION
ONE VISION
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLD PERSON
MENTAL HEALTH
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS/LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
INCOME SUPPORT OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SUPPORTED HOUSING
SCEAM MANAGER
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
MILL SPRING COURT
HOMELESS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/MENTAL HEALTH
WOULD RATHER NOT COMMENT
FUEL POVERTY SERVICE DELIVERED BY SEFTON ENERGY TEAM
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS ORRELL LODGE
RESIDENT
RESIDENT
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
SHELVED ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT NEEDS FOR OLDER PEOPLE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS ORRELL LODGE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS/DISABILITY
ORRELL LODGE
ORRELL LODGE
ORRELL LODGE
SOCIAL SERVICES
BENEFIT NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROBLEMS

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OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SUPPORTED HOUSING
COMMUNITY PHYSIO, COMMUNITY D.N. (DISTRICT NURSE?) , SOCIAL WORKERS, WARDEN SCHEME
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MOST
OLDER SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES SENSORY SERVICES
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
ONE VISION
ONE VISION
PHYSICAL DISABILITY OLDER PEOPLE & ONE VISION
O.V. OLDER PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES MERSEY CARE MENTAL HEALTH
ONE VISION
MUM HAS A WARDEN SERVICE WHICH KEEP HER INDEPENDENT WITH HAVING A STROKE
HOMELESS
HOMELESS
OFFENDER
GRAB RAILS BATH SEATS
RESIDENT - KENYONS LODGE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SCHEME MANAGER AT SHELTERED SCHEME
MENTAL HEALTH OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SHELTERED HOUSING KENYONS LODGE L31
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SCHEME MANAGER IN SHELTERED HOUSING
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS SUBSTANCE MISUSE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES
I LIVE IN SHELTERED HOUSING (MARYFIELD)
MARYFIELD
ONE VISION HOUSING, SEFTON SOCIAL CARE
YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS SINGLE HOMELESS PEOPLE
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SUPPORT NEEDS WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WITH HOMELESSNESS ISSUES
THE OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
SHELTERED HOUSING SUPPORT

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SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERD HOUSING SUPPORT
SHELTERED/SUPPORTED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSIONG
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTED HOUSING SUPPORT
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
SHELTERED HOUSING
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
older people with support needs
MEALS ON WHEELS - MOTHER
APART FROM BEING A SUPPORT WORKER MYSELF WORKING WITH THE OVER 55'S, MY NIECE IS BLIND AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING SUPPORT TO HELP HER, WITH HER NEEDS.
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS, I LIVE IN ONE THESE COMMUNITIES
SUPPORTED HOUSING
SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE
SUPORT NEEDS
IN MY CURRENT ROLE OF EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR WITH A HOUSING ASSOCIATION I HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH VARIOUS SERVICE USERS
SHELTERED HOUSING CARELINE
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
USED SERVICE FOR HOMELESS
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
ALL OF THE ABOVE
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

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HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT HOME IMPROVEMENTS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT HOME IMPROVEMENTS
YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT HOME IMPROVEMENTS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
HOMELESS PEOPLE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT HOME IMPROVEMENTS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON
PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS HOME IMPROVEMENTS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS HOME IMPROVEMENTS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS HOME IMPROVEMENTS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
HOMELESS PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH DRUG OR ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
OLDER PEOPLE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
SUPPORT PEOPLE
AS QUESTION 1
ELDERCARE
SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

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A FRIEND WHO'S MOTHER WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR AND HAD MS. SHE NEEDED TO BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON THE BEST SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO HER. HER MOTHER HAS SINCE PASSED AWAY.
VENUS CENTRE, BOOTLE
LOTS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITIES OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PROVIDER OF SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICE
OLDER PEOPLE SUPPORT NEEDS
PHYSIOTHERAPY - CARE SERVICE
O.P.S.N. (OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS)
SUPPORTED HOUSING
HOME ALARM SERVICE SUPPORT HOUSING TEAM
MENTAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
OLDER PEOPLES SUPPORTING NEEDS
MENTAL HEALTH
SUSTANCE/ALCOHOL MISUSE MENTAL HEALTH
MENTAL HEALTH/OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS PEOPLE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUBSTANCE MISUSE/SLCOHOL - DRUGS PEOPLE LEARNING DIFFICULTY
MENTAL HEALTH
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PEOPLE WITH HIV
MENTAL HEALTH
WOODLANDS SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION
MENTAL HEALTH
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PEOPLE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION ALL CARE
SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

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SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR PEOPLE RECOVERING MENTAL HEALTH
CANNOT REMEMBER
ONE VISION HOUSING
CMHT (COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM)
SUPPORTED ACCOMADATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
I WORK WITHIN SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. ALSO BROTHER HAS INVOLVEMENT FOR HIS AUTISM
SUBSTANCE MISUSE SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROBLEMS
CRI STANLEY ROAD
BOSCO
SINGLE HOMELESS WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
DRUGS
NWPCLtd
older people with support needs.
Floating Support for offenders (DISC)
Bosco Forum HA (SEAD) DISC Sefton Homeless Team
Domestic Abuse, mental health homeless people including young parents & singles , Learning disabilities/ sphysical disabilities , substance misuse
DISC- floating support
Single homeless. Offenders. people with Mental Health problems. People with substance/alcohol problems.
Offender services
Homeless
older people with support needs
Various
single homeless with support needs older people with needs people with mental health problems People with Substance/Alcohol Mis-Use Problems Offenders or People at Risk of Offending People with Learning Difficulties People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities
I use Rethink Mental Illness,
All of the above
Home help
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
Mental health and Learning disability
Floating support for older people in Liverpool
Older people

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<p>My nan is 87 has various health needs and is now house bound. She is however, very proud and wishes to remain living in her own home were she is comfortable. She had various people knocking on her door offering to insulate her loft for a variety of differant prices. this concerned our family as she is vulnerable. Therefore i contacted Sefton council, they put me through to an the energy efficiency department and i spoke to an Affordable warmth Worker. They visited my nan in her home and informed her the loft could be insulated for free due to her age. This was arranged very quickly and installed in a professional manner. The Affordable Warmth Worker also informed my nan she should be entitled to high rate attendance allowance due to her health needs (she was currently on Low rate Attendance allowance). The Afforadable wamth worker asked the benefit agency to arrange to visit my nan and assess her, this was done and she now recieves about an extra £30 per week. My nan also mentioned that she was struggling to pay her gas bills as they were high as she needed the heating on constantly due to her poor health and medication. The Affordable Warmth worker called her gas supplier when they where in her home and infomrd them of my nans circmstances and benefits, they then put my nan on a cheaper tariff that will save her about 15% on the amount she pays. We are very grateful for everything that has been done for nan. She no longer has to worry about being able to keep warm as her property is more energy efficient and she has more money to spend on heating</p>
<p>single homeless with support needs homeless families with support needs offenders or people at risk of offending people with substance/alcohol mis-use problems people at risk of domestic violence</p>
<p>People with substance/misuse problems</p>
<p>women and children experiencing domestic violence people with mental health needs people with learning disabilities older people with support needs</p>
<p>All of our organisations refer to the Affordable Warmth Workers (AWW) on a regular basis when they are concerned a resident is in fuel poverty or does not have access to affordable warmth. An example of a typical referral (of which hundreds have been made over the past 4 years) is a resident that was referred by Welfare rights. Mrs B was an 83 year old woman and was being assessed for Attendance Allowance when she mentioned to the advisor that her boiler had broken. The advisor made the referral to an AWW to conduct a home visit to assess what help may be available. During the visit the AWW confirmed the boiler was broken and she had no access to heating or hot water and she did not qualify for the main nation Warm Front grant. As a result of the AWW visit this vulnerable resident benefited from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New boiler - a quote was arranged and two local funding streams were approached to help towards the cost of getting the boiler replaced. • Loft insulation as it is free due to the fact she is over 70 • Registered onto priority service register with gas & electric supplier • Reduction in fuel costs - energy supplier was contacted to replace meter as she had two meters set on the wrong tariff. • Handrails and bath lift - as a result of a referral to an occupational therapist due to the fact she had recently had several falls • Careline • Electrics made safe through contribution from local funding stream -as Home Repair Assistance loans are no longer available • Freezer - she was referred to local solutions that assisted her to apply for a charitable grant for a freezer so she had access to quick meals as she couldn't stand for long to prepare meals (this was important as she is diabetic). • Merseyside fire brigade for smoke alarms to be fitted. <p>If the Fuel poverty service was not available then Mrs B would have no heating or hot water as she did not qualify for WF and HRA loans are no longer available. She would have to live with dangerous electrics (as HRA loans discontinued), she would have more than likely suffered more falls as handrails wouldn't have been fitted and she may have been undiscovered after a fall for quite some time, as she would not have a life line available. She would not have been on the priority service register with utilities, which ensures vulnerable customers are not disconnected, have regular metre readings and are prioritised if supply issues occur. She wouldn't have access to quick and easy meals if she didn't have the freezer. Plus she would have been at risk of hospital admissions through cold related illness, dangerous electrics, and risk of fire, frequent falls or diabetic hypos. It is also probable that she would lose her independence and have to be in long term care. Resulting in increased pressure on adult social services, NHS and council care services.</p>
<p>Supported housing vulnerable tenants</p>
<p>Older People with Support Needs</p>

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Older People with Support Needs People with Mental Health Problems Young Parents Home Improvement Agency People with Learning Difficulties People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities Generic
Substance Misuse
Sefton's Menatl Health crisis House, which was an invaluable service and prevented me from going into hospital
Venus
People with mental health problems
Support needed because of mental/physical ill health and to find suitable affordable housing because of ill health
LEO Project
Mental health services, offending at risk, single homeless, drugs and alcohol.
mental health services, learning disabilities, substance misuse, alcohol misuse, domestic violence, offenders
As stated Supporting People provide funding for Sefton Councils Energy Team to employ two Affordable Warmth Worker's (AWW). This funding has been provided since 2008. Initially one worker was funded, however, due to the high demand for the service (as there is not another service like it in Sefton) and the positive impacts made to residents lives, an additional worker was funded in 2009. Every year the AWW's assist approximately 800 households in Sefton with fuel poverty issues. The majority of referrals are made to the AWW's by other front line staff (eg, supporting people projects, social workers, health visitors, DWP, fire brigade) that are concerned vulnerable residents are living in cold homes. To date over 500 frontline staff have been alerted to the issues of cold homes and we get 17% of clients come from other Sefton Council services and 14% from external agencies (the rest are enquiries directly to the council and as a result of outreach work). The AWW's provide a home visiting service to ensure the most vulnerable groups are engaged with. The primary focus is to ensure that residents have access to affordable warmth. This is achieved through assisting residents to apply to grants, loans, charities and schemes to make their homes warmer and more energy efficient through the installation of measures such as heating and insulation. They also liaise with utilities to ensure the resident is on the cheapest tariff and receiving the services and offers they are entitled to, along with applying to have fuel debt wiped in extreme cases or negotiating more manageable repayments. The AWW's approach each case in a holistic style and work in partnership with a wide range of other support agencies and we have liaised with other supporting people services to get more help to residents. For example to date £276,000 of extra annual income has been granted to Sefton residents that where previously under claiming the benefits they were entitled to, 64 residents have been referred to Health and Social Care for occupational Therapist assessments and 166 referrals for smoke alarms. They are to name just a few of the organisations.
Teenage Parent
Generic
alcohol
offender
offender
mental health
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
Fuel poverty support, assisting family friend with making their home able to be warm and also helped with benefits check - which brought much needed income to them also.
mental health, Domestic abuse,young people, Older people, Learning disabilities ,substance abuse , homeless families, including very young parents,
Offenders and substance misuse services
Offender services
myself,it was Stonham Tenancy Support
venus

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Venus Resource Centre
people with learning difficulties young offenders. single homeless with support needs mental health problems, substance abuse
People with substance/alcohol mis-use problems/single homeless with support needs and offenders or people at risk of offending.
I have worked within services that provide accommodation for single homeless, and offenders at risk.
I know many people who have benefited the advice and specialist support of the Fuel poverty team. They have provided links and ensured many people access alternative support services to prevent them needing higher intensity support. Providing homes that are warm and assisting people to increase their incomes to remain independant of care facilities.
Elderly people with support needs People with mental health issues Home Improvement Agency
First Initiatives Crisis House
work within an sp funded department
HomeImprovement Agency
Kensington Supported Housing ltd - Supported Housing for people with Mental Health issues. LDs. Phys dis, MH,
single homeless with support needs mental health substance/ alcohol offenders/people at risk of offending domestic violence
Forum Housing Association
Adults with Learing Difficulties
Sefton Mental Health Crisis House Learning Disabilities
Offender
Yong, pregnant and homeless support
TO FIND ACCOMMODATION AND BUDGET
Homeless
older people with support needs
Imagine Independence Mental Health services.
Mental Health Support
Offender services within the borough
Physical disabilities
Deaf
Homeless
<u>If Yes, please state which support service it is/was</u>
Generic
alcohol
offender
alcohol
domestic violence

Question 7 Comments

If YES, please give details.
POSSIBLY CUT BACK ON WASTE WE ALL KNOW THAT SHOCKING WASTE GOES ON IN ALL DEPARTMENTS
STREAMLINE THE SERVICE & MAKE IT MORE EFFICIENT WITH NO DOUBLEING UP ON PROBLEMS
SPEAK TO THE WORKERS WHO MAY HAVE IDEAS ABOUT THE BUSINESS PLAN AT THE TIME THAT COULD BE IMPROVED
CLIENT WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN SCHEME, POSSIBLY 24 HOUR CARE NEEDED

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BECAUSE SHE IS MORE VULNERABLE AT NIGHT WHEN NO STAFF THERE
MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES, UTILISING UNITS AND CENTRALISED ADMIN
NONE BRITISH PEOPLE SHOULD BE MADE
JUST HELP THEM OUT!
GAMES ROOM, MORE STAFF. KB
THIS IS HIGHER MANAGEMENT QUESTION
THATS UP TO THE PEOPLE IN THE KNOW TO WORK OUT NOT THE VUNERABLE.
HIGHER EARNERS SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO AFFORD CUTS
IDENTIFYING OVERLAPS AND REPRODUCTION OF SERVICES
ASK PEOPLE IF THEY ARE WILLING TO VOLINTEER TO HELP WHEN PEOPLE ARE OFF SICK OR ON MATERNITY LEAVE
MULTITASKING
PROVIDERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE WHERE THE MONEY IS BEING SPENT AND SHOULD OFFER VALUE FOR MONEY, THERE IS GREAT DISPARITY IN HOW MUCH DIFFERENT SERVICES CHARGE.
RECRUIT MORE VOLUNTEERS E.G. RETIRED SPECIALISTS TO EDUCATE HOUSEHOLDERS RE DRUG ABUSE
NOT ABLE TO COMMENT DUE TO LIMITED KNOWLEDGE
REDUCE ADMIN COSTS ETC
LESS PAPERWORK - TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS INSTEAD OF PERSONAL VISITS FOR THE LESS VULNERABLE. THIS WILL FREE UP TIME AND CUT DOWN ON COSTS FOR FUEL AND TIME SPENT OUT OF THE OFFICE
I CAN'T I WOULD HAVE TO REALLY LOOK INTO IT AND I SUPPOSE SOMEBODY IN THAT POSITION HAS ALREADY LOOKED INTO IT
ALL SUPPORT I GET IS ESSIENTAL
MOBILE HANDYMAN/HAIRDRESSER ETC TO VISIT HOUSING SCHEMES IN ROTATION
WHERE POSSIBLE MEANS TESTING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF SERVICE USERS
MEANS TESTED CONTRIBUTIONS
HOW CAN I SAY IF I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE PRESENT WAY OF DEALING I WOULD IF I COULD
I AM A VOLUNTARY WORKER FOR TWO CHARITIES AND I SUPPORT A NUMBER OF CHARITIES. A GOOD DAYS WORK WOULD NOT HURT ANYONE. HANDOUTS FROM THE HARD-PRESSED TAX PAYER IS DISGUSTING. THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE ASKING FOR.
CARE AGENCYS TO WORK IN ALLOCATED AREAS ONLY SAVING THEIR TIME . HOUSING ASS HAVING OWN CARE BASED CARERS TO WORK WITHIN THEIR ORGANISIONS.
CARE AGENCYS TO WORK IN ALLOCATED AREAS ONLY SAVING TRAVEL TIME. HOUSING ASS HAVING OWN CARE BASED CARERS TO WORK WITHIN THEIR ORGANISATIONS
OPEN ACCESS TO SERVICES, MORE DROP IN
If YES, please give details.
THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ACCESS SUPPORTED LODGINGS ARE GIVEN A VERY PRACTICAL
CENTRAL HUB OF SUPPORT WITH HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES, NHS AND OTHER COMMUNITY AGENCIES
1 DECREASE THE WAGE OF SENIOR STAFF IN SEFTON COUNCIL 2 REDUCE FUNDING TO SOUTHPORT
I WOULD IMAGINE SAVINGS COULD BE MADE BUT I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE SERVICES TO SAY HOW CHANGES COULD BE MADE
PROBABLY, THERE ARE ALWAYS WAYS TO MAKE SAVINGS, BUT I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH OF WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO SAY HOW CHANGES CAN BE MADE.
GET RID OF SERVICES THAT ARE NOT PERFORMING

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POORLY ATTENDED MEETINGS WITH SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD BE CHANGED TO APPOINTMENTS ON REQUEST - ARE HOUSE VISITS REALLY NECESSARY FOR MOST CARERS? COULD SHAKESPEARE STREET OFFICES BE MOVED INTO PART OF THE HOSPITAL (IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET TO WITHOUT A CAR)
AN INCREASE IN VOLLETEERS WOULD HELP ALOT
YOUNG PARENTS AND TEENAGE PARENTS - VOLUNTEERS COULD WORK WITH THEM NOT PAID STAFF WE HAVE EXPERIENCE OF BRINGING UP FAMILIES AND BUDGETING. LET VOLUNTEERS DO THE MENTORING. JUST TRAIN THE VOLUNTEERS
HOUSING TO PROVIDE OWN SUPPORT FOR TENANTS IN HOUSE CUT OUT MIDDLE AGENCY
RIVERSIDE ECHG TO HAVE OWN SUPPORT CARERS AT SCHEMES
THE HEALTHY ARE OVER LOOKED BY THE SYSTEM, IN PREFERENCE FOR CARE OF THE DISABLE PHYSICAL/MENTAL DRUG ABUSERS AND IMIGRANTS
REDUCE ADMIN AND PERSONNEL COSTS
START WITH GOVERNMENT CUTTING BACK, IF EVERYONE IS CUTTING BACK SLIGHTLY THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS
MORE SHARING OF SERVICES - GRADUAL LESSENING OF SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUAL TO INCREASE INDEPENDENCE LET THE CLIENT ASK FOR HELPREQUIRED. REQUIRED RATHER THAN ALLOCATED.
LESS HIGHER MANAGEMENT
GET RID OF HIRE MANAGERS
REDUCE MANAGEMENT COST
REDUCE MANAGEMENT COSTS
REDUCE MANAGEMENT COSTS - REDUCE SURVEYS - MUST COST A LOT
I CONSIDER SERVICES SHOULD NOT BE CUT AT ALL FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS
EMPLOY MORE PEOPLE LIKE MR BRIAN CHURCHILL, THE WARDEN. HE EARNS HIS SALARY BY ENSURING HIS TENANTS CONCERNS ARE LISTENED TO.
PARTNERSHIPS - POOLING RESOURCES
YES TRY STARTING IN THTAG OFFICE THEY EARN MORE MONEY
DON'T KNOW
EARLY INTERVENTION IN ALL 'PEOPLE IN (OR OUT) OF BOXES, AND AWARENESS OF REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND WOLD DEMOCRATIC CHANGES IN ORDER TO PLAN RESOURCES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE USE
WASHING MACHINE CLOTHES GET MIXED
REDUCE MANAGEMENT COSTS
REDUCE MANAGEMENT COSTS TOO TOP HEAVY
If YES, please give details.
DETAILED EXAMINATION ON THE NUMBER OF SENIOR MANAGERS. IN OTHER WORDS, LESS CHIEFS MORE INDIANS.
AS ABOVE
CHECK ON THE NUMBER OF STAFF
TO MANY BOSSES
STOP PAYING FOR BIG CARS FOR CARE PEOPLE
CUT OUT RED TAPE AND SPEND LESS ON EXPENSE'S AND COMMUNICATE MORE DEPARTMENTAL WISE
SEFTON IS ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES WITHIN THEIR EXISTING BUDGETS!
LOCAL COUNCILLORS & M.P.'S SHOULD TAKE REDUCED EXPENSISES AND PLOUGH MONEY BACK INTO SUPPORTING PEOPLE

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REDUCE EXPENSES FOR COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL MP & PUT MONEY INTO S.P. POT
TOO MANY HIGHER MANAGEMENT STAFF TOO MANY PERKS FOR SOME STAFF
IF NOT ALREADY ACTIONED A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF WHAT STEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICES BY THE ORGANISATIONS SEEKING FUNDING. I.E. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE INTERNALLY BY THESE ORGANISATIONS TO GIVE BETTER VALUE
DON'T KNOW
DON'T KNOW
DON'T KNOW
DON'T KNOW
LESS FOOLISHNESS FROM THE COUNCIL
LESS BEUROCRACY
DON'T KNOW
DON'T KNOW
DON'T KNOW
?
BY BUDGETING MORE EFFICIENT WAY, LOOKING AT FINANCIAL WASTE AND SERVICES THAT ARE NOT FULLY EFFECTIVE
YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THE COST OF CARE FOR THOSE HOUSES WITH DISABLED PEOPLE IN. THE WORKERS ARE THERE WHEN THE PEOPLE AREN'T
THE COST SAVINGS THAT SP PROVIDES - REDUCED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, REDUCED CRIME & RATES OF RE-OFFENDING ARE SAVINGS FELT BY OTHER AGENCIES THAN THE COUNCIL. THESE AGENCIES SHOULD TAKE A LOCAL APPROACH TO POOLING BUDGETS SO THE OVERALL SP BUDGET IS MAINTAINED & THOSE FEELING THE SAVINGS CONTRIBUTE AND THE COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION CAN DECREASE IN A MANAGED WAY OVER TIME
USE SMALLER VEHICLES FOR REPAIRS ETC AND REPAIRS RATHER THAN REPLACEMENT
SHARED OVERHEADS/CONSORTIA/JOINT TRAINING ETC
I HAVE HAD 2 MIN TO FILL THIS FORM HARDLY TIME TO DO ANYTHING YOU HAVE HAD 12 MONTHS
BRING JESUS BACK INTO SCHOOLS AND CHILDRENS HEARTS. TRAIN UP VOLUNTEERS, BUT THEN AGAIN THAT COSTS MOEY, ALSO GET THE LOCAL CHURCHES INVOLVED, BRING THIS COUNTRY BACK TO IT'S ORIGINAL ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SO MANY VUNERABLE ADULTS TO BEGIN WITH.
KEEP IT LIKE IT IS OR NOT REDUCE IT
CANT ANSER THIS ONE - DONT UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN ANSER THIS
DONT UNDERSTAND QUESTION
WHY CHANGE SOMETHING THAT IS WORKING WELL. "IF IT AINT BROKE DONT FIX IT"
If YES, please give details.
EVERYTHING IS RUNNING EXTREMELY EFFICIENTLY AS IT IS PLEASE LEAVE OUR SERVICES ALONE!!
DONT CUT COSTS AT ALL THE PEOPLE NEED THEIR SUPPORT
MORE CONTACT BETWEEN AGENCIES I.E. SHARING INFORMATION
BY HAVING MORE COMMUNICATION DIRECTLY AND PEOPLE MAKING MORE OR DIFFICULT CHOICES WHERE NECESSARY
I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW THE DETAILS OF FUNDING, THEREFORE I CANNOT COMMENT ON HOW CHANGES CAN BE MADE
YOU ARE DOING A MARVELLOUS JOB ALREADY. MANY THANKS!
NO REDUCE FUNDING
HAPPY WITH SUPPORT, DO NOT CUT FUNDING
CUT HIGHER MANAGEMENT STOP PRIVATISATION STOPP WASTING MONEY ON CONSULTANSY FIRMS AND CORRUPTION
CUT HIGHER MANAGEMENT STOP PRIVATISATION STOPP WASTING MONEY

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REDUCTION IN HIGHER MANAGEMENT. ENSURE VALUABLE RESOURCES ARE DIRECTED AT SERVICES AND NOT ADVERTISEMENTS/MISS-MANAGEMENT
REDUCE HIGH MANAGEMENT PAY
THERE IS POOR MANAGEMENT OF SERVICES, REDUCE HIGHER MANAGEMENT, HAVE MORE HANDS ON STAFF, MIS MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS
LESS PAPERWORK LESS CHANGES IN POLICIES PROCEDURES WHICH INCUR MANY HOURS WORK AND LOTS OF PAPER, PRINTING PHOTOCOPYING ETC
POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SERVICE USERS, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE COSTLY TO ADMINISTER. REVIEW HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED, FOR EXAMPLE, REDUCTIONS IN HOME VISITS WHERE POSSIBLE. PARTNERING WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.
ALL DAY DROP IN
NOT SURE
FANTASTIC THE WAY IT IS VERY POSITIVE OUTCOMES MAKING COMMUNITY MUCH MORE IMPROVED
REDUCE SIZE OF POSTS IN SP TEAM
MORE VOLUNTEERS
Joint working
greater involvement of CFV sector(s)
The Council should give greater direction as to whom it considers to be priority groups and allocate funding directly; this allocation may need to be on a "spend to save" basis.
review what services you have more carefully and get rid of the poor quality ones , increase the ones that are working , become more creative with service delivery and less red tape (paperwork). use local resources.
Better partnership working
Most services could reduce costs if pushed , each would have to submit a plan.
More targeted resources and working with providers and service users to look at best models
Encourage voluntary opportunities Annual assessments of benefits/financial circumstances for service users
Use more floating support which is generally better value than accommodation based support services and reaches more vulnerable people
There are ways in which all services can be delivered differently to reduce costs attributed to SP if there's no choice. However, the costs saved will be offset against future increased costs against other budgets.
If YES, please give details.
by looking towards partnership working - promoting and encouraging existing providers to look at ways of effectively working in partnership to achieve back office savings - by setting council tax rates which reflect the real costs of service provision - this may not be popular with the electorate, however given the full facts and reality of cost at least they can make fully informed decisions.
A greater input into the Generic service may mean people at risk could be dealt with at an initial stage reducing the need for further action and the amalgamation of some services.
na
Better planned partnership working between agencies and residents of the borough.
Reduce the high management costs, and unnecessary admin.
Ensure that funding of services comes via the correct stream. To draw down funding from partner agencies such as probation and health if the service contributes towards their aims and objectives.
Some services may be able to reduce costs by working together and some may be able to change the way services are delivered. However this will not be possible for all services and will depend on the size of the organisation and on the way the organisation is set up. Feedback from our customers tells us that they do not want a different delivery model.

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In a more collaborative manner - starting from a strategic point of view in particular drug and alcohol services working together or from one service.
Reduce the amount given to MerseyCare and use this money to fund community projects like the Mental Health Crisis House, which is a better option than hospital services, and aids recovery
Out reach and home support
Services need to look at overhead costs for a start and keep costs low. Services should be streamlined as so duplicate work is not being undertaken by several services. Services should also show evidence of work undertaken with the clients to demonstrate the effectiveness of their service.
using volunteers for some labour, using apprentices and students to work within the services developing their own skills but still providing an effective service, looking at current contracts with providers and seeing if there are ways reductions can be made without impacting on the service delivery and quality.
We have tried to outsource the service to other providers in the past but found the current arrangement offers the best value for money. Last year we outsourced a project however it had to be reclaimed as it didn't operate as efficiently, or cost effectively, as it did when we previously controlled it.
Tameside MBC redeveloped unused council premises at Bayley Hall, Hyde Park to launch the Park Café, which employs, prepares and trains people with learning disabilities for employment in the hotel and catering industry. A place at the café is a third cheaper than traditional day services, and helps participants move out of day services into voluntary work, further education and paid employment. People involved in the scheme have been extremely positive about their experiences, The scheme has 80 placements a week. Currently, 46 people are involved; 66 have participated in overall. The cost of supporting an individual in the scheme is more than a third cheaper than the equivalent cost of a place in day services. Participants in the scheme increase their independence, develop skills and gain valuable experience of a work environment. More than half of the 20 people who have moved on from the scheme have moved into positions where they do not require further day services, generating long-term savings for the authority. Feedback from staff at the café, and from customers, has been extremely positive. Staff say they are very happy to work at the café, and comment on the good atmosphere, while customers have praised the warm and friendly service at the café. Reduce 24-hour care settings - replace with assistive technology - no more waking nights required even for those people with acute epilepsy. Invest in prevention, reducing high cost / crisis services.
Re look at financial benefit packages that come with salaries i.e. does the Mayor need a brand new car buying for him
do a full cost investigation on all care services
reshape services to get more for money, get rid of high cost ones by looking at what's needed not just what's always been there,
If YES, please give details.
re-evaluate what you have and get rid of poor or under-achieving services, stop going towards generic services (one size fits all approach). Commission services that make a difference, take your guidance from those who use the service
Commissioning clearly based on a robust review of the performance of existing services based on: utilisation, quality, outcomes, commitment to delivering local priorities and positive engagement with commissioning bodies. Poor performing services to be decommissioned and put out to competitive tender or novated to high-performing services.
. Reduce office workers Simplify the paperwork
All services should be a value for money service and organisations should keep overhead costs down. I get very frustrated walking into fancy offices and buildings when the same companies complain about costs.

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<p>There are always a few things that could be trimmed in £6million programme but no single services could support a 50% cut on top of that already experienced. It maybe worth looking at some of the services and seeing what economies are there. However I know from the service I have worked with, Fuel Poverty, we have tried paying others and outsourcing where possible and it still requires the 2 staff we have to run things inhouse. We could advice to others on how to cut costs and work smarter, as we have used an extnsive network of partners, other people's funding and good efficient practices to keep costs minimal.</p>
<p>Council admin and operation costs are top heavy. A reduction in these costs would alleviate cuts in services delivered.</p>
<p>Rationalise providers Reduce the bureacratic monitoring machine to monitor what really matters</p>
<p>It is hard to be specific, but ways of delivering services cheaper could be by introducing and 'on site' approach to support, where say at least one member of staff is available in a large property at all times to a number of service users to deliver agreed support to all when appropriate, rather than having to travel individually between properties to deliver set amount of contract hours agreed, this can add hours onto care packages and increase costs. The logistics of asking people to give up their independence and enter into what could effectively be viewed as a step backwards or taking it further an 'institution' of sorts kicks up its own problems and arguments, but if the right types of properties were found and you could encourage people who live alone that they would still have their independence and this would be encouraged then maybe contracts could be reduced slightly by creating a model like this.</p>
<p>Streamline SP monitoring across A A s to reduce duplication/triplication of QAFs, annual reviews etc. Also consider acceptance of CQC inspections as evidence of good practice and meeting standards as opposed to having separate SP and CQC inspections. Where services are measured as excellent or good reduce frequency of inspections and reviews.</p>
<p>Delivering services through joint partnerships to ensure organisations can continue to deliver a vital service to residents in Sefton Borough. Looking at being more creative in delivering services and developing a service which meets the needs of the whole community and not just residents who are in social housing.</p>
<p>intelligent commissioning with redesign of services within an equal partnership relationship , instead of bean counting input giving no regard to impact measures .</p>
<p>I would like to see learning programmes linked to SP support services for different groups. There is potentialy to divert some of teh funding which is paid to learning providers for the delivery of qualifications by the SFA which could be used to co finance the delivery of SP services. Obviously this would require the deilvery of a suite of relevant qualifications.</p>
<p>Reduce systems that allow workers to work with vulnerable people. This is never listened too. It is time the LA was radical in this area. Examine what Support is as a model of service delivery and encourage providers to develop Coaching models, that are more focused and produce results much faster. Get providers to share good practice and lets move away from agencies holding onto their own. This includes the LA who are experts at it!</p>
<p>Use of third sector grant money to be channelled into supporting vulnerable adults Larger contracts to be given to providers re economy of scale (more for less)</p>
<p>If YES, please give details.</p>
<p>Look at the costs of the services of these organisations, and make sure they are not charging people more than once for the same thing, and make sure that the council are not lining the pockets of care providers. Everyone needs to take part in this even those people who are seen as not being able to look after themselves at all, there are loads of equipment these days that would lower the cost of some care services.</p>
<p>Costs need to be looked at for services, true levels of services apportioned to those who need it, not just by an age criteria for a service, there should be mulitple cost levels within services based on need not just the same cost for all clients, peoples needs are different and some clients utilise more of the support service than others and the charging regeme should mirror this. There should be a look at how the local authority pays for all services, and ensure that care services are not being over funded when other lower cost services are available that could save the council a lot of money.</p>
<p>Larger contracts for providers could be considered - or even combined contracts across Council boundaries in a way that reflects the proposal to merge Social Work teams across Merseyside.</p>
<p>Possibly re-configuring some support services, in order that there is not a reduction in the numbers of vulnerable people that can be supported.</p>

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Check services are not being paid too much, make sure all adult services gave a financial check, reduce ridiculous costs and pay for things being given to people not more for nothing because you haven't got the time to check them all
Look at high cost care services
invest in good companies who can help lots of people not ones that cost loads and do nothing

Question 8 Comments

Do you have any other comments about this option?
NO
IF TIS SERVICE WAS NOT HERE I WOULD BE BACK ON THE STREET. I WOULD HAVE NO MONEY AND WOULD HAVE TO FIND WAYS OF GETTING SOME. THIS IS MY HOME, I DON'T LIKE HOSTELS BUT THIS IS NOT LIKEE A HOSTEL IF THE FIRST ONE I'VE STAYED AT.
IF BUDGET CUT MEANS LOSING ST CATH'S, I AM CONCERNED DEEPLY FOR HEALTH ISSUES, AND HIGH RISK OF GOING BACK TO USING DRUGS & GOING BACK TO PRISON.
NO
I THINK THIS IS A DISGRACE & THE CUTBACK WOULD EFFECT MY LIFESTYLE
NO
I AM DISGUSTED AT THE PROPOSED CUTS TO THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET
I THINK THIS IS A DISGRACE & THE CUTBACKS WOULD AFFECT MY LIFESTYLE
THIS WOULD AFFECT MYSELF & OTHERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY
SPEAKING ONLY FOR MY TENANTS THESE PEOPLE ARE VERY VULNERABLE AND CAN'T ALWAYS MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS OR FILL FORMS IN. ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT ALL COSTS. LESS ESSENTIAL SHOULD BE REDUCED. A 5% CUT PEOPLE WOULD ALL BE DOING THERE BIT BUT ANYTHING MORE FOR IMPACT ON THEIR FUNDS.
THIS SERVICE COVERS THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY AND IS A EASY OPTION. IT MUST NOT BE CUT TO SAVE MONEY THAT WILL IN THE LONG TERM PUT PREASURE ON THE OTHER SERVICES,IE POLICE,NHS, SOCIAL SERVICES ETC, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT SERVICE WHICH A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER WITHOUT, IT MUST BE SAVED.
I'M NOT SUPPORTIVE OF THE SP POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS
I AM NOT SUPPORTIVE OF THESE POTENTIAL CUTS
NOT SUPPORTED OF THESE CUTS
IT WOULD BE CONCERNED AT LOSING MY CHOICE AND CONTROL, MY INDEPENDENCE AND THE EFFECTS THE CUTBACKS COULD MAKE ON MY LIFESTYLE
INSTEAD OF US MAKING CUTS, TELL THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SO, BRING BACK PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT. WE PAY £750 PER PRISONER PER WEEK. WOULDN'T WE BE RICH IF MURDERERS WERE PUT TO DEATH. CRIME WOULD BE REDUCED PEOPLE COULD LIVE IN PEACE & NO MORE WARS!!
A 44% REDUCTION IN OVERALL SPEND IS CRIMINAL, WITH £20 MILLION POUNDS WORTH OF SAVING TO BE FOUND OUT OF A £260 MILLION POUND CONTROLABLE BUDGET 7.69%, HOW CAN 44% BE REASONED OR JUSTIFIED!
NONE
I AM CONCERNED ABOUT MY EFFECTS ON MY GENERAL WELLBEING.
AS A SCHEME CO ORDINATOR I FEEL UNCOMMUNICATED WITH AND STILL FEEL THAT RESIDENTS MAIN CONCERN IS THEIR LIABILITY TO PAY MORE RENT FOR SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN REDUCED. THE MAIN SERVICE THAT HAS BEEN REDUCED AT AINDOW IS THE HOURS OF THE SCHEME COORDINATOR. THE MAIN CONCERN IS THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO FIND THE MONEY THAT IS SHOWING IN ARREARS.
I DO NOT THINK THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A HEFTY CUT IN THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES. INCLUDING OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUPPORT NEEDS
I FEEL THAT THE SERVICE IS LACKING A RESPONSE SERVICE TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES E.G. CRISIS TEAM , POLICE LIASION SOCIAL WORKER ETC TO PROVIDE A OUT OF HOURS SERVICES TO VUNERABLE PEOPLE IS A MUST

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I WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED THAT MY LIFESTYLE 7 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WOULD BE AFFECTED
WE ARE TOLD BY THE GOVERNMENT "WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER- I JUST WONT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO MEALS.
Do you have any other comments about this option?
IF THE MONEY IS REDUCED I FEEL IT WOULD HAVE A MASSIVE EFFECT ON THE COMUNITY AS AN INCREASE IN CRIME AND HOMELESSNESS WOULD INCREASE DRAMATICALLY
I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE (INPUTTER MESSAGE: FURTHER TEXT BUT CANNOT READ)
YES IT IS A GOOD THING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO NEED SERVICES GET DELIVERED
BETTER COMMUNICATION AND MULTI AGENCY WORKING FROM SERVICES ESPECIALLY BETTER COMMUNICATION FROM THE COUNCIL TO SERVICES
AT PRESENT THERE ARE NOT MANY OPTIONS FOR SINGLE HOMELESS MEN IN SEFTON IN TERMS OF CHOICE. TO REDUCE FUNDING FOR BOSCO WOULD POTENTIALLY DECREASE THE QUALITY OF SUPPORT GIVEN, WE OFFER SUPPORT TO PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE MISUSE ISSUES, MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, LEARNING DISABILITIES. WE PROVIDE GENERIC SUPPORT AND THIS IS A VITAL LIFELINE FOR MANY SINGLE HOMELESS MEN IN SEFTON, IT PROVIDES STABILITY AND TO PLATFORM FOR THEM TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE CHANGE.
IF PEOPLE WANT TO KEEP THERE JOBS THEN I THINK THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE A PAY DECREASE OR EARLY RETIREMENT TO LET SCHOOL LEAVERS HAVE A CHANCE TO GET ON THE JOB LADDER AND I THINK EVERYBODY WHO NEEDS HELP SHOULD BE PREPARED TO VOLINTEER FIRST
ASK ABOUT WHO YOU ARE HURTING WHEN THESE ARE ENGLISH, AND YOU ARE SUPPORTING EMIGRANTS BEFORE ARE PENSIONERS AND HURTING PEOPLE (Name supplied)
THERE ARE MANY OTHER SERVICES WHICH COULD BE REDUCED OR CHARGED FOR WHICH ARE NO WHERE NEAR AS ESSENTIAL
I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE WARDENS TIME
DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING
DON'T CHANGE ANYTHIKE
BEING A HOUSEHOLDER, I FEEL THE SERVICE WE CURRENTLY PROVIDE IS ALREADY UNDERVALUED, IN RELATION TO THE SUPPORT & BENEFITS WE PROVIDE TO A YOUNG PERSON. MY AIM IS TO PROVIDE LODGER, SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND LIFE SKILLS TO YOUNG PERSONS WHOE NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE SERVICES BY SSL, THIS THEN SETS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A YOUNG PERSON TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL, INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS. A REDUCTION IN FUNDING WILL IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY ON HOUSEHOLDERS AND THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE THIS KEY SERVICE FOR YOUNG PERSONS. I DON'T SEE HOW A REDUCTION CAN BE OF BENEFIT IN THIS MUCH NEEDED AREA OF SUPPORT.
I FEEL AS A CARER THIS IS SO WRONG I HAVE TAKEN IN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE THAT HAVE NO PARENTS OR CARERS AND THEY ARE VERY SCARED AND BRIEFLY MAPS GIVES THEM THE SUPPORT AD CARE THEY NEED AND WITH 1 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE UNEMPLOYED YOU WILL ONLY MAKE THIS WORSE
BEING A HOUSEHOLDER THE EFFORT WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT A YOUNG PERSON IS NOT REPRESENTED IN THE CURRENT PAYMENT. THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND STABILITY COULD NOT BE REPLICATED VIA OTHER SERVICES AND TO BRING SOMEONE (UNKNOWN) INTO YOUR HOME AND PROVIDE SUPPORT ON A DAILY BASIS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERVALUED. BY HAVING STABLE/SUPPORTIVE ENVIRIONMENTS THE YOUNG PEOPLD HAVE A CHANCE OF MAKING SOMETHING WITH THEIR LIVES AND/OR THE ABILITY TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.
CONCERNS RE REDUCTION IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION WHICH WILL IMPACT UPON YP I WORK WITH. IT WILL REDUCE CHOICE AND HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT UPON OUTCOMES FOR THOSE YP.
I THINK THAT PEOPLE WHO NEED SUPPORT SHOULD NOT BE TARGETED, THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE NOW WHO NEED SUPPORT AND DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SERVICES THEY CAN OBTAIN. SO IF THERE ARE CUTS, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE RECEIVING THE SERVICES ARE GOING TO BE ISOLATED AND LEFT TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES WHICH WILL PUT PRESSURE ON OTHER SERVICES LIKE HOSPITALS, POLICE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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Do you have any other comments about this option?
AT THE MOMENT IT AFFECTS YOUNGSTERS AND THEY ARE THE FUTURE IT SEEMS TO BE THE YOUNGSTERS ALL THE TIME LATERLY
IF THIS SERVICE WAS NOT HERE I WOULD FEEL LOST. AT THE MOMENT IM IN EDUCATION AND IF THIS SERVICE WAS CUT I WOULD NOT BE IN EDUCATION AND HOMELESS.
YES! REDUCTION IN OUR COMMUNITIES FUNDING FOR ALL OR ANY OF THE SUPPORT SERVICES MENTIONED WOULD BE NON-BENEFICIAL FINENAELLY IN THE LONG RUN AS SO MUCH MORE MONEY WOULD NEED TO BE SPENT CORRECTING THIS MISTAKE OF REDUCING SUPPORT. IN MY OPINION THIS WOULD OUTRAGE MOST OF THE COMMUNITY AS ONCE THE SUPPORT STOPS AND MANY MAY TURN TO CRIME ETC. WE WILL END UP WITH MORE PEOPLE NEEDING SUPPORT THAN IN THE FIRST PLACE. IM SURE IF RECENT STATISTICS ARE LOOKED AT WE NEED MORE FUNING FOR SUPPORT SERVICES.
YES , NON BENIFICAL IN THE LONG RUN, MORE MONEY WILL GET PAID OUT CORRECTING ALL THE WRONGS DONE, PEOPLE WILL END UP TURNING TO CRIME. END UP WITH MORE PEOPLE NEEDING SUPPORT IN THE FIRST PLACE
IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE I WOULD STILL BE LIVING IN DIFFERENT FRIENDS HOUSES NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO IN LIFE. I WOULD MOST PROBERLEY WOULD OF TURNED TO CRIME AND ALCHOL I WOULD NOT BE IN COLLEGE AND I WOULDNT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH MY FAMILY BUT BECAUSE I GOT THE SUPPORT ALL OF THIS WAS AVERTED
I THINK IT'S A BAD DESION AS IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MY LIFE,MAXINE IS VERY GOOD SUPPORT FOR ME. I THINK THAT IF YOU CUT THE MONEY I WILL NOT BE TO MANAGE ANYMORE
IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE SUPPORT THEN I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY KEPT GOING DOWN THE BAD ROAD AND ENDED UP HOMELESS, IN JAIL OR DEAD. THIS SERVICE HAS CHANGED MY LIFE SO MUCH, ON TRACK WITH MY EDUCATION, CAREER PATH AND INDEPENDENCE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS SERVICE, IT HAS A MAJOR IMPACT IN MY LIFE
WITHOUT THESE SERVICES I WOULD STILL BE HOMLESS I WOULD OF TURNED TO CRIME AND ALCHOL, I WOULD NOT BE IN EDUCATION AND WOULD HAVE NO CONTACT WITH MY FAMILY BUT THANKS TO THESE SERVICES THIS HAS BEEN AVERTED
I WOULD LIKE SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO CARRY ON SUPPORTING US YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THE TIME THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING AFTER MY WELFARE WHICH HAS BEEN FOR 20 MONTHS NOW
LEAVE EVERYTHING ALONE
NO
WHILST I APPRECIATE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BEING INVITED TO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS, THEY ARE WORTHLESS IF NOT BASED ON ACTUAL FACTS. ANYONE WITH A BIAS TOWARDS A CERTAIN PEOPLE GROUP WILL AUTOMATICALLY SAY TO CUT THEIR FUNDING. SURELY IT COMES DOWN TO THE ASSESSMENT TEAMS WHO KNOW THE POLICIES AND ARE DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL CASES AT GROUND LEVEL. I'M SORRY BUT OUR OPINIONS CANNOT BE A TRUE REFLECTION TO BASE CUTS ON.
I WUOLD BE GLAD TO BE RID OF THIS CHARGE. A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY. SINCE I WAS ONLY TAKEN ON FULL-TIME AT WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL AFTER SOME YEARS, MY PENSION IS MEAGRE. I PAY A HEFTY RENT TO ANCHOR HOUSING WHO ARE EXPERTS IN WASTING MONEY. (Name Supplied) MY PARENTS ASKED FOR NOTHING FROM THE STATE AND RECEIVED NOTHING. THEYWOKED AS LONG AS THEY COULD AND MY MOTHER DIED ON HER FEET. I KNOW OF PEOPLE IN HERE WHO ARE ON BENEFIT WHO ARE FARBETTER OFF THEN I. THEY WOULD NOT DREAM OF CONTRIBUTING TO ANYTHING. THEY TAKE AND TAKE AND CONSTANTLY LOOK INWARDS. THE PEOPLE IN REAL NEED WOULD NOT DREAM OF ASKING FOR IT. MY PARENTS WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT THE BENEFIT OFFICE AND MY MOTHER WOULD NOT EVEN CLAIM HER PENSION. IN AN ERA WHERE IT IS ALMOST FASHIONABLE TO HAVE NO SELF-RESPECT I KNOW THA I AM AN OD D MAN OUT. I DO NOT BELIEVE I SHOULD LIVE OFF THE TAX-PAYER. THE YOUNG OFFENDERS WHICH I AM HELPING TO KEEP, WOULD NOT BE YOUNG OFFENDERS IF THEIR PARENTS HAD SET THEM A GOOD EXAMPLE BY WORKING AND HAVING SOME SELF RESPCT. THE SUPPORT CHARGE IS NOT FOR ME. I WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO BE RID OF IT. TO

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ASK A PENSIONER TO GIVVE YOU £20 PER MONT OF HR MEAGRE PENSION FOR A SERVICE SHE DOES NOT RECCEIVE IS NOTING SHORT OF INIQUITOUS.

Do you have any other comments about this option?

MYSELF AND MY MATE USED TO LIVE IN PARKHAVEN TRUST, MAGHULL IN A CARE HOME LIVING WITH A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE WITH THE ILLNESS EPILEPSY. WITHIN THE LAST DECADE BOTH OF US WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, AND LEARN HOW TO DO THE CHORES AND HOW TO HANDLE PAYING THE BILLS WHEN THE TIME CAME ALONG. THEOUTCOME AFTER WE BOTH HAD LEARN'T WAS TO GO OUT IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND GET OUR OWN HOUSE, FLAT OR BUNGALOW. TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO WE BOTH MOVED OUT OF PARKHAVEN TRUST AND MOVED TO BOOTLE IN STRAND HOUSE, OUR OWN FLAT AND WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY HAPPIER. WE BOTH SETTLED IN QUITE QUICKLY AND WE BOTH MADE OURSELVES KNOWN, AND WE BOTH MADE NEW FRIENDS IN AND AROUND WHERE WE LIVE AND ON OUR FLOOR OUR NEIGHBOURS ARE SO FRIENDLY. WE DO GET SUPPORT, WE HAVE A SUPPORT WORKER CALLED MIKE AND HE'S SO FANTASTIC HE'S NOT JUST OUR SUPPORT WORKER HE'S OUR BEST FRIEND. WE ARE UNDER ONE VISION SO IF THINGS CROP UP OR BREAK DOWN, MYSELF OR MY MATE WILL RING ONE VISION AND THEY'LL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO COME ROUND AND FIX IT. WE DO HAVE A LADY CALLED GILL AND SHE COMES ROUND A FEW TIMES A MONTH TO SEE IF EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT, AS WELL AS DOING PAPER WORK. WE ARE ON INCOME SUPPORT EVERY WEEK AND DLA EVERY MONTH. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST 2 AND A HALF YEARS, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT RELATED OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS GROWN, WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER IF NEEDED, WE KNOW EACH OTHER MORE, MY MATE CALLS IT IT'S LIKE WE'RE BROTHERS ALTHOUGH WE'RE NOT. WHAT WE CAN SAY IS WE ARE BOTH UNDER GOOD COMPANY, WE'RE AROUND THE BEST PEOPLE AND FRIENDS AND IN A BETTER AREA THAN WHERE WE WERE AND WE HAVE JOINED THE BEST THING OF ALL JOINING AND BEING AMEMBER OF PEOPLE FIRST.

THE SUPPORT THAT I GET HELPS ME FEEL ABLE TO HELP MY NEIGHBOURS AND OTHER PEOPLE TOO. SOMETIMES I NEED MORE HELP AND SOMETIMES I'M OK SO I WANT TO GET HELP WHEN I WANT TO, NOT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE TELLS ME. WHEN WE GO ON RESIDENTIALS AND DAY TRIPS WE ALL LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER. THIS IS GOOD BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE CAN'T GET OUT MUCH AND SO IF WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER WE FEEL BETTER. PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO MUCH WITHOUT SERVICES TO HELP THEM KNOW WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR THEM AND HOW THEY CAN GET HELP WHEN THEY NEED OR WANT IT. I WANT TO CHOOSE WHERE I GET HELP AND SUPPORT FROM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

VENUS ARE NOT ONLY A SUPPORT GROUP, BUT ALSO HAVE BECOME SOMEONE THAT I CAN TRUST IN. IF THIS SERVICE IS DROPPED I KNOW I WOULD PROBABLY END UP HAVING HOSPITAL TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. IN THE LONG RUN IT WOULD COST MORE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF IN HOSPITAL THAN TO FIND A SERVICE THAT THEY PROVIDE, WHICH IS ALSO BETTER FOR ME.

ON A PERSONAL VIEW, I REALLY COULDN'T HAVE GOT THROUGH WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM VENUS. THEY SUPPORT ME THROUGH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. I FEEL LIKE THEY ARE SUCH A VERY STRONG SUPPORT GROUP. I RING THEM UP CONSTANTLY WHEN I'M DOWN AND EVEN IF I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO MY SUPPORT WORKER (WHICH IS NOT OFTEN) SHE ALWAYS PHONES ME BACK TO CHECK I'M OK. ALSO VENUS SUPPORTS ME WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS IN HELPING ME DEAL WITH BILLS AND HELPING ME WORK WITH A VIABLE SOLUTION WHICH LEFT ALONE THEY WOULD GROW.

THE SUPPORT HELP I GOT WAS SO MUCH TO ME. IT HELP ME STOP DRINKING. ALSO HELP ME STAY OUT OF HOSPITAL. HELP ME TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE. ALSO HELP WITH MY EX HUSBAND CAME BACK : HELP ME GO TO COURT WHICH I HAD NO ONE TO GO WITH WHICH THEY HELP SO MUCH; ALSO WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THE HELP VENUS AS GIVEN ME SO MUCH.

Do you have any other comments about this option?

VENUS IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE THAT KEEPS PEOPLE FROM ENDING UP IN HOSTELS AND HOSPITALS. WE DO THIS BY ENSURING OUR SERVICE USERS REMAIN IN SAFE AND SECURE TENANCIES. THIS HAS A KNOCK ON EFFECT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MAKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES MORE STABLE

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<p>WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE VENUS CENTRE RESOURCE GROUP I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY. THEY ARE A WONDERFULL TEAM NOT JUST WITH MYSELF BUT WITH MANY OTHER PEOPLE WHOM ARE A LOT WORSE OFF THAN MYSELF ... MY FAMILY HAVE ALSO GOT CONTACT WITH THE VENUS CENTRE SO THEY KNOW THEY CAN RELY ON THE CENTRE BECAUSE OF MYSELF. I HAVE MOVED OUT OF MY DISTRICT TO A COMPLETELY NEW AREA AND HAD TO START AFRESH BUT THE VENUS HAVE ME SO MUCH. THANK YOU</p>
<p>THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ACCESS SUPPORTED LODGINGS ARE GIVEN A VERY PRACTICAL AND INFLUENTIAL LEVEL OF SUPPORT, AT A RELATIVELY LOW COST, WHICH HAS A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES</p>
<p>MENTAL - DISTRESS RE-HOUSING TRANSITIONAL - OVERSIGHT TWO YEARS ON FOR EL E.S.A. PERSONAL - BENEFITS - DRIVEN UN HOMELESSNESS BENEFIT RECEIVING CONFLICT OVER PAYMENT - DISCREPANCY WITH SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION WARDEN/POSSIBLE CLASH OF INTEREST WITH HOUSING ASSOCIATION - ADACTUS, RESETTLEMENT ISSUES OF MINE WERE DIRECTED TO SAVINGS - LIMIT BUSTING WINDFALL AMOUNT IN FUTURE I'LL BE PAYING MY OWN RATES AND RENT C.A.B. CHASED YOU UP FOR HELP AND EVIDENCE FOR ME ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO AS THEY DEALT WITH MY THEN PRESSING PROBLEMS NO ASSURANCES COMING FROM YOU; IT MIGHT STREAMLINE AND REDUCE COSTS IF YOU RESPONDED PROMPTLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY FIRST TIME OF ASKING E LARWOOD</p>
<p>WOULD NOT LIKE THINGS TO CHANGE - LIKE FEELING SAFE AND SECURE</p>
<p>IF CUTS ARE MADE THEN THE QUALITY OF SERVICE WOULD BE GREATLY EFFECTED</p>
<p>I FEEL THAT THIS IS A SHORT TERM SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM THAT WILL IN THE LONG RUN WILL BECOME A BIGGER PROBLEM! ALWAYS VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED FIRST BY CHANGE. AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THESE PEOPLE REGARDLESS.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROVIDES A VITAL LEVEL OF HELP FOR NUMEROUS PEOPLE. TO REDUCE THESE SERVICES WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF SUPPORT, THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY AROUND THEM. DISTINGUISHING WHICH SERVICES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS WILL NOT HELP. IN THE LONG RUN, THE SITUATION OF THOSE SERVICE USERS DEEMED LESS NECESSARY WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY PRESSING AND EVENTUALLY FIND THEIR WAY ON TO THE PRIORITY LIST, AT WHICH POINT ANOTHER TYPE OF SERVICE USER WILL BE DEEMED LESS IMPORTANT AND THE CYCLE WILL START AGAIN. A SLICKER SERVICE WHICH REQUIRES LESS TIME ON ADMIN AND A MORE FOCUSED MULTIAGENCY APPROACH WILL PROVIDE A HIGHER LEVELS OF SERVICE AND SAVE MONEY ON DUPLICATED ACTIVITIES.</p>
<p>THE GOVERNMENT ARE MAKING CUTS IN AREAS THAT WILL AFFECT THE WELLBEING OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF CUTTING IN OTHER AREAS E.G THOSE ON HIGH INCOMES ETC. IT IS DISCRACEFUL TO TARGET THOSE WHO GENUINELY NEED HELP.</p>
<p>IS THERE A NEED FOR SO MUCH STAFF.</p>
<p>I FEEL THE SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO ELDERLY PEOPLE ON THEIR OWN, AS I LIVE IN SHELTERED HOUSING. I HAVE SEEN THE SUPPORT THAT THE SYSTEM GIVES I.E. EACH FLAT HAS PULL CORDS PUTTING THEM IN TOUCH WITH CENTRAL CONTROL AND COULD GET HELP TO THAT PERSON IF NEEDED</p>
<p>WHEN I GO TO THE GYM AND SWIMMING I NEED MY SUPPORT TO MAKE ME FEEL SAFE</p>
<p>I AM STILL WAITING FOR A SUPPORT WORKER</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments about this option?</p>
<p>COULD FAMILIES HELP MORE</p>
<p>WE HAVE A BIG PUSH ON A VOLUNTEERING SCHEME. VOLUNTEERS COULD THEN HELP WITH:- ELDERLY (CHECKING ON THEM AND SHOPPING) YOUNG TEACHING THEM LIFE SKILLS MENTORS FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE. PERHAPS EVEN DOING SOME SMALL JOBS AROUND THE HOUSE.</p>
<p>IN MAKING THESE CUTS THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT THOUGHT ABOUT THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES. IT IS MY VIEW A SOCIETY IS JUDGED ON THE WAY IT CARES FRO ITS VULNERABLE MEMBERS. WE WILL FAIL IF WE DON'T DO THAT - THAT IS WHY WE MUST</p>

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RETAIN THESE VITAL SERVICES. I HAVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN A NUMBER OF CHARITIES IN SEFTON INCLUDING VENUS, PARENTING 2000 AND OTHERS. THEY ARE EXCELLENT ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE SHOWING UP THEIR SERVICES AND SEEKING TO COLLABORATE ON SERVICES. THIS WILL ALSO MAKE FOR MORE COST EFFECTIVE SERVICES. I FEEL THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST THIS COLLABORATIVE PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES ARE MAXIMISED THIS WAY.
AS I SAID ABOVE CARE IN THE COMUNITY IS FALLING APART IF WHEN THE ELDERLY BECOME VERY VONERABLE THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO INTO RESIDENTAL CARE
THERE MUST BE OTHER WAYS THE COUNCIL CAN SAVE MONEY WITHOUT HURTING OLDER PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED ALL THEIR LIFE AND ARE STRUGGLING IN THEIR RETIREMENT WITH HEALTH AND LIVING ON A MEAGRE SUM
I AM NOT WELL ENOUGH INFORMED IN THIS WHOLE FIELD. IF YOU DEPRIVE SHELTERED HOUSING OF ITS SCHEME MANAGERS GREAT DAMAGE WILL BE DONE AND PEOPLE MADE MUCH MORE VULNERABLE
HAVE NOTED THESE PAST 5-6 YEARS PREFERENCE FOR HOUSING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO IMMIGRENTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF BRITISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN OUR COUNTRY SINCE THEY WERE BORN, SEFTON AREA IN PATICULAR
ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE COUNTRY THROUGH THEIR WORKING LIVES DESERVE TO BE SAFE, COMFORTABLE AND IN GOOD HEALTH IN THEIR LATER OR FINAL YEARS. FUNDING CUTS IN RECENT YEARS HAS RESULTED IN FEWER RESIDENTIAL CARE PLACES FUNDED BY SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH MEANS THAT RESIDENTS REMAIN IN SHELTERED ACCOM LONGER BUT WITHOUT PROPER CARE. SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO SHELTERED SCHEMES IS THEREFORE ALREADY BELOW REQUIRIEMENT. ANY REDUCTION WHATSOEVER WILL OBVIOUSLY IMPACT GREATLY AND WITH SOME ONLY JUST EXISTING, THE EFFECT COULD BE DIRE
ALL GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD A GREAT TIME ON TAX PAYER MONEY THEY SHOULD STOP THE WASTE NOW LESS M.P. PEOPLE IN NEED AS IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE WILL SUFFER
I KNOW THAT THE PERSON WHO SUPPORTING PEOPLE THEY DO A FANTASTIC JOB PLEASE DONT CUT THIS DOWN THEY ARE GOOD THANKS TO THEM
IF FUNDING IS CUT IT WILL HAVE A MASSIVE IMPACT ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE AS THIS WILL INCREASE HOMELESSNESS. IF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO WORK OR EDUCATION. AS THEY WILL BE FOCUSED ON BECOMING ACCOMMODATED AND UNABLE TO CONSIDER SUSTAINING THEIR EDUCATION PLACEMENTS.
IT SHOULD BE TAILORED BY THE CLIENT AND NOT BY THE ESTABLISHMENT - THE COMMUNITY CARE.
ANY REDUCTION IN FUNDING IN ANY AREA REGARDING SUPPORTING PEOPLE WILL IN MY OPINION RUIN LIVES, IT WILL AFFECT SERVICE USERS AND PROVIDERS. VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS AND BE COMPLETELY EXPOSED TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES - MANY OF THESE PEOPLE WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS. ADDITIONALLY, A LOSS OF FUNDING WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF JOBS - IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE THIS COULD BE DISASTROUS
Do you have any other comments about this option?
EMPLOYING WARDENS LIKE MR BRIAN CHURCHILL MAKES RESIDENTS FEEL MORE SECURE IN THEIR OWN HOMES, WHICH IN THE LONG RUN IS ECONOMIC SENSE, AS IT IS FAR CHEAPER FOR THE LOCAL COUNCILS. PEOPLE WANT TO STAY IN THEIR OWN HOMES, AND NOT BECOME A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE COUNCIL, BY GOING INTO PRIVATE OR STATE NURSING HOMES. IF AFTER READING THIS FORM, YOU WISH TO CONTACT ME PLEASE PHONE ME
NONE
NO APART FROM LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE.
YES MY OWN PERSONAL CONCERN IS THAT THIS SCHEME IS TRYING TO DO AWAY WITH SOME PEOPLES JOBS NAMELY WARDENS. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED WRONG CHOICE

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AS THIS CONSULTATION EXERCISE IS ASKING FOR OPINIONS ON SUPPORTED PEOPLE SERVICES ONLY I THINK IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO INDICATE ALTERNATIVE AREAS WHERE I THINK CUTS COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE SAME CONSEQUENCES ON PEOPLES LIVES. THAT SAID, I AM AMAZED THAT THIS AREA IS NOT CONSIDERED "ESSENTIAL" AND THEREFORE IMMUNE FROM BUDGET SAVINGS. IT IS THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY CUTS IN THESE SERVICE AREAS AND IT WOULD SEND A TERRIBLE MESSAGE TO THEM THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SEES THEM AS UNIMPORTANT, EXPENDIBLE EVEN. THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT CUTS TO SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICES WILL LEAD TO REAL HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING OR WORSE IN EXTREME CASES - NOT SOMETHING I WOULD WANT ON MY CONSCIENCE IF I WERE AN ELECTED MEMBER IN SEFTON.
I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THE FACT THAT SEFTON COUNCIL HAVE DONE THEIR VERY BEST IN HELPING ELDERLY PEOPLE. I MUST ENDORSE THE FACT THAT (name supplied)'s TRUE GENIUS LIES IN HER GREAT ABILITY IN CREATING A VERY PLEASANT HELPFUL ATMOSPHERE WHEN INTERVIEWING ELDERLY PEOPLE. SHE HELPED ME SO MUCH AND SHE IS AN ASSET TO SEFTON COUNCIL. I CANNOT PRAISE HER ENOUGH. (Name Supplied)
I HOPE THESE CUTS DO NOT TAKE PLACE AS I ENJOY MY CURRENT LIFESTYLE
I WOULD HOPE THESE PROPOSALS DO NOT TAKE PLACE
I DO NOT WANT THE PROPOSALS TO TAKE PLACE
I UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS AS IT'S PEOPLS JOBS, PROBLEMS BUT IT NEEDS TO BE FAIR AND SERVICES ARE NEEDED
IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO REDUCE COSTS IN SEFTON YOU SOULD NOT BE LOOKING AT SERVICES SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE, I'M SURE YOU DON'T NEED ANY HELP IN FINDING WAYS TO REDUCE COSTS IN SEFTON, BUT DON'T REDUCT COSTS TO SERVICES TO PEOPLE LIVING IN SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION, THERE ARE A LOT OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THESE ACCOMMODATIONS AND THE LAST THEY THEY NEED IS ANY KIND OF REDUCED SERVICE. FINAL EVEN DON'T THINK ABOUT REDUCING THE SERVICES THAT OLDER PEOPLE DEPEND ON.
WHY WHEN THERE IS A CUT IN FUNDING IS IT ALWAYS THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY WHO ARE MOST AFFECTED?
REDUCE COUNCILLORS' WAGES AND CUT THEIR HUGE EXPENSES.
GOVERNMENT & SEPHTON COUNCIL TO CUT OFFICE EXPENSES
1) YES, DITCH THIS UNWISE AND ILL THOUGHT OUT OPTION 2) REMIND SEFTON COUNCILLORS THAT THEY WILL NEED VOTES TO REMAIN IN OFFICE! 3) TRY CUTTING COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES & MEETINGS!
GET RID OF 50% COUNCILLORS ALL THE WASTE OF MONEY CUTTING GRASS ON THE ROADS, INSTALLING CONES, WHEN ALL YOU NEED IS A TRUCK FOLLOWING THE CUTTING MACHINE SEE HOW MUCH MONEY IS WASTED BY SAN ENGS AT LUNCH HOUR BACK OF MAGHULL SQUARE TURN OVER ADMINISTRATION OF SUPPORTING HOUSING TO OVH
AS LONG AS SCHEME MANAGER SERVICE CONTINUES IN SAME FORMAT I WILL BE HAPPY
Do you have any other comments about this option?
LESS MANAGEMENT NO WORKING LUNCHES SENSIBLE EXPENSES
IN CONSIDERING OPTIONS TO FUND MAY I SUGGEST (1) DUE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO WHETHER THE SERVICE CAN BE FUNDED FROM OTHER STREAMS (2) WHETHER THE SERVICE IS COMPLIMENTARY TO ANOTHER SERVICE (POSSIBLE A STATUTORY SERVICE) AND THE EFFECT ON THE ORGANISATION OF LOSING THIS FUNDING ON THE VIABILITY OF THE COMPLIMENTARY SERVICES.
SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICES HAVE ENSURED PROVIDERS HAVE DELIVERED APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES. A HUGE CUT IN SP WILL ONLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE MOST VULNERABLE COUNCILS CAN EXPECT AN INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS, INCREASE IN CRIME, OVERCROWDED HOUSING, POVERTY.
WE NEED TO LOOK AT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. THE ALTERNATIVE CLAIMS MADE BY YP (YOUNG PEOPLE) FROM DWP. HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE SEEN RISES FOR FOOD AND UTILITIES AND HAVE ABSORBED THESE COSTS. HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE AFFORD HIGH COSTS WITHOUT OUR SUPPORT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS. CAN

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MEETINGS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE BE DONE CENTRALLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE DOING THE TRAVEL. THIS COULD REDUCE TRAVEL TIME AND EXPENSES OF THE SUPPORT WORKERS. EMAILS FOR ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS RE PAYMENTS IS GOOD. PERHAPS WE ONLY NEED THEM WHEN THE PAYMENT ALTERS. CAN WE LOOK AT GENERATING INCOME OURSELVES, EVENTS AND CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP.
KEEP CONTROL OF COSTS
NO
GET LABOUR BACK IN
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
AS I AM AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY I FEEL THAT THE POWERS THAT BE ARE LETTING US DOWN. IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WERE THROWING MONEY AT GETTING DISABLED PPEOPLE TO WORK AND ENSURING THAT SERVICES WERE READILY AVAILABLE FOR THE VULNERABLE WITHIN OUR SOCIETY. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY ARE VULNERABLE PEOPLE BEING TARGETED IN THE FIERCE FINANCIAL CUTS? I SEE NO EVIDENCE OF OUR LEADERS TAKING CUTS SO WHY REDUCE VITAL SERVICES THAT KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE AND SECURE??
IT WOULD A GREAT LOSS IF THIS SERVICE WAS CUT TO THE USERS IN THE SEFTON AREA
ITHINK THAT IS WOULD BE DEVASTED IF THE SERVICE IS REDUCED I THINK IT WOULD LOWER STANDARDS OF SUPPORT BRIAN IS VERY HELPFUL, AND IS THERE FOR YOU. TAKING THHAT AWAY WOULD LEAVE PEOPLE THAT NED SUPPORT VUNERABLE
TOP BRASS AT SEFTON COUNCIL TAKE PAY CUT THE MILLIONS SEFTON COUNCIL HAS IN THE BANK USE SOME OF THAT ALL SEFTON COUNCIL BUILDINGS TURN THE THERMOSTAT DOWN 1 OR 2 DEGREES THE ONE STOP SHOP IN BOOTLE. THE CEILING IS VERY HIGH COSTING A FORTUNE TO HEAT DROP THE CEILING BY 10 FOOT AND SAVE MONEY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS IN ENDBUTT LANE FAR TO BIG, SEFTON COUNCIL COULD SELL HALF OF IT OFF GIVE MORE POWER TO TRAFFIC WARDENS SO THEY CAN BOOK MOTORISTS WHO PARK ON THE PAVEMENT, CAUSING DAMAGE TO FLAG STONES, TARMAC, AND KERB STONES = MORE MONEY COMING INTO SEFTON COUNCIL TO HELP REPAIR DAMAGE CROSBY VILLAGE AREA CONSTANTLY USED BY CARS, VANS & LORRIES DESPITE BEING VEHICLE FREE SEFTON COUNCIL COULD START A LOTTERY, SIMIAR TO NATIONAL LOTTERY WHICH WOULD BRING IN MORE FUNDS WARMER WINTER = LOW BILLS = SAVINGS LOOK AFTER THE PENNIES AND THE POUNDS TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES
Do you have any other comments about this option?
I THINK THAT THE SSP FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL TO MANY IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN THE AREA AND WITHOUT THESE SERVICES, LOTS OF PEOPLE WILL STRUGGLE AND PROBABLY RESULT IN CRISIS EFFECTING THEIR LIVES, MORE SO.
I FEEL IT IS ESSENTIAL TO FUND PROVIDERS WHO SUPPORT CLIENTS IN THE NUMEROUS VULNERABLE GROUPS
I HAVE BEEN ACCESING A SUPPORTING LIVING PROGRAMME THROUGH THE 408 PROJECT AND I FEEL WITHOUT THIS I WOULDN'T BE WERE I AM TODAY
I ACCESS MANY OF THESE TO GET SUPPORT BECAUSE OF MY MLD LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND NEEDING HOUSING BENEFITS, HOUSING SUPPORT
I'VE WORKED HARD ALL MY LIFE. DONE 5 YEARS IN HM FORCES (2.5 YEARS ON "ACTIVE SERVICE") I'VE REAL MOBILITY PROBLEMS I'M ALSO DIABETIC I'VE PAID EXCESSIVE INCOME TAX, COUNCIL TAX, VAT, ROAD AND INSURANCE TAX AND TRAVEL TAX WHY SHOULD I BE TAXED FOR BEING OLD BY A REDUCTION IN SUPPORT SERVICES?
CUTTING BUDGET MAY REDUCE OVERALL SERVICE PROVIDED HOW CAN YOU GIVE A QUALITY SERVICE ON A REDUCED BUDGET SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE IN REALITY IT WILL BE THE SUPPORT PROVIDED ALL LIVING COSTS ARE GOING UP. YET YOU ARE

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EXPECTING SERVICES TO PROVIDE TOP QUALITY ON A REDUCED BUDGET
I DON'T WANT 408 TO BE CUT AS THEY ARE VERY HELPFUL WITH MORE THAN ONE THING
IF IT WASN'T FOR 408 I WOULD PROBABLY BE IN THE GUTTER :(
THE 408 (FOR YOUNG PEOPLE) HAS HELPED ME A LOT SINCE I HAVE BEEN COMING TO SEE THEM. THEY HELP ME WITH HOUSING AND I ALSO USED TO DO COUNSELLING AS WELL.
HERE AT 408 I GET A LOT OF SUPPORT WITH DELING WITH MY HOUSING SITUATION, MANAGING MY INCOME AND ANY BILLS THAT I DONT UNDERSTAND. IF THIS SERVICE WAS TO STOP I WOULD SURELY END UP IN DEBT AND A UNSUITABLE PLACE TO LIVE
I HAVE BEEN COMING TO 408 FOR NEARLY A YEAR NOW AND WHEN I STARTED GETTING SUPPORT FROM 408 I FELT CONFUSED, LONLEY, NO INDEPENDENCE AND WAS REALLY STRUGGLING WITH MONEY AND HOUSING AND EVER SINCE THEY STARTED GIVING ME SUPPORT I FEEL MORE HAPPIER IN MYSELF AND MORE SAFE AT HOME. I DONT FEEL LONLEY NO MORE CAUSE I KNOW I GOT SOMEONE THERE TO TALK TO
WITH OUT SUPPORT OF 408 I WOULD HAVE NO MONEY AND BE HOMELESS. IS IMPORTANT THE SUPPORT IS THERE
I FOUND ALL MY SUPPORT FROM 408 VERRY HELPFULL AND WITH OUT IT I WOULDNT HAVE WHAT I HAVE NOW
VULNERABLE PEOPLE NEED A LOT OF SUPPORT. I DON'T THINK YOU CAN SKIMP ON SUPPORTING PEOPLE, THE NEED IS THERE AND IF YOU DO NOT ADDRESS THE NEED PEOPLE WILL SUFFER. WE NEED MORE ORGANISATIONS LIKE IMAGINE TO HELP PEOPLE GAIN INDEPENDENCE AND GIVE THEM PRIDE IN THEMSELVES AND OTHER PEOPLE
REDUCE COST OF GARDENING BY PUTTING WHOLE GROUNDS TO GRASS
I BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSABLE TOWARDS VUNERABLE ADULTS TO PROVIDE GOOD SERVICES TO THEM SO THEY CAN ACHIEVE SUCCESS WHERE THEY WOULD NORMALLY NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ANY VALUE IN THEMSELVES ESPECIALLY IF THEY COME FROM BROKEN DOWN HOMES. SOME OF THE SUPPORT CENTRES ARE THE ONLY SOURCE OF HOPE THEY HAVE OF BEING ACKNOWLEDGED AND ACCEPTED.
BECAUSE IM IN BAD HEALTH, I FEEL SECURE. IF IT CHANGED I WOULD FEEL VERY VULNERABLE
I LIKE LIVING ON MY OWN BUT WOULD FEEL VERY ISOLATED WITHOUT THE HELP GIVEN WHICH MAKES ME FEEL MORE SECURE. THE SERVICE WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONAL. SUE IS A GEM AND SHE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN ASK HER ANYTHING PLEASE DONT STOP THIS SERVICE
Do you have any other comments about this option?
ALTHOUGH I DO LIKE MY INDEPENDENCE I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I DO NEED SUPPORT. SUE BELL & THE REST OF THE TEAM HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE TO ME. THE THOUGHT THAT THIS SERVICE MAY BE CUT HAS ME WORRIED. THE FACT THAT THERE IS A CARE LINE I FEEL THAT I AM BEING WATCHED OVER THROUGH THE NIGHT. THIS GIVES ME GREAT PEACE OF MIND. PLEASE! PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE SERVICE CARE WE GET.
THE GOVERNMENT/COUNCIL ARE SUPPOSED TO BE INCREASING PEOPLES FEELINGS NOT PUTTING THEM FURTHER INTO DISPERE. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO LOOKING AFTER THE COUNTIES PEOPLE?
NO
IF YOU GET RID OF STAFF YOUR COSTS WILL INCREASE A GREAT DEAL BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO NEED THE SUPPORT WILL GET WORSE AND POSSIBLY END UP IN HOSPITAL.
THE SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN MY QUALITY OF LIFE AND INDEPENDENCE IN M OWN HOME WITHOUT THE SERVICES I WOULD FEEL EXTREMELY ISOLATED AND VULNERABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, MY WONDERFUL WARDEN, SUE, IS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN ME AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

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<p>AND COMMUNITY. SHE MAINTAINS CONSTANT CONTACT BY PERSONAL VISIT, TELEPHONE CALLS AND DROPS NOTES AND INFORMATION INTO ME - SHE HAS EVEN GONE AS FAR AS CONTACTING MY SONS AND DAUGHTER WHEN AN ISSUE HAS ARISEN. IN SHORT SHE IS A GOD SEND AND I REALLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT HER. THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICES WOULD BE DISASTEROUS NOT ONLY TO MYSELF AND MY NEIGHBOURS BUT ALSO TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE</p>
<p>IF ITS REDUCED I WOULD NOT SEE ANYONE. ITS GREAT TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO FOR A BIT EVEN IF ITS ONLY ONE A WEEK. I LOOK FORWARD FOR THEM ALSO PHONING ME TO SEE IF I AM OK AS I AM NOT SOMEBODY WHO CAN SPEAK TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. THEY ARE VERY LOVELY PEOPLE</p>
<p>I FEEL THE PRESENT SYSTEMS ARE OVERLOADED AND COULD DO WITH MORE FUNDING RATHER THAN LESS</p>
<p>THE BREAKING DOWN OF RESIDENTS FRONT DOOR TO OBTAIN ACCESS IF A PERSON HAS TAKEN ILL AND CANNOT OPEN THE DOOR. THIS CAUSES A GREAT EXPENSE. THERE SHOULD BE MASTER KEYS HELD ON THE PREMISES THEREFORE CUTTING DOWN COST OF REPAIRS ETC., AND HAVING TO ALERT UNNESSARY PEOPLE</p>
<p>THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUDGET SHOULD NOT BE CUT. THE SP MANAGER IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ESTATE COMMUNITY OF O.A.P.S IT IS NECESSARY TO KNOW SHE IS THERE. SHE CHECKS EVERY WEEK, ANY PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED. SHE KEEPS US INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM</p>
<p>OUR COMMUNITY OF SHELTERED HOUSING FUNCTIONS VERY WELL AT THE MOMENT AND ANY CUTS TO THE BUDGET COULD ONLY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT. THE LOSS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR SOME RESIDENTS WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW. WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT SUPPORT VISITOR IN SUE WHO MANAGES US VERY WELL AND PROVIDES ALL THE INFORMAITON AND HELP WE NEED - NOTHING IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR HER. WHY CHANGE THINGS THAT WORK PERFECTLY WELL?</p>
<p>HAD MY SAY, THANKING YOU</p>
<p>THESE SERVICES ARE VITAL FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY. BY CUTTING FUNDING THIS WILL PUT A GREAT BURDON ON THEM AND THE AGENCY'S AVAILABLE. NHS, DOCTORS, POLICE, SOCIAL SERVICES ETC. AND HAVE IMPACT ON THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY. MONEY SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM THE THE RICHEST COUNTRYS IN THE WORLD. EVEN WITH THE CREDIT CRUNCH. THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR THESE SERVICES IS A TAX ON THE SICK AND DISABLED.</p>
<p>THIS SERVICE IS MOST IMPORTANT BY CUTTING THE FUNDING THIS IT WILL HAVE GREAT BURDEN ON POLICE, SOCIAL SERVICES.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments about this option?</p>
<p>I FEEL THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD FRONT LINE SERVICES BE REDUCED.</p>
<p>I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF WHAT SUPPORTING PEOPLE IS ACTUALLY BEING SPENT ON AND NOT JUST A LIST OF SERVICES</p>
<p>NONE</p>
<p>NO</p>
<p>no</p>
<p>I need support and help and feel I could not cope, this is making me very anxious.</p>
<p>It is sad that services to help the most vulnerable are at threat. More and more people will need similar help to what my nan received due to rising gas and electric prices</p>
<p>the focus appears to be on reduction of services - why not propose an increase in services - we all appear to have bought in to, or been brainwashed into believing "There Is No Alternative" (TINA) - well maaybe there is and who knows - "fortune favours the brave"</p>

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<p>From what we believe Sefton council's energy team received a modest sum of approx £55K pa to employ two workers and cover basic expenses. We are aware that last year all Supporting People services absorbed a 5% cut already. Due to the fact they only receive a modest budget, they are already working very efficiently. For the £55k invested annually, not only do they assist approximately 800 Sefton households per year but within the first two years of operation, levered in £1,151,000 to assist Sefton residents to live safely and independently in their own homes, along with hundreds of referrals to various other partnership agencies for a wide range of additional support. As well as the positive difference they make through added value referrals. Without the AWW not only would Sefton residents suffer but the 800 households they deal with per year would have to be dealt with by other council departments (predominantly social services) and it is estimated that fuel poverty costs NHS £2m per year in an area equivalent to the size of Sefton (these figures are only likely to increase due to the current economic climate).</p>
<p>Our service is low cost and we cannot reduce our costs any further. Feedback from our customers tells us that they do not want to move to a different model of service delivery. If funding is reduced or withdrawn this could place our existing customers into financial hardship and may deter new customers from choosing our service.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>An increase in outreach support should not reduce the number of services provided by LEO project but would compliment the work done whilst the client is resident at the project</p>
<p>I think providers should also look at their support charges as some appear relatively high.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already provides great value for money £55k pa = 2 workers and generating £90,000 additional income for residents • Service won the regional footprint award and came runner up nationally in the NEA awards due to the best practices demonstrated in partnerships, value for money and fuel poverty alleviation. • Service may be abolished but demand for service won't - increasing demand on social services and health services. • Demand growing each year due to reduction in national resources, reduction in income, increase in energy bills, • Service assists most vulnerable in Sefton's Community
<p>Over 500 councillors have signed a letter urging town halls in England to avoid making disproportionate cuts to services supporting some of the most vulnerable people in their communities, some of which are sefton councillors, how can this option be put out for consiltation if they are supporting the exact opposite? The council should take part in other grant earning schemes such as the social care efficiency programme, where by each council is given an amount for adult social care this would reduce pressure on budgets.</p>
<p>It's outrages and the most vulnerable will be left to pay again</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments about this option?</p>
<p>i have a history of being in and out of jail, i got help last time i came out and i would probably be in the same boat if i didnt have a service to help me. They gave me a place to live and helped me get on some college courses, I now work as a volunteer for a service to help other people who think theres no way out. The money it costs putting someone in and out of jail and failed tenancies homeless hostels and all that must be loads support services are well cheaperer it wouldnt make sense to get rid of them, if you do youll regret it</p>
<p>To my knowledge, there are only 2 people working on fuel poverty - which would bring a tiny saving, set against the lives and health improved and all the grants and incomes benefited - avoiding serious impacts and costs across social and health care. It seems an ill thought out cut, when this fuel poverty service is needed more than ever.</p>
<p>no</p>
<p>it shouldnt be reduced</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>no</p>

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<p>The fuel poverty service has built up very specialist knowledge and is respected Nationally, winning regional recognition in 2 consecutive years for what has been achieved. Without the Supporting People funding the 72 preventable deaths a year that the service saves are at risk every winter (this is against a challenging back drop of 3 harsh winters and rising energy prices). The service helps 800 households a year get heating or save money on bills through insulation and advice. This year due to other cuts the service expects to hit its 760 household target by January and is likely to assist in excess of 900 homes. 30% of those households are referred by Social Care services and Children schools & families.</p>
<p>Older people have contributed during their working lives and deserve to at least be safe, comfortable and healthy in their remaining years. Previous cuts have resulted in fewer residential care places being funded by Social Services. In turn this has resulted in people remaining in sheltered housing without the level of care they should receive. Any further cuts would only serve to worsen the situation and shorten the lives of the most vulnerable.</p>
<p>This programme enables vulnerable adults to live as independently as possible, the proposed cuts would be madness.</p>
<p>The AP scheme is already looking at ways to improve services and maximise resources with safeguarding those who use our service as our main focus. Any further reductions to carers payments may jeopardise the future of the placements.</p>
<p>there are clearly areas where savings can be made there is a need to look at the in house services collecting and monitoring information which is just keeping staff in jobs not adding anything to the evidence to prove worth not all the options listed in the first section are followed through to the subsequent sections , why not have some decisions already been made SP shouldn't be propping up what other depts should be paying for ,, remember prevention is better than cure .</p>
<p>I appreciate the task is not an easy one, and theres more to come. i wish you well in the decisions that have to be made.</p>
<p>i think sefton should identify supporting people services that people are willing to pay for e.g nursery, adult learning, playbarn, cafe, financial advice etc etc and then set up a social enterprise that can reinvest the surplus into contributing to the supporting people services that you currently provide.</p>
<p>I dont understand why such alot of money is being suggested to be taken off supporting people when I cannot find information about other care services having there money taken off them, I think all care services should be looked at not just those who cant come to social services and ask for money.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments about this option?</p>
<p>It would make more sense to look at the cost benefit analysis of the programme to make a decision where savings can be made. Besides looking at this tool to see that supporting people saves local authorities money and the central government making a statement which was on a national news bulletin, that local authorities have not received a reduction for support services and therefore there should be "no excuse" for savings to be made in this area, Looking at press articles for the programme, 551 councillors signed a letter submitted by the national housing federation to demand a rethink on cuts to supporting people, of which at least 5 of sefton councillors signed, giving that the letter clearly highlights and warns "that without early identification and support, vulnerable individuals will reach crisis point as their needs escalate and become more severe, leading to greater demand on acute health services, the criminal justice system and carers", how can the same councillors then decide to make such a disproportionate cut to the supporting people services in sefton? These councillors need to stand up and be counted when the decisions are being made, protecting the most vulnerable constituents within their wards who will no doubt feel the effects of what this reduction would mean if this goes forward. It will be those same councillors who when asked who will have to say they signed a letter for no cuts to be made and allowed the allowed the option to go through in their own borough. Using freedom of information responses it appears that the supporting people budget has already had around a 19% reduction by the fact that government awarded Sefton 8.2m for 11-12 within the overall grant to the L.A, however supporting people has not received 8.2m for 11-12, and again the local authority will receive in the published local government finance settlement for 12-13 an amount of £8.035m, so where as the consultation states that the grant will be reduced by 44% if 3.7m is left the actual true % reduction is 53.95%, how can the council justify such a disproportionate reduction in comparison to the overall % that needs to be saved.</p>
<p>My main comment is that any option should take full consideration of the individual characteristics of each service provider and not just reflect a standard percentage reduction across all services.</p>

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Appendix 2 – Other Documentation Representation

Supporting People

Consultation with Clients

Venue: Windsor Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 10.00am
SP Staff: Sue Kearney

How many clients present: Drop in during “Breakfast Club”
No of completed forms at visit: 6

NOTES:

We were invited to attend the “Breakfast Club” which is a drop in type of event so we spoke to people who had come to the communal room for this.

6 people completed the questionnaires while we were there and 4 took the questionnaires away with them and promised to complete them later.

We left a number of blank questionnaires with the scheme manager with a promise for us to ring next Tuesday to see how many had been completed and returned. We have offered to pick up completed questionnaires.

There were no issues arising with regards to the questionnaire.

Venue: Aindow Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 11.15
SP Staff: Lesley McCann & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 15 Clients & 1 Staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire, the first 30 minutes of the visit were taken up with areas of concern that clients had regarding a lack of communication with the provider around the fact that their accounts were in many cases showing arrears, in some cases it was between £500.00-£600.00, Lesley McCann explained that although payments had ceased to the Provider for a period due to ongoing contractual issues, an interim payment to cover this period had been paid 2 months ago, and a further payment was made last month so although the full arrears would not have been cleared, the clients accounts should not be showing as heavily in arrears, Lesley McCann requested that the Scheme Manager to contact the Contract Manager Name Provided to address the clients concerns.

4 clients required assistance around the completion of the questionnaire.

12 blank questionnaires were left at the scheme.

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Venue: Anchor Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 10.00
SP Staff: Lesley McCann & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 7 Clients & 1 Staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

4 Clients requested assistance with completion of the questionnaire.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Bailey Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 1.30pm
SP Staff: Sue Kearney and Sharon Watt

How many clients present: 6
No of completed questionnaires: 0

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

All present requested to take the questionnaires away to complete.

The scheme warden promised to distribute other questionnaires and we promised to ring Tuesday 29th November to arrange collection of completed questionnaires.

The scheme warden said that they were expecting members of the local community to come to the scheme for bingo and she was asking if any of them wanted to complete a questionnaire.

There were no issues arising with regards to the questionnaire

Venue: Bosco Society – Bosco House
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 11.00 – 12.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Ian McGowan

How many clients present: 20 Clients, 4 Staff, 1 partner and 3 interested others

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were two questions with regard to the questionnaire.

Question 1 - surrounding the term "Generic" for a client group was asked.

IM explained that this client group is for a universal referral and that any of the other client groups could access these services.

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Question 2 – asked by the partner with regards to what they were in regards to service user/provider etc.

KL answered that they were in the other box, and they should insert what they were.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Pierhead Housing - Chestnut Court
Date: 21 November 2011
Time: 2.00 – 3.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Ian McGowan

How many clients present: 7 clients & 2 Staff Members

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

3 clients requested help filling in the questionnaire.

KL & IM facilitated these requests.

Venue: Christopher Taylor House
Date: 23 November 2011
Time: 2.00 – 3.00
SP Staff: Sue Kearney & Sharon Watt

How many clients present: 16 Clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

A number of residents requested help filling in the questionnaires this request was facilitated by SK & SW.

12 blank questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Delph Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 2.00 – 3.00
SP Staff: Ian McGowan & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 13 Clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

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There were no questions with regards to the questionnaire.

5 clients requested help filling in the questionnaire and this was facilitated by IM & DS, questions then arose around Generic & Home improvement agency client groups that were explained to be universal client referral scheme and small adaptation's to peoples tenancies to keep them independent.

12 blank questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Eton Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 12.00 – 1.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Sharon Watt

How many clients present: 6 Clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were three questions with regard to the questionnaire.

Question 1 – Will this affect my job?

KL answered that at present it was only an option however if the proposals that are recommended to go forward are the full 44% of Supporting People funding reduction then a further decision will then have to be made to decide what services reduce or cease.

Question 2 – How does this consultation for the whole of Sefton cost?

KL answered that she would ask the question and answer as soon as possible.

Question 3 – How much paper had Sefton MBC used on this consultation?

SW stated that she could only answer for the Supporting People team and as of today 1 box with 5 reams have been used.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Guardian Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 10.15
SP Staff: Lesley McCann & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 10 Clients & 1 Staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

3 clients requested assistance with the completion of the questionnaire.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

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Venue: Hawthorne Court
Date: 23 November 2011
Time: 3.30
SP Staff: Keri Lydon

How many clients present: 9 Clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were questions with regard to the questionnaire.

Question 1 – Is there any point in filling in the questionnaire as the decisions are already made.

IM answered that no decisions have been made and that by filling in the questionnaire you will have your voice heard.

Question 2 – Why are the council cutting the Older People budget when the other client groups like offenders get funding from probation.

KL answered that all older funding streams were amalgamated into one central pot of money that was the Supporting people grant in 2003, this grant was ring fenced until recently when it became part of the directorate allocation of money.

Question 3 – Will this cut affect this service?

IM answered that if the full amount of money is cut then the governance group will then have to decide what services are to be affected.

Question 4 – When will the decision be made on the cuts?

KL informed that the decision will be made on 16th February 2012

Question 5 – Can we fill in the questionnaires and post them back?

Venue: Anchor - Holly Court & Silverdale (Joint Meeting)
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 10.00 – 11.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Ian McGowan

How many clients present: 15 clients & 2 Staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There was one question with regard to the questionnaire.

Questions surrounding the term “Generic” for a client group was asked.

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IM explained that this client group is for a universal referral and that any of the other client groups could access these services.

Some clients requested help filling in the questionnaire.

12 blank questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: James Horrigan Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 3.30 – 5.15
SP Staff: Ian McGowan & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 40 Clients & 5 Staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no direct questions with regards to the questionnaire.

There were a number of clients that requested help in filling in their questionnaires. IM & DS facilitated these requests.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Maple Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 10.00 – 11.00
SP Staff: Ian McGowan & Derek Sullivan

How many clients present: 30 Clients & 2 staff

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were two questions with regard to the questionnaire.

Question 1 – What is Generic in terms of a client group?

IM explained that this client group is for a universal referral and that any of the other client groups could access these services.

Question 2 – What is Home Improvement Agency in terms of a client group?

IM explained that this client group is for small adaptations to a tenancy to allow a client to remain independent; any of the other client groups could access these services.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Maryfield
Date: 23 November 2011
Time: 2.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Ian McGowan

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How many clients present: 12 Clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

A number of clients requested help filling in the questionnaire KL & IM facilitated this request.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Poulton Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 2.00 – 3.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Sharon Watt

How many clients present: 17 clients & 1 Staff member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were questions with regard to the questionnaire.

Question 1 – What % is the 20million saving needed against the overall budget.

KL answered that she didn't have an exact figure and would email the scheme manager with the answer.

Question 2 – How do you expect me to complete the form if I have not got an exact amount of money?

KL answered that she was asking the group to take part in the Supporting People consultation and that all other consultations are available to complete via Sefton.gov.uk

Question 3 – Can I go and see my MP about this?

KL answered yes you can go and see both your local councillor and MP at your own discretion.

Question 4 – Can I have a copy of what has been spent on individual client groups and have you got balance sheets of all your providers for the previous year.

KL answered that she did not have provider balance sheets, however that she would be able to send information on the budget spend of the Supporting people budget for the previous.

12 Questionnaires were left at the scheme

Venue: Queen Elizabeth Court
Date: 22nd November 2011
Time: 11.00 – 12.00
SP Staff: Ian McGowan & Derek Sullivan

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How many clients present: 8 Clients & 1 Staff Member

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire.

12 blank questionnaires were left at the scheme.

Venue: Roger Arden Court
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 11.00am
SP Staff: Sue Kearney and Sharon Watt

How many clients present: various
No of completed questionnaires: 0

NOTES:

The scheme manager had been called to cover another scheme (Brian Cummings Court) and so wasn't present that morning. We waited in the communal area and a couple of residents stopped on their way through and we explained why we were there.

They brought a couple of people to meet with us and took blank questionnaires.

The scheme warden returned just before we left and we gave him a number of questionnaires. He informed us that there was a residents meeting arranged for 22nd November and that he would distribute questionnaires at that meeting.

We promised to ring Tuesday 29th to arrange to pick up completed questionnaires.

Venue: SEAD Project – Merton House
Date: 21st November 2011
Time: 3.00 – 4.00
SP Staff: Keri Lydon & Ian McGowan

How many clients present: 8 Clients & 1 Support Worker

NOTES:

We distributed the questionnaires to those present and then explained why the consultation was taking place.

There were no questions with regard to the questionnaire, however some of the clients referred to the quality of the service/accommodation and questioned the difference between their service and another local hostel.

The Forum support worker answered by saying that this was Forum's decision on how their service and accommodation was budgeted.

Agenda Item 4



Sefton

People First
Speaking out in Merseyside

Get Involved Group And Sefton Council

Consultation Session for People with a Learning Disability

Where:

Goddard Hall
297 Knowsley Road
Bootle
L20 5DF



The theme:

Spending Cuts
Have
Your
Say



Sefton Council has to cut its spending on local services. This affects you, your family, your friends and neighbours.

This is a "drop in" consultation meeting. This is your chance to have your say about what services are most important to you.

Turn up between 1.00pm and before 4.00pm to look at the choices, talk to council officers and make your views known.

When:

Monday **19** December 2011



Start

Finish



People First Merseyside Get Involved Group Sefton Council Consultation Session
Monday 19th December 2011

To Margaret Carney C.E.O.

Re: Sefton's Transformation Programme 2011-2014

I am writing on behalf of 250 members of Southport Older Persons' Forums. The Forums meet in Maghull, Bootle and Southport. Members have asked me to respond on their behalf to the proposals in the Transformation Programme document.

The Forums welcomes the chance to take part in this consultation process but is worried that some of the proposals will undermine effective support systems for elderly people to remain in their own homes.

The Forums are extremely concerned about the proposal to reduce eligibility for care, as this inevitably means that older people with substantial needs will no longer be able to access the support they need (E2.10). This may well be a false economy since it will hasten the loss of independence and quite possibly the need for other, more expensive NHS or residential care.

Grave concerns were also raised about the reduction to the Supporting People budget (E2.1) – especially to the Affordable Warmth Team, they provide valuable assistance to older people who would otherwise possibly become part of the dreaded winter statistics.

The Forums believe that specialist transport services are vital and must be continued and certainly not reduced (E2.3). The Forum is opposed to raising charges for specialist transport services (E2.4).

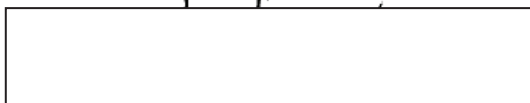
Many services help people to remain independent for longer and enjoy their lives. We are concerned that some of these proposals – such as abolishing the mobile library service (E3.13) – will have an impact on isolated and vulnerable older people and reduce their quality of life.

Finally, many older people attending the Forums were very disturbed by the proposal to increase the charges for burials and cremations (E5.7), which clearly has a much bigger impact on older people and their partners than any other section of the population.

The Forums recognise the financial challenges facing the Council but has a duty to reflect the views of its members and the wider older population. Within the document it does appear that Sefton MBC is looking to save just over £1m per year from children and families but more than £11m per year from the older people's budget.

The Forums would like to thank you for the opportunity to take part in the consultation and would be very willing to provide further feedback if this would be helpful.

Margaret Lambert
Facilitator, Sefton Older Persons Forum



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Letter received from: Greta Morphet, Chief Executive Officer.

Following the invitation to complete consultation questionnaires, I have decided to write to you to clarify the position in relation to Light for Life's funding through the Supporting People Programme and the impact of its potential reduction or cessation.

Light for Life provides Southport and its surrounding areas with a Housing Centre staffed by three centre workers funded, in the main, by the Housing Department with a small contribution from SP. The overheads for the centre are also met by Housing. The centre provides initial information and guidance to people experiencing housing difficulties, either homeless, threatened homeless or those experiencing difficulties with landlords and other tenants. The centre conducts Housing Need Assessments, akin to those carried out by the Council's own centre in Bootle, with follow-up support via a Bond Scheme (which costs the Council nothing) and referral to the Floating Support team – funded entirely by Supporting People. The service also provides quarterly landlord evenings offering information and support to PRS landlords operating across the borough, and has recently invited representatives of RSL'S who now attend these events.

Prior to employing the Floating Support workers, eviction rates were very high in the north of the borough and the bond scheme experienced a high claim rate too. Since tenancy support to this vulnerable group was introduced, both eviction and claim rates have dropped significantly and growing numbers of people are achieving greater independence from services and agencies as a result. The benefits to clients are many. Workers act as a liaison between landlord and tenant, reducing the risk of eviction, intervening in disputes and working with clients to minimise conduct and behavioural issues which may result in them losing their home. Workers are trained to support clients to achieve accredited courses alongside their personal support plans which underpin their journey to greater independence.

Homelessness and threatened homelessness is often a cyclical situation and Light for Life is committed to keeping an open door to members of the public, regardless of their circumstances and history. The charity has an excellent track record of supporting extremely vulnerable people with a range of complex additional needs which has often resulted in a reduction in the need for other agency support, which is better for the client. Clients are well known to the organisation which means that support to the most appropriate type of service and outcome is swift.

Light for Life provides additional benefits to the client which are made available outside of the funding it receives from Supporting People. As a charity, Light for Life works hard to fundraise and work with other charitable organisations to ensure that all clients have access to furnishings, white goods and food at a time when they are most vulnerable and have nothing. The charity is able to be flexible in its spending of some charitable income to ensure that a persons basic needs are being met.

The charity has recently undergone a review of its services and in April 2011 took the decision to make efficiencies to ensure that the services remained good value for money. To this end, back room costs have been reduced and a new team created combining Centre and Floating Support staff to further reduce both staffing and accommodation costs at a time when both were on the increase. We believe that the operating model now adopted provides an excellent, holistic and seamless services to some of the most vulnerable people in the borough.

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A reduction or cessation of the current funding package through Supporting People would result in a serious impact on the residents of the Southport area, costs for the Council and further costs incurred through a rise in evictions, homelessness, bed and breakfast options and referral to services, currently minimised through the charity's support interventions.

The combined package of Supporting People and Housing Funding enables the Centre to provide this holistic and timely service, avoiding the additional costs which would be necessary if the Council were to fund and staff its own provision in the north of the Borough. Our links to PRS landlords is second to none, providing quick access to properties for clients and support to both landlords and clients to sustain the tenancy. This has been achieved through intensive work over a number of years and the relationship is one of trust and mutual respect. Removal of LFL's service will inevitably result in fewer landlords being prepared to accommodate vulnerable people at a time when changes to the Benefit system are already weakening their attitude to tenants who are claimants. I stress that this is a 'combined package' and removal of SP funding would result in closure of the centre and cessation of services. There is a contract in place through Housing to provide services until March 2013, initially, but this can only be achieved with a continuation of funding through SP.

There are organisations that currently benefit from Supporting People funding who would be in a position to claim their monies from other sources following some fairly straightforward changes. Light for Life's services cannot be funded in any alternative way and whilst monies from Housing many continue to be available, the income from SP is vital to complete the services offered by the charity.

I hope that the information I provided speaks for itself, but I would be happy to discuss our situation in more detail if necessary. You will have received completed questionnaires or letters from staff and trustees of the organisation which will reflect the charity's position and thoughts about any option to reduce/cease funding.

Please let me know if you require any further information,

Greta Morphet, Chief Executive Officer.

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Excerpt from a letter to the Leader and Chief Executive Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,

Thank you for the opportunity provided to partner organisations such as ourselves to consult on the proposed budgetary cuts within SMBC.

Having assessed the options being consulted upon we have responded where we feel there is a potential significant negative impact on the lives of our residents, the long term sustainability of the Borough of Sefton and on our business.

Whilst appreciating the immensely difficult task facing the Council, we worry that some of the cuts proposed, particularly to the Supporting People Programme will put many vulnerable people across the borough at risk and will provide a false saving which will result in higher costs to the public purse in future years.

Not all the options we have responded to are formally open for public consultation, however, we feel the impact will be such on our tenants that we ask the Leader and Chief Executive to consider all of the comments we have made below.

Roy Williams Chief Executive One Vision Housing

Section E2: Older People E2.1 Supporting People E2.2 Supporting People

Commissioning

The current cost of the Supporting People Programme to Sefton Council is £6.757m. The proposed cuts being consulted upon are up to £3m, a maximum cut of 44%.

It is widely accepted that the Supporting People Programme saves money in the long term as it allows individuals to maintain independent living. The preventative work delivered through the SP Programme reduces the burden on other statutory services at a later date such as the NHS and Police.

The programme has never been in higher demand and with Sefton's population aging at the current rate there will be 23,700 additional people aged 65+ by 2033 (from 55,300 to 79,000) By 2033, Sefton will have approximately 16,165 people aged over 85 requiring even more intensive specialist support.

What does Supported Housing offer Sefton?

Each SP funded service supports people in maintaining independent living in their own homes. As a result:

- There is a reduction in the use of care or nursing homes – the support we provide helps people to maintain their independence for a longer period.
- People are supported to sustain their tenancies which has a positive effect on the number of homeless applications and the use of B+B provision.
- Hospital beds are freed up – if people have a home and support service to go to then they can be discharged in a timely manner.
- People coming out of prison -can be housed at an earlier opportunity therefore allowing early prison release plus reducing the risk of re-offending.
- Ex-offenders – can be housed and supported with their issues – this reduces the risk of re-offending, which has an impact on probation the service and the police
- Support is provided to victims of Domestic Violence which reduces the need for and cost of B+B provision within the local authority.
- Supported living placements are available for people with learning disabilities – reduces the impact on families and respite services.

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SP funded services often pick up issues which affect people in terms of keeping them safe within their communities through education, safety plans and effective support. The Supporting People Programme is key in providing stable and sustainable communities.

What is the value of Supported Housing?

In addition to the social, health and welfare benefits of the SP Programme, there is clear evidence to show that the SP Programme provides a net saving to the public purse. A report commissioned by The Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008, carried out by Capgemini compared the cost of current SP services compared with a range of potential adverse events that might occur to clients if SP services weren't available. Capgemini worked out that on average, for every £1 spent on the SP Programme, £2.11 is saved.

What is the Steer from Government?

Central Government has been explicitly clear to Local Authorities proposing significant cuts to the Supporting People budget. In a letter to the Daily Telegraph earlier this year (18th March) Housing Minister Grant Shapps said that: 'Local authorities need to cut costs. But this shouldn't mean targeting disproportionate spending reductions on programmes that support the most vulnerable.' Eric Pickles, the Community Secretary has also said that: 'Most sensible local authorities will come to the conclusion that £1 spent on Supporting People will probably save them £5 or £6 further down the line.'

What are the options?

We understand that the Local Authority needs to make cuts across its budget but we feel the Supporting People budget should be protected from cuts based on the evidence that SP funding in fact saves money in the longer term.

However, what is tough for the Council is that they will not be the 100% beneficiary of this investment and future saving.

We propose that for 2012/13 SMBC reconsider making any cut to the budget for Supporting People. Instead, we ask that SMBC work with the beneficiaries to educate them to the savings they are receiving and the impact on them if SP Programme is reduced including the long term, adverse financial impact on their services.

By using a Local 'One Place' approach, and pooling resources across the Local Strategic Partnership, there should be an opportunity to reduce over time the Councils contribution to the Supporting People budget, whilst maintaining or ever developing the budget to provide increased savings across partners.

Implications for OVH:

Supporting People funding within One Vision Housing, funds support to over 1600 properties, including funding 18 Scheme Managers and 2 Team Leaders who provide 15 minutes per week support to each of our clients.

This support includes but is not limited to:

- Ensuring their Health and Wellbeing – by direct support or referrals to other agencies
- Providing advice and support on benefits maximisation and affordable warmth
- Safeguarding-raising awareness of safeguarding issues and raising alerts where necessary
- Referrals to Occupational Therapist to ensure people can continue to live in their own homes with the help of aids and adaptations
- Support with drug and alcohol issues

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- Linking clients to other agencies to support their cultural and social needs, helping them build networks, get involved and remain active and avoid becoming isolated

From our financial profiling we know that a 10% cut in the SP funding we receive would lead to a staff reduction of 2 personnel. This would mean approximately 160 clients who currently receive support will not.

A maximum 44% cut would lead to 8 personnel. This would mean approximately 640 clients who currently receive support would not.

The knock on impact of these cuts will be that our vulnerable clients will be unable to independently sustain their tenancies which will lead to:

- Increased use of hospitals and residential care and the resultant increased cost of providing these services
- Increased pressure on the Councils Statutory services including Homelessness as people fail to sustain tenancies
- Increased risk of re-offending as people do not enter supported and therefore more sustainable tenancies
- Reduced level of support to victims of Domestic Violence which in turn will increase the need for and cost of B+B provision within the local authority.
- Reduced number of supported living placements available for people with learning disabilities – therefore increasing the impact on families and respite services.
- Increased levels of Anti Social Behaviour
- Increased number of older and vulnerable people suffering social isolation



5 December 2011

Ms Margaret Carney, Chief Executive
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
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Dear Ms Carney

Re: Sefton Supporting People Providers' Forum

I am writing to introduce myself as Interim Chair of the above and hope you may have some time in the near future to meet up.

As Providers we were appreciative in 2010 that whilst the Council gave consideration to how it might make immediate savings that delivery of the Supporting People Programme was regarded as Critical.

This meant that the finances for the Supporting People Programme were not subject to reduction.

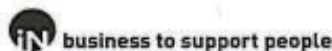
A request was made however for Providers to offer up a 5% saving or be subject to a value for money exercise (the choice being the Providers), in order as I understand it, to balance the Supporting People Programme budget, by achieving savings from Providers.

I advise of this against the backdrop of the current consultation.

Aligned to the request was an offer that contracts could then be extended to 1st October 2010. We then especially appreciated the further contract extension to March 2011.

This has meant that services have continued to be delivered to vulnerable people, albeit inside a reduced funding envelope.

We are as Providers, staff and service users contributing to the current consultation in respect of the reductions of £25/£20 million that the Council has identified as savings to be made in 2012/13.



Patron: Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead

Chairman: Mr. C. Drake

Chief Executive: Mrs. C.A. Allen

Birkenhead Forum Housing Association Ltd. A Charity incorporated as an Industrial and Provident Society under the reference number 10263R.

Registered with the Tenant Services Authority / TSA, the Regulator of Social Housing - L1299 Affiliated to NHF

Registered office: 2nd Floor 84 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 6HB

Members of: Housing Ombudsman Service Social Housing Pension Scheme



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We understand very clearly the Council's most difficult position.

We are however somewhat dismayed to read that £3 million is identified as a reduction on the Supporting People programme budget. This is in effect a 44% reduction for a service the Council deemed Critical twelve months ago.

We do sincerely hope that contributors to the consultation will see the value of Supporting People services.

I know I am making constant references to the Supporting People programme and budget however, I am aware that this no longer exists as an entity, old habits die hard.

I have over the last 12 months had many conversations with Angela White Chief Executive of Sefton CVS and she has indicated to me your continued support of the Voluntary, Community Faith Sector.

Many of the Supporting People Providers fall into the above category. This brings me to my final point...

Given the Council's timeline for meetings to agree a balanced budget for 2012/2013, I see it as entirely possible that the Supporting People team will not enter into dialogue with Providers until February 2012 at the earliest. Current Supporting People contracts expire on the 31st March 2012.

Would it be your intention to commit, as you did last year, to an extension to the contracts in order to allow Providers to manage a way through, whatever this may be?

I know Providers are once again extremely anxious about the future, for their organisations and for their service users and staff.

As I have said, we fully understand the Council's dilemma in respect of financial resource and we would wish to be able to offer solutions once the consultation period has ended.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter.

I am only sorry we haven't met face to face before I had cause to write.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Chris Allen (Mrs)
INTERIM CHAIR
PROVIDERS FORUM

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TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME 2011-2014 REPORT

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