



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY,  
COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES)**

**MEETING HELD AT THE BALLROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 15TH JUNE, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Bradshaw (in the Chair)  
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Grace, Howard, Killen, McKinley and  
Morris

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Lappin and Page

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett, Brennan (and his Substitute Member Councillor Myers) and Lewis.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Bradshaw welcomed Members to this first physical meeting of the Committee in the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Councillor Bradshaw welcomed specially Councillors Bennett, Brennan, Howard and Morris who were new members of the Committee; and offered her thanks to Councillors Brodie-Browne, Brough and Doyle and former Councillor McCann for their help and support on the Committee during 2020/21.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

**5. ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING GROUP FINAL  
REPORT – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

Further to Minute No. 16 of 20 October 2020 the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that updated on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group that was approved by Council in February 2020.

The report highlighted responses from the Head of Strategic Support in relation to recommendations concerning the adoption of revised

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statements of ethical procurement principles/policy; and the adoption and implementation of a Social Value Action Plan.

Members asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- The Government Commercial Function document “Guide to Using the Social Value Model”, published in December 2020, which indicated that following a review of its outsourcing processes in 2018 government committed to extend the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 in central government to ensure that all major procurements explicitly evaluate, where appropriate, rather than just consider it
- Social value within the National Planning Policy Framework and Spatial Development Strategies to recognise that the role of planning policy was to ensure development was engaging with, uniting and benefiting the local area
- Sefton’s Social Value from Development Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group be noted;
- (2) the Chief Planning Officer be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee updating on Sefton’s Social Value from Development Supplementary Planning Document; and
- (3) a further update report be submitted in six months.

**6. WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2021/22; 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; and providing an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- A Working Group could potentially be established to review the Council’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was anticipated that many other local authorities, together the Local Government Association, would be looking at this issue to find out how local Councils coped during the pandemic to help their local residents

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and businesses. Any work undertaken in Sefton could be fed into the national debate

- The community centred approach to local economic development, Community Wealth Building, was referred to and particularly the “Preston Model”; and it was suggested that it may be beneficial in the future for the Committee to receive a report on Sefton’s work towards Community Wealth Building

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

**7. WELFARE REFORM AND ANTI-POVERTY REFERENCE GROUP  
- UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 29 of its meeting held on 12 January 2021 the Committee considered a Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty update of the Head of Health and Wellbeing and Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

The update provided information on the latest meeting of the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty (WRAP) Cabinet Member Reference Group and in particular on activities associated with:

- A Motion approved by Council on 4 March 2021 regarding Poverty Emergency
- Childhood poverty
- Healthy Start vouchers
- Breathing Space
- Emergency Limited Assistance Scheme

Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services presented the update.

Members of the Committee commented on the following issues:

- The up to date position in respect of the call for action relating to childhood poverty
- Whether the Breathing Space initiative offered tenants protection from eviction from their homes. It was noted however that protection to social and private tenants by delaying when landlords could evict tenants was governed by Government legislation
- Concern was expressed at the proposed cessation, at the end of September, of the £20/week uplift received by universal credit claimants. It was anticipated that this would have a dramatic effect

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on claimants, coupled also with the ending of the furlough scheme, and would have an impact on the Emergency Limited Assistance Scheme

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update on the operation of the Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Lappin be thanked for her update.

**8. CABINET MEMBER REPORT - JUNE 2021**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services presented her report; and commended the Business Grants and ICT Teams for their dedicated work during the pandemic.

Members asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Council staff were praised for their swift responses to queries raised by staff working on behalf of Bill Esterson MP
- The debt recovery section of the report was referred to and the potential for the situation to worsen once the furlough scheme had ended
- Concern was expressed at the high level of referrals to the Occupational Health Unit that were stress and mental health related. It was noted that 50.3% of referrals were for this reason and that pandemic associated issues could test the service further

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Lappin be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.