

# Public Document Pack



Town Hall  
Trinity Road  
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**TO:** All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

Date: 2 November 2016  
Our Ref: O&S (R&S)  
Your Ref:

**Please contact:** Ruth Harrison  
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Dear Councillor

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

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

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Item</b>
6.	<b>Amended Report - Shale Gas Working Group - Update on the Implementation of Recommendations</b> (Pages 195 - 200) Report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing  (Please replace the report in your Agenda Pack with the one attached)
10.	<b>Cabinet Member Report – Health and Wellbeing (Parks and Greenspaces Element)</b> (Pages 201 - 204) Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance

Yours sincerely,

J. COULE

Head of Regulation and Compliance

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**Report to:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
(Regeneration & Skills)      **Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016

**Subject:** Shale Gas working group – update on implementing recommendations      **Wards Affected:** (All Wards);

**Report of:** Head of Regeneration and Housing

**Is this a Key Decision?** No      **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

## Purpose/Summary

To update Members on progress with implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

## Recommendations

1. That Members are requested to provide a view on the draft objectives for the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, membership and frequency of meetings.
2. That Members note that feedback is awaited from the Regulators on the draft objectives.

## 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	✓		

# Agenda Item 6

## Reasons for the Recommendations:

To advise Members of progress in implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not to progress implementing the recommendations of the Members' working group

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

- (A) Revenue Costs - None directly.
- (B) Capital Costs - N/A.

## Implications:

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

<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

Implementing the recommendations of the Working Group will clarify Council expectations in relation to proposals for Shale Gas within the Borough, and in particular the role of a Cross-Regulator Officer Working Group.

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted (FD 4364/16) and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council.

Head of Regulation & Compliance has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated in the report (LD 3647/16).

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the meeting

## Contact Officer: Alan Jemmett – Director, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

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## Background Papers:

None

## 1. Background

1.1 Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2015 and the Head of Regeneration and Housing was assigned responsibility for implementation of the recommendations. On 14 July, Full Council passed a motion on Unconventional Gas Extraction (Fracking).

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) received a progress update on 20 September 2016 and it resolved that:

- The draft objectives, membership and frequency of meetings of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control and his recommendations be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on 8 November 2016;
- The Head of Regeneration and Housing or his nominated representative be requested to meet with partners as necessary to inform the scope and the terms of reference of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group; and
- The timetable associated with the actions, as detailed in the report, be noted.

1.3 On 5 October the Government approved the planning application in Lancashire the enable horizontal fracking to take place at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road site at Little Plumpton. Two other planning applications for monitoring arrays were also approved, one at Preston New Road and the other at Roseacre Wood. Subject to compliance to pre-commencement planning conditions, development may be expected to proceed at Preston New Road during 2017.

1.4 Also on 5 October, the Government agreed to re-convene the Public Inquiry to enable more evidence to be heard with respect to transportation issues for the Roseacre Wood site in Lancashire. An outcome is therefore anticipated later in 2017.

1.5 On 12 October 2016, Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive, Lancashire County Council, Oil and Gas Authority and Public Health England organised a "meet the regulator event" in Ormskirk. This is part of a wider engagement process to raise awareness of the role of regulators and is not specific to any development-proposal. A nominated officer took the opportunity to observe the event and to informally discuss with the Regulators, the benefits and challenges of shale development and the possible operation of a cross-regulator group in Sefton.

## 2. Update on Implementation of Actions

2.1 The draft objectives for the Cross-Regulator Working Group to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the main Regulators for on-shore oil and gas (shale) are as follows:

(i) – To inform what Sefton Council expects from Shale Gas and Oil development proposals to enable cost-effective, joined-up and robust Regulation.

(ii) – To provide a confidential mechanism for co-operation between Regulators in relation to Shale Gas and Oil development issues and proposals.

# Agenda Item 6

(iii) – To facilitate delivery of regulatory functions by informing the scope of the evidence and technical assessments required for Shale Gas and Oil development proposals.

(iv) – To provide a confidential mechanism to provide early feedback to Shale Gas and Oil development sector (normally the proposer or their nominated advisor) prior to commencement of formal planning or other regulatory processes and; provide an early opportunity for the Shale Gas and Oil development sector to reassure the Council and other Regulators on effects relating to safety, health, communities and the environment (amongst others’).

(v) – To raise awareness of the significant issues likely to be encountered within the Borough of Sefton and adjacent administrative areas and learn from experience elsewhere.

(vi) – To inform the scope of corporate communications from the Regulators in relation to Shale Gas and Oil generally and specific development proposals.

(vii) – To help ensure that the Regulators have access to the necessary technical capacity and resources to deliver effective regulation.

(ix) – To ensure that the practices, procedures, experience and knowledge is shared with adjacent administrative areas including other parts of the Liverpool City Region.:

- Inform pre-application discussions for proposed shale development, case by case;
- Avoid the duplication of regulatory processes and ensure that joined-up, effective regulation and planning control is delivered for the Borough;
- Ensure that the evidence upon which regulatory assessments are based is appropriate in detail and scope;
- Provide a means of open scrutiny and early discussion of issues and matters that need to be addressed as part of the decision-taking process.

2.2 Feedback is awaited from Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England on these draft objectives. However, these organisations are welcoming of the principle of a Cross-Regulatory Group and the without-prejudice, proactive approach by Sefton Council. There are also understood to be keen to share experience and learning gained from other onshore oil and gas development projects including Lancashire and North Yorkshire.

2.3 Membership of the proposed Cross-Regulator Working Group will be drawn from a range of organisations such as Public Health England, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive and, Council Departments and Members as necessary. Table 1 provides more information.

2.4 It is suggested that, once the TOR have been agreed, the frequency of meetings will be determined by the need for technical input to inform regulation of development proposals, if and when and how quickly, they come forward.

2.5 To ensure appropriate Elected Member oversight and involvement it is recommended to O&S Committee that:

- The proposed Cross-Regulator Group meets in advance of O&S Committee to enable timely feedback;
- Briefings of O&S Committee take place in advance of normal business meetings to provide an opportunity for Members to receive training in relation to onshore oil and gas development and raise issues for consideration by the Cross-Regulator Group;
- The O&S Committee will provide oversight of the Cross-Regulator Group. Specifically the Cross-Regulator Group will provide regular update reports to O&S Committee including recommendations.

2.6 Further progress reports will be provided on actions 2 – 8 at future meetings.

**Table 1**

<b>Regulator</b>	<b>Main Regulatory areas</b>
Environment Agency	Environmental permits – mining waste, onsite and offsite (treatment and disposal), regulates all emissions to ground water and surface water resources, emissions to air, radioactive substances. Abstraction licences.
Health and Safety Executive	Well integrity (design and construction), independent well verification, safety of drilling, final well plugging and decommissioning.
Public Health England	Public Health and well-being.
Oil and Gas Authority	PEDL licences, hydraulic fracture plan (monitoring and seismicity), infrastructure, operator competence, and geology / subsidence / fracture propagation.
<b>Council Department</b>	<b>Main areas of responsibility</b>
Sefton Council Planning	Minerals Planning authority, Local Plan policies, validation list, statement of community involvement, landscape & visual intrusion.
Sefton Council – MEAS	Environmental regulation – protected sites / species, land contamination, compliance - HRA, EIA, archaeology, energy infrastructure, land use.
Sefton Council - Environmental Health	Dust, noise, land contamination, lighting.
Sefton Council – Coast & Flooding	Flood risk management, coast protection, ordinary watercourse.
Sefton Council – Economic	Jobs regeneration, supply chain.

# Agenda Item 6

Development	
Sefton Council – Technical Services	Transport and access including Transport Impact Assessment.
Sefton Council – Public health	Public health, health impact assessment.
<b>And the following organisations on a case by case basis upon invitation:</b>	
Natural England	Protected sites and species including Natura 2000 sites
Hazardous Substances Authority (if not Planning authority)	Control of major hazards and issuing of hazardous substances consents.
Sefton Council – Corporate	Communications, media and public relations
British Geological Survey	Monitoring arrays, potential of resources.

### 3. Issues Raised by O&S Committee on 20 September 2016

- 3.1 A presentation will be made to O&S Committee on 8 November which will brief Elected Members on the issues and questions raised on 20 September 2016.



<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b><i>COUNCILLOR</i></b>	<b><i>PORTFOLIO</i></b>	<b><i>DATE</i></b>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	October 2016

## **PARKS AND GREENSPACES**

### **Community Resilience**

**Development of volunteering/community resilience in parks and green spaces.**

This continues to play a significant part in keeping parks at an acceptable standard.

### **Community self-management**

The service continues to explore new opportunities to facilitate community, sports and other groups taking on self-management of their facilities and features. In addition to existing arrangements, developing discussions are ongoing with a combination of groups for:

- the old nursery yard at Botanic Gardens,
- for the old museum at Botanic Gardens,
- and other sports users such as Redgate Rovers (for Watchyard Lane Playing Fields, Formby), for Southport Rugby Club (Waterloo Road Rec) and others a formal expression of interest has been submitted by both.

### **Kings Gardens Community Development**

The arts and crafts shelter will be developed as a visitor information centre which will be managed predominately by the friends of Kings Gardens, with a smaller visitors centre element within the tea rooms.

North West Research and an independent access consultant have been commissioned to carry out an evaluation report for the Kings Gardens HLF project. Deadline for the final report is December 2016.

Sefton Parks and greenspaces in conjunction with the Green Machine, pupils from a number of a Southport schools and Pendle Productions have produced a film about Kings Gardens. The pupils produced and directed the film with the support of Pendle Productions and the finished film will be added to the King's Gardens website.

Four outdoor cinemas took place in the summer together with a screening of Coastal Opera.

The friends of King's Gardens continue to look after the community garden, and organise and support community events. The friends group have been successful in applying for charity status.

# Agenda Item 10

The funding for community support and the activity schedule ends December 2017.

## **Duke St Park**

Following the approval of a Cabinet Member report to agree the vision for the park, work is currently ongoing on the new Multi Use Games Area.

## **Outdoor Theatre**

A series of 8 Outdoor Theatres took place in Parks this summer. These were run at no cost to the council, but the profit is shared with the private business that arranges them. This has proved popular and will be repeated next summer

## **Hugh Baird College**

In addition to the recent Work Experience Week (outlined in the last report), students continue to volunteer in Derby Park and undertake light gardening tasks.

## **Santander Community Activity Days**

Staff continue to support improvements and developments in Parks and Greenspaces and in 2016 / 2017, staff have supported activities in the following Parks; Victoria Park, Waterloo; Hatton Hill Park, Giro Park and Marian Gardens. Each time they not only contribute their time, but also monies towards the materials necessary for the activity.

## **Creating and Building Partnerships**

In addition to the ongoing partnership that has been established with Santander since 2014, Parks and Greenspaces are building its relationship further with several external partners such as; Access Point and McDonalds. Initially, Access Point came on board to complete a 100 volunteering hour's target with its staff, but have since decided to continue volunteering in Hesketh Park; and McDonalds are due to get involved in quarterly litter-picks in North Sefton.

To expand the partnership element of the Service even further a focused and pro-active marketing initiative will take place in autumn 2016 i.e. Santander with Parks and Greenspaces will devise promotional materials that can be distributed to external organisations and businesses.

## **Art and Educational Installations**

Parks and Greenspaces have worked closely with several local schools, YKids and the Gateway Collective to install educational art-installations and interpretation in North Park.

## **Garden Volunteers**

Garden volunteers are integral to the future of Sefton's Parks and Greenspaces and support and lead activities in many Parks including; Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord Street Gardens, Rotten Row, Duke Street Park, Derby Park, Moorside Park, Coronation Park, Alexandra Park, Victoria Park Community Garden, Seafront Gardens and many more.

## **Park Volunteers' Week**

Volunteers took part in activities across Sefton to support the annual Park Volunteers' Week held in the first week of June. Activities included; litter-picks, gardening, arts and crafts in the Park, Observatory Open Day and much more.

## **Burbo Bank Extension Fund**

The Parks and Greenspaces was successful in securing funding in order to build upon the community growing schemes that are taking place in many of its Parks e.g. Victoria Park, Waterloo and North Park, Bootle. The Project will be developed during Autumn 2106/ Spring 2017 with a range of Friends Groups.

## **Capital schemes**

### **King's Gardens**

Additional works for the gardens have been agreed and tenders have been received. Contractors have been appointed for all works which should all be complete Autumn 2016. The HLF has agreed an extension for all capital spend to be complete by end December 16.

### **Alexandra Park**

The boundary railings to Alexandra Park in Crosby have been up-graded and improvements are imminent to ornamental lamp standards in the park.

### **South Park Phase 2**

Work is now complete on the second phase of improvements to South Park, including major improvements to the multi-use games area, improvements to the play area and increased security including CCTV.

A successful War Memorials Trust grant to refurbish the Bootle War Memorial located adjacent to the park has brought in a further £88k. Work has now been completed and the memorial was rededicated on 3<sup>rd</sup> September by the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor in the presence of MP Peter Dowd, local Elected Members and a big turn out from the community.

Phase 3 will begin on site after Christmas, with works to the King Edward VII statue, steps, a community growing project and much more.

### **Bowersdale Park**

A scheme has been developed in consultation with the community to develop the ball court into a multi-use games area –The Cabinet Member report has been approved, tenders have been sought and work is now underway on the new Multi Use Games Area.

### **Killen Green Skate Park**

# Agenda Item 10

Further to a successful funding bid to Veolia UK, Killen Green Park has been successful in building a new skate, BMX and scooter facility in Netherton. The scheme was designed in collaboration with the Eden Network and L30s Millions Project, who also matched funded the works. The skatepark is now complete on site and very well received by the community.

Phase 2 will start on site after Christmas with park improvement works to the play area and dog walking area, and more.

## **Benchmarking/ Awards**

### **Green Flag Award**

In terms of Green Flag Award, Parks and Greenspaces submitted a total of 8 applications for 2016/ 2107, which were all successful.

### **Green Flag Community Award**

In 2016 we also assisted community groups in retaining the Green Flag Community Award for example Rotten Row, Southport. St Luke's Church Grounds submits an annual application also and was successful in retaining the Award.

We continue to support applications and two organisations to achieve the Award in 2016/ 2017 were; North Park Community Garden, involving the Gateway Collective and Ykids; and Bridge Inn Community Farm, Formby.

We are assisting the Friends of Ainsdale Village Park with an application for 2017/18.

### **In Bloom Award**

This year's judging took place across July and August and included Southport in the National Britain in Bloom Finals. The applications submitted for this year's North West In Bloom Awards included; Ainsdale in Bloom, Crosby & Waterloo in Bloom, Maghull in Bloom and Southport in Bloom. All entries are supported by both Sefton Council and a Steering Group involving various partners helps prepare and promote the application to the wider area.

Results will be announced at award ceremonies this Autumn.

### **It's Your Neighbourhood Awards**

The number of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Entries has increased steadily and this year there were 32 for the whole of Sefton. Sefton has been commended for its number of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Entries by Northwest in Bloom (NWiB) and Sefton is an example of good practice to other areas in the Country (quoted from Theresa Potter - NWiB and BiB Judge 2016).