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Town Hall
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To all Members of the Council

Date: 19 May 2022
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - THURSDAY 19TH MAY, 2022

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and now enclose the following information that was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No.	Item
8.	Questions Raised by Members of the Council (Pages 86 - 99) Questions to Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 49 to 51 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

Yours faithfully,

Dwayne Johnson

Chief Executive

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QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. **Question submitted by Councillor Tweed to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)**

Subject: Partnership Jubilee Funding

“Can Cabinet member advise on the outcomes of the Sefton's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund Grants programme?”

Response:

SEFTON PLATINUM JUBILEE FUND SUMMARY

Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
1st Lydiate (St. Thomas) Scout Group	Let's Celebrate!	A series of street parties with competitions and opportunities for attendees to earn a special commemorative badge.	£550
4th Crosby and District (St William of York) Scout Group	4th Crosby Scout Group HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	A tea party for the older community, a children's party and a family BBQ.	£550
Active Minds	Celebrating the Royal Platinum Jubilee with Dementia	Themed activities including a garden party, arts and crafts, music and a gardening session in collaboration with local schools.	£450
Ainsdale Civic Society	Ainsdale Jubilee Street Party on the Green	A street party on the Ainsdale Village Green with live entertainment, children's fairground rides, charity stalls and food & drink.	£600
Ainsdale In Bloom	Jubilee Planters	The introduction of two large planters to start a gardening club supporting both the community and local businesses with their celebrations.	£450
Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure	Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure Jubilee Project	A project on the theme of 'how we used to live' including intergenerational activities and high tea events.	£500
Birkdale Community Hub and Library	A Station House for all!	A series of craft workshops focussing on the celebration of the Jubilee for young people. Events will also include musicians, Community Hub 'open house' and a mini street party.	£600

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Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
Bootle Youth and Community Centre	Party In the Park	A 'Party in The Park' to encourage the use of the community hub including a range of games and activities for all ages.	£500
Brighter Living Partnership	Platinum Jubilee Celebration Event	An Afternoon tea party with entertainment including a magician, a quiz and photo booths.	£500
Brunswick Youth and Community Centre	The Brunny Jubilee Celebration	To host two Jubilee Parties - one for Junior Members and one for Senior Members of our club.	£650
Community By Nature	Festival "fit for the Queen"	A large-scale community festival in the "Squarcle" space.	£500
Compassion Acts	Opening up Victoria Centre for friends old and new	A Jubilee Open Day with inclusive programme of activities, taster sessions and tours/exhibitions of the Victoria Centre.	£500
Crossens Community Club	Afternoon Tea to Celebrate the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	An afternoon tea event for older people as well as a soft play and a bouncy castle for families.	£420
Expect Limited	Bowersdale Resource Centre Jubilee Tea Party	A series of tea party events for service users and community partners at the Bowersdale Resource Centre in Seaforth.	£500
Friends of Alexandra and Coronation Park	Adding a Jubilee 'Wow' to Coronation Park	A commemorative planting project with a Jubilee-themed colourful floral display in HM The Queen's Jubilee colours.	£550
Friends of Holy Family	HM The Queen's Jubilee Fun Day	An interactive learning day for children with games, workshop classes and lessons, and afternoon tea for all ages.	£400
Friends of Merrilocks Park	Jubilee concert in Merrilocks Park	A Jubilee concert and a celebration of the restoration of Merrilocks Park.	£600
Friends of Sandpipers	Jubilee Garden	A commemorative Jubilee Garden and afternoon tea event.	£500
Girlguiding Sefton	HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Event	To participate in the lighting of beacons as part of a nationwide project with picnic, games and competitions.	£588
Holy Rosary Ladies Group	HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party	An Intergenerational garden party.	£500

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Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
Home from Home Sefton	Platinum Jubilee Traditional Garden Party	Jubilee garden party with afternoon tea for people with dementia, reminiscent music including ukulele classes, interactive quizzes and more.	£500
Homestart Southport and Formby	Homestart Community Celebration	To hold two community celebration events. One for volunteers at the Lakeside Centre in Southport, and the second to bring isolated families together in August with a Royal Family theme.	£450
Hope Community Church Aintree	Platinum Jubilee Community Fun Day	A family fun day including a BBQ, bouncy castle, football, tug of war and organised games.	£475
Ince Blundell Parish Council and Village Hall	Platinum Jubilee Village Celebration	A celebration event with live music, afternoon tea, bouncy castle, BBQ and refreshments.	£450
Kindfulness Coffee Club	HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	A Jubilee-themed street party for local residents including families and individuals from Poland, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and those of Indian heritage.	£500
Kindhearts Café	Kindhearts Jubilee Party for Community Café	A 1950's afternoon tea party, bingo and raffle.	£480
L30 Community Centre (Fun 4 Kids)	Netherton Community Jubilee Celebration	A Jubilee party with performers from local groups and school including choir and Morris dancers.	£500
Leyland Road Methodist Church	BBQ Party Community Celebration	A community BBQ celebration to mark HM The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.	£390
Litherland Youth and Community Centre	Jubilee Celebrations at Litherland Youth & Community Centre	The making of decorations, sporting events, interactive games, and a special intergenerational party with 30 senior members from the lunch club with children providing the entertainment.	£500
Marine in the Community	Jubilee Musical Memories	A musical extravaganza for all ages including schoolchildren, parents, and grandparents - 80+ and additional 20 volunteers.	£650
Mencap Liverpool and Sefton	Double Platinum Party	An inclusive street party for neighbours with the opportunity for craft sessions before the Jubilee Weekend.	£440

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Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
Mind Balance Solutions	Inclusive Celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee	A family garden party introducing both Polish and English children's activities including musical instrument sessions. All materials delivered in English and Polish.	£680
MYA Space	A Real Royal Variety Show	A performing arts variety show, including taster workshops.	£500
Netherton Feel Good Factory	Feel Good Jubilee	A community exhibition, Jubilee workshops and activities, including an 'Off the Street' Party.	£550
Parenting 2000	Alchemy Jubilee Celebration	To host 'maker' sessions making crochet rings, decorations and flags. Community fun day with music festival and stalls.	£500
Plaza Community Cinema	All Our Yesterdays - A celebration of the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	A free interactive film and discussion/memory workshops to reflect and celebrate the many social, cultural and economic changes.	£1,000
Reach Men's Centre	Reach Men's Centre Jubilee Celebration	A community open day, with the Jubilee celebrations coinciding with 5 year anniversary of Reach Men's Centre, including 'The Queen and Britain' quiz where there will be tea and cakes.	£500
Scrapyard Studios	Rock the Jubilee	A community rock choir and 4-piece live band on a festival stage. Performance will take place in Bootle.	£500
Sefton Multicultural Centre	Sefton Multicultural centre Community Lunch	A community BBQ for people of diverse racial and multi-faith backgrounds.	£600
Sefton OPERA	Platinum Celebration Afternoon Tea	3 x Jubilee celebration events in Waterloo, Bootle and Southport.	£900
Southport Sea Cadets	HM The Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Celebrations	A coach trip to Blackburn to enable 45 sea cadets to participate in a regional parade with the armed forces, as well as a Jubilee Celebration BBQ with families, volunteers, residents and dignitaries.	£550
St Giles, Aintree	HM The Queen's Platinum Anniversary	A community event with singing, entertainment and afternoon tea.	£500

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Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
St Thomas Helping Hands PTA	HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Community Garden Celebration	A garden party for the school, the church community and wider community, allowing people to come together for the Jubilee celebrations.	£400
The Abbeyfield Society	The Abbeyfield Neighbourhood Project Jubilee Event	A jubilee picnic-style lunch with musical entertainment hosted by a 1940s-style singer.	£550
The Community Church	Jubilee Community Family Fun Day	A Community Family Fun Day with fun and games for all the family.	£420
The Fillies GFC	Community Family Day	An intergenerational family day and Jubilee-themed activities.	£550
The Formby Befriending Scheme	Jubilee Celebrations	A project to host various Jubilee events including a street party, 3 x Dementia Coffee Clubs and 'Holiday at Home' event.	£650
The Gateway Collective	North Park Platinum Party Picnic	A 'Picnic in the Park' event featuring art and gardening activities, community lunch, shared space to talk about memories and stories of the HM Queen's previous Jubilee celebrations.	£500
The Halle O'Brien CIC	HM The Queen's Jubilee Fun Day at Halle's Hub	A fun filled day for the local community including music, games and fancy-dress competitions.	£500
The Mix Youth Café	Crosby Street Party and Music Festival	A free street party and music festival in Moor Lane, Crosby.	£500
The Orrell Trust	Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea	An afternoon tea with all ages including parents, afterschool club, older people, members of the church and the choir, including opportunities to play games, share stories and reminisce.	£550
The Waterloo and Crosby Theatre Company	Jubilee Tea Dance	A Jubilee Tea Dance, refreshments, entertainment and dancing from the decades of HM The Queen Elizabeth.	£300

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Lead Organisation / Group	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount Awarded
Waterloo Primary School	Waterloo Primary School Jubilee Celebrations	'Dance Through The Decades' workshop for children followed by performances to the whole school. An intergenerational afternoon tea party in partnership with a local care home where the children will present 'Dance Through The Decades'.	£300
Wigzee Woo	The Sefton Platinum Jubilee Official Wigathons	Four community beanie hat and wig-making events, bringing communities together for children in need.	£500
Ykids	Ready to Change the World	Young people are to deliver social action projects for older people, the development of a book of ideas (titled 'I can change the world') and an exhibition created from litter.	£500
			£28,743

"Sefton CVS developed the Sefton Platinum Jubilee Fund in partnership with Sefton Council, Living Well Sefton, Sefton 4 Good and the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Sefton Platinum Jubilee Fund Grants Panel allocated a total of £28,743 to 55 constituted voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups/organisations to provide financial assistance for hosting celebratory events and activities to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee Fund closed on April 14th and was heavily oversubscribed to the funds available.

The successful groups are included in the attached table which also includes a brief summary of the planned activity/event, the amount of funding requested and the amount of funding awarded by the panel.

In addition the CVS continues to support other groups outside of the process to access alternatives sources of funding".

2. Question submitted by Councillor Dowd to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)

Subject: Regeneration Plans

With over 50% of funding cut by Government to Sefton Council, how has the Regeneration service with so many competing priorities across the council continued to deliver on the ambitious plans the council has?

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Response:

“Due to resource constraints, Sefton Council has had to prioritise what it delivers and focus on key areas of regeneration need and opportunity. The Council prepared and consulted upon regeneration frameworks in 2016 for its main town centres of Southport, Crosby and Bootle, and aligned to the Local Plan adopted in 2017, these have provided the foundation and basis for a number of key priority projects. It must be acknowledged, that the preparation and delivery of regeneration projects and plans does not happen overnight, and significant resources have been devoted to the development of projects and programmes. These strategies and plans have been tested through Brexit, Pandemic, and significant economic upheaval, but through work associated with the Sefton Economic Strategy, a Pandemic Recovery plan and an update to the Economic Strategy, the approach has been endorsed and the Council's commitment to continue on this path has been vindicated.

A focus on key town centres requiring support and resilience has underpinned the approach, together with a Growth and Strategic Investment programme which maximised the opportunity of key, prominent and available Council assets, providing stimulus, confidence and momentum to the wider economy. This supports the Council's 2030 Vision of developing stronger and more resilient communities.

There is an acknowledged finite availability of resources and capacity for the Council, and within the Regeneration team and indeed within those services across the organisation who are embedded in the progression of this Growth Programme. However, hard work, dedication, creative use of resources and assets, and a concerted, aggressive and confident approach to securing external funding has been critical, particularly in the context of the Council's budget challenges. Examples of funding secured include Town Deal, Town Centre Commission, Welcome Back Funds, Business grants, LCRCA Investment funds, Heritage Lottery Funding and private sector investment. And whilst the Council in this context must demonstrate strategic and financial leadership, it is also the case that we have shown a willingness to facilitate and also step back and allow others to lead. It requires a balanced approach to establish the best use of public resources to deliver Council priorities, regeneration, and to support our communities, our economy and our environment.

Good governance and programme management has been a key element of ensuring the growth and investment programme remains focused on delivery and, despite the pandemic and Brexit impacts, the service has, through effective corporate working and strong leadership, been able to maintain service delivery and focus despite the unprecedented challenges.

Finally, the Council could not do this alone and also works closely with other key stakeholders and delivery partners to maximise both the reach and impact of activity and address those areas which the Council is unable to. This includes working with community groups, partners like the National Trust, Canals and Rivers Trust, HE/FE providers (Hugh Baird/Southport Colleges), Southport BID and other business and investor interests .

Despite the budgetary constraints, capacity pressures, and the programme of delivery already committed to, the Service continues to develop a pipeline of activity and seeks support for a range of project opportunities across the Borough where and when resource can be identified and secured, as well as influencing policy and strategy to ensure partners are clear about the Council's priorities”.

3. **Question submitted by Councillor Spencer to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care (Councillor Doyle)**

Subject: Children’s Services

What are our current and future plans to ensure that children’s services improve?

Response:

“We have a comprehensive Children’s Services Improvement Plan tailored to the outcomes and recommendations of our most recent Ofsted inspection. This plan will be shared with Ofsted shortly and monitored by the Improvement Board and the Department for Education”.

4. **Question submitted by Councillor June Burns to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)**

Subject: Not in Employment, Education and Training Results

What are our latest NEET results and how has this compared with previous years?

Response:

“We have ranked 1st consistently for the last year with our LCR neighbours and were ranked 3rd of the best performing Local Authority (2021) nationally out of 152 Local Authorities”.

PERFORMANCE YEAR ON YEAR

		2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
		annual avg	annual avg	annual avg	annual avg	annual avg	annual avg
Sefton	NEET & Not Known Combined	8.00%	6.80%	5.50%	4.70%	4.60%	3.90%
North West	NEET & Not Known Combined	10.10%	10.10%	9.10%	8.20%	7.9%	7.30%
England	NEET & Not Known Combined	9.80%	9.80%	9.20%	9.10%	8.9%	8.50%

5. **Question submitted by Councillor Bradshaw to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)**

Subject: Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Can you advise how Sefton has been supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme in the context of supporting people who will be and are arriving in Sefton?

Response:

“The Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow Ukrainians (and their immediate family members) with no family ties to the UK to be sponsored by individuals, charities, community groups and businesses who can offer them a home such as a spare room or unoccupied residential self-contained unit, for a minimum of 6 months.

Ukrainians who have sponsors will be granted three years leave to remain in the UK, with entitlement to work and access public services/ funds. Sponsors will be subject to security checks and may be subject to safeguarding checks.

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Ukrainian applicants will undergo security checks.

Local Authorities will be provided with funding to deliver the wraparound support with additional top up for child education.

The role for LA's in the HfU scheme involves:

- Checking/approving accommodation
- Vetting/safeguarding checks and ongoing support for sponsors
- Providing wraparound support (alongside the sponsors?) to the Ukrainian people on the scheme.
- Providing longer term accommodation for Family reunion cases and sponsorships that have broken down or are unsafe.

Sefton Response

Here at Sefton Council we are very pleased to play our part in helping Ukrainians settle in Sefton in this time of emergency. We are thankful to all the individual households in Sefton that have taken up the call to offer accommodation to those in need.

Sefton has established a partnership response both from a variety of internal and external partners. The strategic responses has been led by the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Deborah Butcher. Deborah represents Sefton on the weekly Merseyside Resilience Forum and chairs the weekly strategic meeting as well as briefing Cabinet Members. Lee Payne, Service Manager Housing Strategy chairs the weekly operational group. Both the strategic and operational groups have good representation and contribution from the across the partnership.

The table below shows the activity as at 4 May 2022.

Sefton Summary	Count
Total number of Applicants	175
Children 0-17	69
Adults	106
Group Accommodation Requests	118
Arrived	72
Sponsors	69

In summary, Sefton has delivered a robust response to the DLUHC Homes for Ukraine scheme”.

6. Question submitted by Councillor Hansen to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)

Subject: Covid Grants

How much money did the council administer to local businesses during Covid?

Response:

“Across all the schemes, including the discretionary schemes we issued 23926 payments with a total value of £101,267,391.

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Closed Schemes - Final balances reported to BEIS

Grant	No. of Payments	Value of Payments
Small Business Grant	3284	£ 32,840,000.00
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant (£10k)	397	£ 3,970,000.00
Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant (£25k)	529	£ 13,225,000.00
Local Authority Discretionary Grant	340	£ 2,237,500.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) (Tier 2 & 3 Restrictions)	598	£ 426,372.68
Local Restrictions Grant (Sectors)	8	£ 9,049.42
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum - Nov 2021	1816	£ 2,788,272.00
Christmas Support Payments for wet led pubs	102	£ 102,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum - 5 Jan to 15 Feb 21	1988	£ 4,592,033.00
Closed Business Lockdown Payment	1992	£ 9,207,000.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open)	467	£ 2,045,556.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum - 16 Feb to 31 Mar 21	1974	£ 4,771,512.00
Restart Grants - Non Essential Retail	647	£ 2,023,494.00
Restart Grants - Hospitality, Leisure, Accommodation, Sports & Personal Care	1206	£ 10,998,000.00
Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant	513	£ 1,710,773.00
Sub Totals	15861	£ 90,946,562.10
Additional Restrictions Grant		
Taxi Drivers - Round 1	2620	£ 262,000.00
Taxi Drivers - Round 2	3242	£ 648,400.00
Hospitality & Leisure Round 1	231	£ 407,500.00
Hospitality & Leisure Round 1 - Top-up	219	£ 1,476,910.00
Hospitality & Leisure Round 2	1	£ 1,334.00
Hospitality & Leisure Round 2 - Top-up	153	£ 280,822.00
LCR Local Business Support Grant (Round 3)	476	£ 1,921,500.00
LCR May Top-up	726	£ 3,027,287.15
Care Providers	149	£ 520,000.00
Trading on Grant	96	£ 1,438,890.58
ARG3	152	£ 336,185.00
Sub Totals	8065	£ 10,320,828.73
Grand Totals	23926	£ 101,267,390.83

7. Question submitted by Councillor Myers to the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care (Councillor Doyle)

Subject: Ofsted Report – Children's Services

What is your reaction to the recent critical Ofsted report regarding Sefton's Children's Social Care?

Response:

"We are working closely with our Improvement Board, DFE and senior leaders within children's services to ensure that we get things right moving forward.

We have been busy over the last 12 months or so pulling together the service so that it is in a better shape to deliver good quality services to children, young people and families. However, it will take time to fully embed".

8. Question submitted by Councillor Waterfield to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)

Subject: Major Events in Sefton

What major events do we have planned this year?

Response:

"For the first time since 2019 the Council are preparing a full events programme for this year, this includes The Southport Food and Drinks Festival, Southport Air Show and The British Musical Fireworks Championship. It is anticipated that these three major events will attract tens of thousands of visitors to Sefton helping the Visitor Economy recover from a difficult two years. There will also be a full events programme for The Southport Market that range from small community events to large scale seasonal events such as Christmas Film nights.

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Several events are all planned for The Bootle Canalside site throughout the summer and into The Christmas Period. The Council will also work with and offer support to other event organisers to hold several different events across the Borough”.

9. **Question submitted by Councillor Myers to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)**

Subject: Regeneration of Southport Market Next Steps

After the success of Southport Market what is next?

Response:

“The repurposed Southport Market opened its doors on the 22nd of July 2021, and since opening it has been a great success, having a positive impact on the local and wider area. There are plans for The Market to continue to grow and thrive and over the course of the next year, and new initiatives will be announced. These include a brand-new outdoor seating area that will wrap around The Market creating an additional circa 80 covers, there will also improvements within the market to maximise the back events space.

Following on from the success of The Market the next projects to be delivered include The Enterprise Arcade that will see Crown Buildings on Eastbank Street transformed into a business incubator space for start-up business. An enhanced public realm scheme will also be delivered that will see improvements to Chapel Street along with King Street and Market Street that improve arrival points and create strong linkages within Southport Town Centre. All of this will be further supported by a new wayfinding strategy.

The Southport Town Deal anchor project, The Marine Lake Events Centre is currently being developed further that will see a full planning application submitted this summer and a start on site next year. This project will be of Regional and National significance and will be a game changer, not just for Sefton but the City Region by attracting tens of thousands of both day and staying visitors while also providing an amazing cultural asset for the residents of Sefton”.

10. **Question submitted by Councillor Howard to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)**

Subject: Hospitality Company Next Steps

Sefton’s ambitious and innovative plans to own its own hospitality company have been approved and implemented. What are the next steps for Sefton Hospitality Operations Ltd (SHOL) for it to become the success it wants to be?

Response:

“The Council's ambitions for Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) as the company's shareholder remain unchanged. The Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre project will be completed and operational later this year, but SHOL is already operating in Southport Market where it runs one of the units. It is also preparing to open and operate concessions along our coastline later this year, including at Ainsdale which it has bid for and won via competitive tender process. The sky is the limit for SHOL with developments such as the Canalside and the new events centre coming to fruition”.

11. Question submitted by Councillor Prendergast to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)

Subject: Ofsted Report on Children's Social Services

The recent Ofsted report on children's social services in Sefton has rated the department as inadequate across all areas, the lowest possible rating. The Minister of State has exercised his power to bring a Children's Commissioner to carry out a review of the service.

Taking the above into account, can the Leader of the Council answer the following questions:

1. Which political and executive leaders does he think Ofsted are referring to when they highlight the lack of structures, systems and processes to keep an effective line of oversight of children's services?
2. At the full council meeting of 16th September 2021, the words 'management, supervision and leadership' were removed from the original notice of motion I submitted for that meeting.

With the benefit of hindsight, does he still think that there have been no failings in the management, supervision and leadership of the Children's Social Department?

3. Over the last 12 months, the Improvement Board (set up following the previous poor Ofsted report) met on many occasions. No members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended those meetings and minutes are not publically available. Does he agree that it is difficult for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise if they do not know what is being discussed and will he now ensure that minutes of previous meetings will be published as soon as possible and future minutes will be published?
4. Does he take responsibility for the failings identified in the department?

Response:

1. "This is a question the Councillor would have to ask Ofsted as I am not privy to their thoughts.
2. While the Councillor may wish to consider the if, buts, and maybes of hindsight about a line removed from a motion from months ago. I, and this Council, will concentrate on improving Children's services.
3. All aspects of reporting arrangements relating to the Ofsted inspection for Children's Services are being looked into to ensure our improvement journey is fully scrutinised and shared by all aspects of the council.
4. I take responsibility, as does the entire wider leadership of the Council and as should every member of Council, in ensuring that Children's services in our Borough make the improvements identified by Ofsted".

12. Question submitted by Councillor Lappin to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)

Subject: Adult Social Care Inspections

I believe that Adult Social Care is to be inspected within the next year. Can I ask the Cabinet Member if the Department prepared for such an inspection?

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Response:

"The service is currently preparing for the future assurance/inspection regime by attending regional and national events to support the creation of a comprehensive preparation plan.

This has included development of dedicated work programmes, implementation of a new quality assurance framework and accessing external advice from organisations such as the Local Government Association.

Learning from other regulatory activity such as Ofsted and Sector Led improvement programmes are also being utilised. In 2022/23 the DHSC will be collating data from all Local Authorities to inform their Assurance timetable and full implementation is expected during 2023/24".

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