



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

### REMOTE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor John Sayers (in the Chair)  
Councillor Blackburne (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Brough, Dowd, Halsall, Killen, Lewis,  
Myers, Robinson and Sathiy

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Atkinson, Fairclough, Hardy and Moncur

#### 24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

#### 25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

#### 26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 Novemembr 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 27. SEFTON VEHICLE CROSSINGS POLICY

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection that sought comments on the updated Vehicle Crossing Policy (the Policy) to align it with the latest Highways Infrastructure Code of Practice, the Transport and Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Policy and Strategy 2019/21 and the recently updated Developers Pack; and which indicated that the Policy would enable the Council to operate in a consistent and transparent manner and fully recover costs incurred in providing the service.

The report indicated that the Council, as the Highway Authority, had a statutory obligation to manage and maintain the public highway; that vehicle crossings were provided to assist vehicle access across footways into driveways at the request of householders, subject to payment of the costs of installation; that the construction of a vehicle crossing by the Highway Authority did not give the occupier of the premises any particular rights, except to drive across the footway to gain access to his/her property with a private light goods or similar vehicle and that the crossing itself formed part of the public highway; and that it had been identified in recent years that there had been a number of defects identified within the

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footpath areas of the highway that had not been included for reconstruction as part of the provision of vehicle crossings and these subsequent defects were the responsibility of the Council.

The report concluded by detailing the proposed changes to the Policy in respect of:

- (1) changes in minimum driveway dimensions;
- (2) changes in minimum distance from junctions;
- (3) clarity in defining reconstruction area;
- (4) changes in presentation of the criteria; and
- (5) changes in recovering staff costs.

A copy of the draft Sefton Council Vehicle Crossings Policy was attached as an appendix to the report.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Vehicle crossings that would cover the full length of the driveway and the potential increased costs for homeowners
- It was suggested that vehicles parked off the highway on driveways could contribute to highway safety
- The potential for homeowners to spread the cost of constructing driveways over a period of time
- In respect of the fee associated with staff costs to be split into two elements, the first being a non-refundable fee for the provision of a quote, information was sought on the take-up of the construction of driveways following the receipt of a quote such works

RESOLVED:

That the updates to the Sefton Council Vehicle Crossings Policy be approved.

### **28. EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY PROTOCOL**

Further to Minute No. 19 of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 and Minute No. 69 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 December 2020 the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer advising of the of Cabinet's decision to approve the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for use in Sefton.

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The Protocol, that was attached as an annex to the report, had been published on the Council's website and would be used as part of future Member Induction and Member Development Programmes.

RESOLVED:

That the decision of Cabinet in approving the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for use in Sefton be noted and welcomed.

### **29. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought a review of the Work Programme for 2020/21; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and updated on the progress of items that had previously been considered by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) it be noted that the Committee, at its meeting held on 15 September 2020, agreed that no new Working Groups be established until the completion of one of the current Working Groups;
- (3) the reports in relation to the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth be deferred to the meeting to be held on 9 March 2020;
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy be noted and the Executive Director be requested to submit an update to the next meeting of the Committee on the progression of the LCR Digital Infrastructure Programme and Sefton's Digital Strategy;
- (6) the update on the Liverpool City Region Town Centre Commission be noted and the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit an update to the Committee following publication of the LCR Town Centre Commission; and
- (7) the update on the procurement of 120 litre blue wheeled bins for glass recycling be noted.

### **30. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills.

A Member sought assurance that updates would continue to be provided to the Committee particularly in relation to major regeneration projects. Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills referred to updates contained in her report to Members on all major projects across the borough; and assured the Committee that updates would continue to be provided.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted; and
- (2) Councillors Atkinson, Fairclough, Hardy and Moncur be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.