

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday, 8th March 2022

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Ballroom, Town Hall, Bootle

## Member

Councillor  
Cllr. John Sayers LLB. Cert PA.  
(Chair)  
Cllr. Janis Blackburne (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Sinclair D'Albuquerque  
Cllr. Linda Cluskey  
Cllr. James Hansen  
Cllr. Christine Maher  
Cllr. Greg Myers  
Cllr. Catie Page  
Cllr. Dave Robinson  
Cllr. Yaso Sathiy

## Substitute

Councillor  
Cllr. Nina Killen  
  
Cllr. Christine Howard  
Cllr. Mike Morris  
Cllr. Brenda O'Brien  
Cllr. Janet Grace  
Cllr. Anne Thompson  
Cllr. Carla Thomas  
Cllr. Carran Waterfield  
Cllr. Yvonne Sayers  
Cllr. Simon Shaw

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
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**See overleaf for COVID Guidance and the requirements in relation to Public Attendance.**

**If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.**

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## **COVID GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**

In light of ongoing Covid-19 social distancing restrictions, there is limited capacity for members of the press and public to be present in the meeting room indicated on the front page of the agenda at any one time. We would ask parties remain in the meeting room solely for the duration of consideration of the Committee report(s) to which their interests relate.

We therefore request that if you wish to attend the Committee to please register in advance of the meeting via email to [paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk) by no later than **12:00 (noon) on the day of the meeting.**

Please include in your email –

- Your name;
- Your email address;
- Your Contact telephone number; and
- The details of the report in which you are interested.

In light of current social distancing requirements, access to the meeting room is limited.

**We have been advised by Public Health that Members, officers and the public should carry out a lateral flow test before attending the meeting, and only attend if that test is negative. Provided you are not classed as exempt, it is requested that you wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth.**

# AGENDA

## 1. Apologies for Absence

## 2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (Pages 5 - 28)

Minutes of the meetings held 9 November 2021 and 14 December 2021

Minutes of the remote informal meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2022

## 4. Knob Hall Lane, Southport (Pages 29 - 40)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

## 5. Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton – Review of Steps Taken by Council (Pages 41 - 50)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

## 6. Potential to Establish a Working Group to Review the Topic of Dog Fouling in Public Places and Methods to Combat it (Pages 51 - 56)

Report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection

## 7. Work Programme 2021/22, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan (Pages 57 - 80)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

**8. Cabinet Member Reports - December 2021/February 2022**

(Pages 81 -  
136)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

Overview  
& Scrutiny



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

**MEETING HELD AT THE BALLROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor John Sayers (in the Chair)  
Councillor Blackburne (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors D'Albuquerque, Cluskey, Hansen,  
Chris Maher, Myers, Page, Robinson and Shaw

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Atkinson, Ian Maher, Moncur and Morris

### 20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sathiy and Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services.

### 21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interest were made and the Member concerned remained in the room during the consideration of the item, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor D'Albuquerque	Minute No. 23 - Southport Walking and Cycling Consultation and Active Travel Tranche 2	Personal – had a previous interest in a business on Hoghton Street that may have been affected by the proposals contained in the report
Councillor D'Albuquerque	Minute No. 23 - Southport Walking and Cycling Consultation and Active Travel Tranche 2	Personal – has publicly stated his opposition to proposals contained in the report

### 22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 21 September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

## **23. SOUTHPORT WALKING AND CYCLING CONSULTATION AND ACTIVE TRAVEL TRANCHE 2**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection that provided the results of the consultation recently completed on the Southport Cycling and Walking proposals for which funding had been secured from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2.

The report indicated that the Council had received a formal funding offer from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) to deliver Tranche 2 of proposals within the Active Travel Fund; that these proposals showed an extension of the implemented Tranche 1 proposals to both the north and south of the existing proposals thus providing a north-south cycle route through the centre of Southport; that unlike Tranche 1 of the proposals, which were delivered without consultation to meet the funding deadlines, the Tranche 2 funding was dependent upon consultation having been completed; that this report provided the findings of the consultation completed to date; and the Committee was invited to provide comments for consideration by the Cabinet Member - Locality Services as part of the decision-making process.

Appendix A to the report set out the Sefton Communications Plan associated with the Southport Walking and Cycling Route – Summary of Engagement;

Appendix B to the report provided detailed responses to the Your Sefton Your Say (YSYS) survey; and Appendix C to the report highlighted a graph showing the age range of respondents to the YSYS proposals.

Peter Moore, Head of Highways and Public Protection presented the report and started by placing the consultation and proposals in context. Mr. Moore indicated that as set out in the Key Messages within the Communications Plan (Appendix A) increasing "active travel" through improved walking and cycling infrastructure contributed to:

- Improved Air Quality
- Sefton's Vision 2030
- LCR Travel Strategies
- Government Policy
- Climate Change Emergency - the Council's declaration on which recognised the need for "rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities"

Mr. Moore also referred to the Council's Core Purpose which included:

- Demonstrating Place Leadership
- Being Drivers of change and reform
- Creating a Cleaner and Greener borough

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

and that part of this included creating the infrastructure that enabled people to change to low-carbon, cleaner, greener, healthier transport

Mr. Moore then referred to previous surveys (referred to in the report) including:

- Extensive consultation on Sefton Vision 2030
- Bikelife Survey
- Highways Annual satisfaction Survey
- Southport Town Deal

and that the surveys highlighted that:

- people wanted to be able to walk and cycle more easily and more safely
- People thought that more cycling would make their area better
- Cyclists were currently dissatisfied with the number and safety of cycle routes in Sefton

Mr. Moore continued that the Government Funding through the Active Travel Fund, that would fund the proposals, was aimed at:

- Supporting Covid-19 recovery by helping people move around
- was focused on short journeys
- was allocated through LCRCA - consequently the routes put forward were those that fit with the LCR Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Mr. Moore concluded by indicating that implementation was subject to demonstrating broad support for the proposals; that the Consultation Plan was developed (Appendix A), published and implemented; that consultation was started and then extended to enable as many people as possible to comment; and that findings were attached for comment and that such comments would feed into the consultation process.

Councillor Ian Maher, Leader of the Council, indicated that he was in attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services; and that he would feed back to Councillor Fairclough the comments made by Members during the meeting.

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

- the introduction of temporary cycle lanes had in some instances made people have to travel further in their vehicles; and that the introduction of the proposed measures could lead to more traffic at a standstill with engines running. This could have the adverse impact of reducing air quality in the local areas
- the survey results provide a contradiction in that some respondents wanted a reduction in negative issues such as poor air quality and a

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noisy environment but were not in support of improving cycling measures that could help bring this about

- reference was made to an alternative north/south proposal that had been put forward. It was suggested that this would need to be consulted upon and may therefore exceed the funding timescales for implementation of the proposal
- the potential of funding reductions to local authorities for not participating in active travel schemes
- “Gear Change”, the Department for Transport’s vision for cycling and walking, and “Gear Change” One Year On.
- in-principle favour was expressed for cycle schemes but detailed consultation needed to be undertaken with ward councillors; and that the consultation needed to take place as early as possible to allow elected Members’ local knowledge to spot potential difficulties, for example with parking issues
- where proposals aimed to prevent through traffic more consideration should be given to the introduction of hammerhead turning in affected roads
- schemes should “go back to the drawing board” to allow detailed consultations with ward councillors
- had consideration been given to the introduction of two-way cycle lanes (similar to the proposal at Hesketh Park) in other areas rather than introducing single lane cycle paths on both sides of the carriageway
- how emergency services were consulted on the Preston New Road proposals
- concern expressed that the scheme proposed for Preston New Road could not be implemented due to the carriageway width

Councillor Maher on behalf of Councillor Fairclough, offered for Councillor Fairclough to meet with ward councillors affected by the issue before making his final decision.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the findings of the consultation on Southport Cycling and Walking consultation exercises be noted; and
- (2) the Cabinet Member – Locality Services be requested to:
  - (a) take into account the comments raised by Members above as part of his decision-making process; and
  - (b) have continuous dialogue with appropriate ward councillors on the progression of any approved schemes.



## **24. CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION RESULTS - CROSBY COASTAL PARK PROPOSED CYCLEWAY AND FOOTWAY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection that detailed the results of the recent consultation regarding the proposed cycleway and footway through Crosby Coastal Park prior to the scheme being reviewed and modified ahead of the submission of a planning application.

The report indicated that the main purpose of the proposed new cycleway and footway was to provide improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists in the Coastal Park, that were suitable for use at all times throughout the year and made it easier for people of all abilities to enjoy the Park; and that the introduction of the scheme would support the Council's stated 2030 Vision for the Borough, would support the Council's climate emergency commitments and ensure that infrastructure was fully accessible for all and therefore the Council would comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty.

The report also indicated that the scheme was being funded through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority using grant funding from the European Union Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) (Low Carbon and Environment and Resource Efficiency) Fund.

Appendix A attached to the report provided information from smart distribution solutions with details of the GPS tracking of all the deliveries; and Appendix B set out the overview of findings from the Crosby Coastal Path – new cycleway and footway consultation.

Peter Moore, Head of Highways and Public Protection presented the report and started by placing the consultation and proposals in context. Mr. Moore indicated that increasing "active travel" through improved walking and cycling infrastructure contributed to:

- Improved Air Quality
- Sefton's Vision 2030
- LCR Travel Strategies
- Government Policy
- Climate Change Emergency - the Council's declaration on which recognised the need for "rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities"

Mr. Moore also referred to the Council's Core Purpose which included:

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- Creating a Cleaner and Greener borough

and that part of this included creating the infrastructure that enabled people to change to low-carbon, cleaner, greener, healthier transport.

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Mr. Moore continued by detailing the background to the proposed route as referred to in paragraph 1.7 of the report; and that the desire for an additional route through Crosby Coastal Park was previously agreed as a transport priority by Members in 2016 and confirmed in 2018; that the funding for this scheme was from LCRCA and utilised European Union Sustainable Urban Development funding; that a consultation Plan was developed and implemented; and that findings were attached for comment and that any comments would be submitted to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

Councillor Ian Maher, Leader of the Council, indicated that he was in attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services; and that he would feed back to Councillor Fairclough the comments made by Members during the meeting.

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

- The build-up of wind-blown sand on the Promenade
- A document (submitted by a local residents' action group) was referred to in which a suggestion was made of an offer by the private sector to clear the sand from the revetment free of charge or at low cost, provided they could retain the sand for recycling. It was noted that a Mineral Extraction Notice would be required for such an activity and that if this scheme was to be pursued, then the Council would have to follow its own procurement and tendering procedures. A Member commented that this operation would in effect introduce a sand winning operation with the resultant need for heavy plant and machinery being used in public areas; and that a public area would be turned into a private sector business area. This would have the potential to seriously damage Crosby Coastal Park.
- modifications being incorporated into the design plans were referred to and it was noted that comments had been invited on such modifications and that they would be referred to the Cabinet Member - Locality Services
- a comment was made that the three Blundellsands ward councillors were unhappy with proposals and whether the Cabinet Member – Locality Services would be prepared to consult further with them

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the findings of the consultation on the proposed cycleway and footway through Crosby Coastal Park be noted; and
- (2) the Cabinet Member – Locality Services be requested to:
  - (a) take into account the comments raised by Members above as part of his decision-making process; and

- (b) have continuous dialogue with appropriate ward councillors on the progression of any approved schemes.”

## 25. SEFTON ECONOMIC STRATEGY UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that updated on the ongoing work and progress of the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan (Dec 2019), the associated Covid-19 Recovery plan and plans to refresh and update the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan to take effect from April 2022.

The report provided information on the work underway to update and refresh the SES Action Plan which included:

- Reviewing its 7 Priority Actions Areas (PAAs), and consideration as to whether they were still fit for purpose and met the Council's overall vision and strategic objectives
- Merging PAAs where there was crossover and alignment of activities
- Introducing a New PAA - Health & Wellbeing
- Taking stock of new LCR Combined Authority economic data sets including job furlough, GVA, Productivity and business openings/closure information for Sefton. Reviewing emerging LCR Prosperity Plan.
- Reviewing economic data gaps for Sefton e.g. granular data for town centres to inform recovery actions; sector data; commercial market demand data etc
- Sefton Import & Export performance (link to emerging Freeport opportunity)
- Covid dashboard monitoring
- Alignment with Sefton Economic Tracker and labour market data
- Agreeing evidence required to provide robust evaluation of SES Action Plan
- Future reporting; format and frequency
- Embracing Climate Change and net zero action plan ambitions.
- Further alignment with Sefton's Digital Strategy;

the work undertaken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic which included a series of emergency measures to help support Sefton's residents, communities and businesses throughout various lockdowns and associated Government tiers of control and the establishment of an Economy Cell led by the Head of Economic Growth and Housing; and the Strategic Recovery Plan, the main purpose of which was to provide leadership and highlight opportunity and corral our many stakeholders into collective and collaborative action at a borough level.

The following appendices were attached to the report – the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan (December 2019); the Sefton Economic Recovery Plan; and the Sefton Economic Recovery Plan (Appendices).

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

- staff were thanked for their work during lockdown by delivering and administering grants and business rates support to help the local economy
- the fantastic offer provided to residents and visitors by the redevelopment of Southport Market

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress of the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan approved by Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing in December 2019 and the associated Covid-19 Recovery Plan be noted; and
- (2) work underway to refresh and update the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan to take effect from April 2022 be noted.

### **26. FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Operational In-House Services advising that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 previously required that arrangements be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions; that following the cessation of this requirement, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had requested that an annual Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management review be submitted to it; and that included with the review this year was the draft Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2022-2030) and Business Plan which was currently out for public consultation.

The report indicated that the Council's delivery of duties under the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 related to:

- Duty to have an up-to-date Local Flood Risk Strategy
- Duty to co-operate with other Risk Management Authorities
- Undertake duties as a Riparian owner
- Maintain a register of assets – features that have a significant effect on flooding in the area
- Undertake statutory consultee role - Respond to major planning applications checking the SUDS design
- Duty to investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results

The report also provided information on flood and coastal erosion events; progress made in relation to:

- Resilient Communities

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- Asset inspections
- Capital schemes
- Annual Grant in Aid refresh submissions
- Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
- Antony Gormley's Another Place
- National Flood Risk Management Plans
- Sefton Strategic Flood Resilience Working Group
- Maghull Flood Planning Officer's group
- Use of Digital Technology
- Climate Emergency;

and the priorities for the next year relating to delivery of actions set out in the draft FCERM strategy; better use of digital technology to automate processes and improve recording and reporting; support of the review and development of an operational flood response plan; Sefton Council's Climate Emergency Declaration

The report concluded by seeking the Committee's comments for submission to the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing relating to the new draft strategy and business plan.

The New Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategy and the New Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management business plan were attached as appendices to the report.

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

- The priorities for dealing with, and alleviating flooding to, internally within properties, Council owned assets, key highway networks, greenspaces and undeveloped sites
- The removal of the Essex Road Birkdale Flood Alleviation Scheme from the Annual Grant in Aid refresh submissions
- The impact of water drainage from two golf courses in the Birkdale and Hillside areas into the local watercourses and drains which may cause flooding issues for local residents; and the liabilities of the Golf Clubs to introduce measures to alleviate such problems, for example by the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and swales (a shallow drainage channel with gentle side slopes in the ground where water running off a site can collect and soak away)
- The significant rainfall associated with Storm Christoph in January 2021 was referred to which caused severe flood warnings to be issued to 433 properties because modelling suggested that river levels on Dover's Brook would exceed the flood warning threshold by more than a metre. The fantastic team effort of the work undertaken by Sefton Council staff and elected Members, Maghull Town Council staff and Town Councillors, Environment Agency and United Utilities who worked with emergency responders to help local residents was praised
- The Environment Agency's responsibility for managing the River Alt

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

- Funding bids submitted to resolve flooding issues in the Molyneux, Park and Sudell wards

### RESOLVED:

That the report on the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the annual Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management review be noted.

### **27. GREEN SEFTON ANNUAL REVIEW 2021**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Operational In-House Services that provided an update on the progress of Green Sefton's establishment and development, its current operational delivery over the last year, and setting out the strategic work programme, in line with the Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan for the next year.

The full Annual Review was attached as appendix 1 and included other background information including the current Service Plan updates for the three service areas, and examples of the Green Sefton communications, newsletters etc were also embedded.

Tables within the report provided a summary of progress against the Service Plan actions, and the headlines actions/ priorities as agreed in 2020 with a summary of progress in 2021 and outlined actions planned for 2022. The headlines detailed in the tables had been populated in an 'importance/ urgency' matrix in order to inform the work programme of officers in the coming year.

The report concluded by seeking comments for submission to the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing and Locality Services.

The Committee watched a short video that provided a review of the Green Sefton highlights during 2020/21; and also received a presentation from Mark Shaw, Service Manager, Green Sefton. Mr Shaw highlighted aspects of the work undertaken by the Green Sefton service relating to the following categories:

- Community working partnerships
- Delivery of the Bootle golf driving range
- Land Management team operations
- Visitor action plan
- Response to storm events
- Publication of Coast Plan Position Statement and mapping sessions for the coast gateways
- Development of income through innovation and business case approaches
- Performance tracking and the service plan
- Contributions made to the Climate Change Working Group

In respect of the year ahead Mr. Shaw commented on:

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- Development of communications plan and customer satisfaction surveys
- Increase staff capacity via apprenticeships and training
- Adoption of the Tree, Allotment, FCERM, Playing Pitch/Football Development and Nature Conservation Strategies
- Setting of standards of what can be achieved within resources available
- Development of the Coastal Gateways and normalisation of the Visitor Action Plan
- Development of a vision and investment at Southport Golf Course
- Planning for replacement of the vehicle fleet
- Promoting changes to overall Landscape Management
- Addressing resourcing and capacity issues, and continue to Innovate: Business case approach

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

- The prompt resolution of problems associated with overhanging trees on the highway and the emptying of refuse bins in coastal locations was praised
- The unacceptable abuse of Green Sefton staff, especially on the evening shifts on the coast, was condemned
- Green Sefton's work at Botanic Gardens was praised and particularly the Natural Alternatives, Green Sefton's own long-running inclusion programme for adults and young people with additional needs

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on the progress of Green Sefton's establishment and development be noted; and
- (2) Mr. Shaw be thanked for his informative presentation.

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

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer 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 from the Key Decision Forward Plan; that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and updated Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee.

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

A Member of the Committee suggested that the topic of investigating ways to reduce the problem of dog fouling could form the subject of a Working Group review.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to contact appropriate Heads of Service whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee seeking their ideas on the selection of a topic for a Working Group review;
- (3) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (4) the update on the unadopted highways in the borough be noted.

### **29. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021**

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.

Councillor Moncur, Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing presented his report and thanked members of the Committee for their positive feedback upon consideration of the Green Sefton Annual Report earlier in the meeting. Councillor Moncur also referred to the operational challenges faced by the Green Sefton service during the last year whilst performing their day to day duties during the pandemic as many staff members were off ill with Covid-19 or had to self-isolate. Furthermore, front-line Green Sefton service staff were also called off their duties to help out with other priority services across the Council. Both these issues had an impact on the Green Sefton service delivery.

Councillor Moncur also detailed the work of the Green Sefton service staff in relation to:

- Flooding incidents
- The huge increase in visitor numbers to the Sefton coast
- Developments to enhance service provision such as the Bootle Golf Course driving range and the food offer at locations along the coast

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills presented her report and expressed her strong disappointment that both the Bootle and Crosby Levelling Up bids were unsuccessful, particularly bearing in mind all the hard work that had gone into the preparation of the bids. Councillor Atkinson also referred to the following:



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- Thanked staff in her portfolio for their great work during lockdown by continually delivering essential services and administering grants and business rates support to help the local economy
- Positive feedback received in relation to Southport Market
- Developments associated with the Bootle Canalside event and activity space

### 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 and Moncur be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

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THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

Overview  
& Scrutiny



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE BALLROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Blackburne (in the Chair)  
Councillors D'Albuquerque, Grace, Killen,  
Chris Maher, O'Brien, Page and Sathiy

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors McKinley, John Sayers Veidman

### 30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor John Sayers (who attended the meeting in the capacity of being the lead call-in member); Councillors Cluskey, Hansen, Myers (and his Substitute Member Councillor Thomas) and Robinson and from Councillors Burns and Yvonne Sayers, call-in Members.

### 31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 32. ITEM CALLED IN - REVISED RECREATION PRESSURE INFORMATION NOTE - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PURPOSES

The Committee considered (a) the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, which set out the decision of the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to the Revised Recreation Pressure Information Note – Draft for Consultation and Development Management Purposes and the reasons why the decision had been called-in; and (b) the report of the Chief Planning Officer which was considered by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to this matter.

The decision taken by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control on 3 November 2021 in relation to this matter was as follows:

#### Decision Made:

That the Draft Information Note 'Managing and mitigating the impact of recreation pressure on the Sefton Coast - Sefton's Interim Approach':

- (a) for public consultation; and
- (b) for development management purposes (and so that this draft Information Note supersedes the 2018 Information Note for development management purposes)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2021

be approved.

## **Reason for Decision:**

- (a) To carry out public consultation on the Draft Information Note; and
- (b) to enable the draft Information Note to be taken into account as a 'material consideration' in the assessment of planning applications, superseding the current 2018 Information Note which no longer has the support of Natural England.

## **Alternative Options Considered:**

Not to update the note. Natural England no longer support the current 2018 Information Note, and hence there is a risk of challenge to decisions which rely on it. The Information Note relates to legal requirements to protect internationally important nature sites on the Sefton Coast, and so a replacement Information Note is needed as soon as possible. Without an Information Note, the merits of each application would need to be assessed at length in relation to the Habitats Regulations. This would lead to increased workload for planning and other officers and to delays in the assessment of planning applications. This could lead to delays for developers and poor performance against Council and national targets for dealing with planning applications.

The decision was subsequently called-in by Councillors John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Wilson, Burns and McKinley.

Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer reported on the validity of the call-in and highlighted that the call-in requisition:

- had been received within the specified call-in period;
- had been signed by five Members of the Council who were not Members of the Cabinet, in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 6, Paragraph 38(a) of the Council's Constitution; and
- referred to a specific decision made by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control and provided reasons for call in, in accordance with Chapter 6, paragraph 40 of the Constitution.

Councillor John Sayers, on behalf of Councillors Yvonne Sayers, Wilson, Burns and McKinley, addressed the Committee and outlined and amplified the reasons for the call-in as follows:

We seek to gain more understanding of the decision and its implications, for example, Park and Sudell wards will see a top slice of section 106 monies of approximately £132,000 leave the wards and fund Green Sefton's attempts to divert our residents from the Coast, however Green Sefton has no land or offer within our wards.

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2021

We question the decisions soundness as we feel these facts have not been taken into account, we wish to alert the Cabinet Member and Officers of these anomalies which we believe have been overlooked.

In its current format we believe this decision will go against Council policies and wish to avail ourselves of the opportunity to alert the Cabinet Member that we feel this decision is not sound and we wish to make further recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control explained the decision and the reasons why it was taken by him.

Derek McKenzie, Chief Planning Officer reported on the issues and the reasons for his recommendation and advice to the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control.

Councillor John Sayers, lead call-in Member, Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control and Derek McKenzie, Chief Planning Officer responded to questions/comments posed by Members of the Committee in relation to the call-in concerning:

- a comment made that residents in Park and Sudell wards received little service from Green Sefton as it had no land within such wards; the responsibility for parks resting with Maghull Town Council and Lydiate Parish Council
- A suggestion that the adoption of the new Information Note would be inherently unfair to the residents in the yellow, outer zone identified on the plan attached to the Information Note
- funding being generated in the Park and Sudell wards being allocated to mitigate pressures on the Sefton coast
- the differences between the proposed Revised Recreation Pressure Information Note and the 2018 Information Note
- the differences in the allocation of s106 contributions and funding associated with the Habitats Regulations and the clarification that S106 contributions as a result of Habitats Regulations Assessments was not a top slice of S106 funding but a separate resource
- information being sought on the submission of bids for funding from both Maghull Town Council and Lydiate Parish Council and from other stakeholders across the borough
- aspirations contained in the Maghull Neighbourhood Plan but that Maghull Town Council had not been successful with any bids for funding
- The overall responsibility for the direction, spending and monitoring of 'recreation pressure commuted sums' with the Local Planning Authority
- The allocation of nearly £250k funding to the Canal and River Trust which Maghull Town Council are unaware of how this will be spent in Maghull

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2021

- due to legal requirements under the Habitats Regulations, commuted sums not being able to be reduced due to viability considerations

Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control then summed up his position.

Councillor John Sayers, on behalf of Councillors Yvonne Sayers, Wilson, Burns and McKinley summed up the position of the call-in Members.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Killen and seconded by Councillor Page that the Committee is not concerned about the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control.

The Democratic Services Officer officiated the vote and the Chair declared that the Motion was carried by 6 votes to 2 and it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the validity of the call-in be accepted; and
- (2) the Committee is not concerned and accepts the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to the Revised Recreation Pressure Information Note – Draft for Consultation and Development Management Purposes.



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

### INFORMAL REMOTE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Blackburne (Vice-Chair in the Chair)  
Councillors D'Albuquerque, Cluskey, Hansen, Killen,  
Chris Maher, Myers, Page, Robinson, Sathiy and  
John Sayers

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Atkinson

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from the Chair, Councillor John Sayers, who was unable to attend at the commencement of the meeting.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 November and 14 December 2021 would be submitted for approval to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 8 March 2022.

#### 4. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

Further to Minute No. 34 of 9 March 2021 the informal meeting of the Committee received a presentation from Andrea Watts, Executive Director (People) updating on progress of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy (the Strategy).

Ms. Watts highlighted:

- How does LCR compared with the north west and the UK in relation to internet usage within the last 3 months
- The progress to date on the CA strategy and that digital inclusion was now a priority set out in the CA's Corporate Plan; that Digital Inclusion working group had been re-established to identify areas of digital inclusion activity for the CA priorities; and that the CA's Digital Infrastructure project includes a substantial social value element that had significant ambitions towards supporting digital access and inclusion, as well as jobs and apprenticeships

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INFORMAL REMOTE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2022

- The elements of digital inclusion in respect of connectivity, equipment and skills
- The next steps and aspects relating to LCRCA Digital Inclusion Group being re-established to drive the approach; that Sefton had its own emerging Digital Inclusion Strategy (as a borough rather than a Council); the links to all elements of Sefton's Digital Strategy ; and efforts to maximise opportunities to link all aspects together
- A reminder of Sefton's Digital Strategy 2021 – 23 under the headings connected Council; empowered residents; and business growth

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

- The extent of the Department for Education provision of laptops and tablets and mobile data
- Difficulties experienced by residents, particularly older persons, using ICT to access services and the concern that such people could be digitally excluded.

RESOLVED:

That Andrea Watts be thanked for her informative presentation.

## **5. MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING AND WASTE AUTHORITY - SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2020/21**

The Informal Meeting of the Committee received a presentation from Carl Beer, Chief Executive, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MWRA) on his Authority's Service Delivery Plan 2020/21.

Mr. Beer highlighted the following:

- MRWA Service Infrastructure which covered 1.5 Million people, 660,000 households and dealt with 650,000 tonnes of refuse/waste per year
- The operation of the material recovery facilities at Bidston and Gillmoss
- Operations associated with the 15 household waste recycling centres which received 162.380 tonnes of waste each year
- Kirkby rail loading and transfer station
- Wilton energy from waste combined heat and power facility
- The circular economy associated with MWRA operations
- Upcycling initiatives
- The MWRA community fund
- The Love Food Hate Waste campaign that aimed to reduce food waste by 20% per household in the UK by 2025
- Education and awareness campaigns including the waste prevention programme at Southport Eco Centre



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## INFORMAL REMOTE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2022

- Recycling performance by district from 2017/18 to 2020/21
- LCR kerbside residual waste results - 2015/16 and that food at 39% (148,000 tonnes), still remained the biggest waste management issue across the region
- The “waste hierarchy” of prevent, reduce, re-use, recycle, energy recovery, landfill
- Social value associated with re-use and third sector involvement
- Strategic outcomes associated with carbon reduction, climate action, cost efficiency and social value
- Green jobs
- National Direction of Travel and the new targets for re-use and recycling - 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 65% by 2035
- Zero waste targets associated with new ideas, new technologies and new challenges
- MWRA 5-year plan and new opportunities for green jobs, costs and climate

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

- The responsibility for removing fly-tipped tyres, how they were disposed of and recycling initiatives to ensure they did not end up in landfill sites
- The potential to offer recycled materials, such as woodchips, for use by charitable organisations
- A strategic approach to engage with producers of commodities that require packaging for their goods with the aim of eliminating or reducing the amount of packaging used
- The reason why various supermarkets could collect plastic bags and soft plastic packaging for recycling but Sefton could not in its co-mingled recycling collection service; the economic viability of introducing such a service; and how new Government regulations may direct local authorities to introduce such a service

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Beer be thanked for his informative presentation.

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

The informal meeting of the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer 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 from the Key Decision Forward Plan; that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and updated Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee.

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INFORMAL REMOTE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2022

In respect of Working Group topics the report indicated that that the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer had contacted appropriate Heads of Service whose roles fell under the remit of the Committee seeking their ideas on the selection of a topic for a Working Group review; but that no topics had been suggested

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) It be noted that the Head of Highways and Public Protection would be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee on the potential to establish a Working Group to review the topic of dog fouling in public places and methods to combat such an anti-social practice;
- (3) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (4) it be noted that the Head of Operational In-House Services will submit a report to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services seeking re-consideration of the project regarding single stream glass collection and accordingly, this matter be removed from the Committee’s Work Programme.

## 7. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The informal meeting of 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.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills advised Members that figures published for the period ending October 2021 showed that Sefton was the local authority (out of 144) with the third lowest number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET); and indicated that the Council should be proud of this achievement.

Members of the Committee commended the work undertaken in Councillor Atkinson’s portfolio and wished to thank staff for their continued work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing; Locality Services; Planning

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INFORMAL REMOTE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
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and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted; and

(2) Councillor Atkinson be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Item Called In - Knob Hall Lane, Southport		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Cambridge
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Locality Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

- (1) To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the relevant aspects of the Constitution and the reasons for the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet Member Locality Services regarding the above item, as set out in paragraph 2.3 to this report.
- (2) To seek the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) In the event of the Committee being concerned about the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must decide which of the following courses of action is to be taken in relation to this matter:-
  - a) referral of the matter to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services for re-consideration, setting out the nature of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s concerns; or
  - b) referral of the matter to Council for the Council to decide whether it wishes to object to the decision (subject to the guidance set out in paragraph 2.5).
- (4) In the event of the Committee being satisfied with the decision, the decision can proceed for implementation immediately following the meeting.

## Recommendation(s):

- (1) That the Committee considers the reasons set out in the extract of the Constitution (see paragraph 2.3) and the requisition for call-in (see paragraph 2.2) and determines its jurisdiction accordingly;
- (2) That the Committee determines whether it is concerned about the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services; and
- (3) If the Committee is concerned about the decision, that the Committee indicates which of the two options set out in paragraph (3) of the summary set out above, it

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wishes to pursue.

## Reasons for the Recommendations:

The decision of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services has been called in. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to consider the concerns raised by Councillors.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable. The Council’s Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider called in items.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue costs associated with this report detailing the call-in of the item. The original report to Cabinet Member – Locality Services indicated that:

“There are no further revenue costs associated with this report”.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with this report detailing the call-in of the item. The original report to Cabinet Member – Locality Services indicated that:

“There are no further revenue costs associated with this report”.

## Implications of the Proposals:

The Implications of the Proposals are set out within the attached Cabinet Member report, as follows:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no resource implications associated with this report.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b> The recommendations within this report will:	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The original report to the Cabinet Member indicated that “The recommended position	

will result in no changes to the level of Council activity and have no impact on the Council's Carbon Footprint".

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

The original report to Cabinet Member indicated the following contributions to the Council's core purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: As the local Highways Authority, maintenance of highways falling within the authority's responsibility is a core function of the Council. It is therefore important to have a clear understanding of the extent of the authority's responsibilities.
Place – leadership and influencer: leadership and influencer: As the local Highways Authority, it important that the Council maintains the highways it is responsible for in line with legal requirements and to the best of its abilities within the resources available to it.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Effective maintenance of the adopted highway network is an important function for facilitating economic prosperity.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report. (FD6698/22)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer is the author of this report. (LD4898/22)

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

To be determined by the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	Tel: 0151 934 2068
<b>Email Address:</b>	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

## Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to this report:-

- Report to Cabinet Member – Locality Services dated 1 December 2021 Appendix 1
- Call-in procedure to be adopted at the meeting – Appendix 2

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## **Background Papers:**

All relevant papers in relation to the Cabinet decision are attached to the report.

### **1. Introduction/Background**

#### **1.1 Cabinet Decision**

1.2 The report attached as **Appendix 1** to this report was considered by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services on 1 December 2021.

1.3 The decision of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services is set out below:

#### **Decision Made: That**

- (1) the position as set out in paragraph 7 of the report be approved; and
- (2) the Head of Highways and Public Protection be requested to write to Cambridge Ward Councillors and residents, affirming the Council's position on this matter.

#### **Reason for Decision:**

The issue of maintenance responsibility for Knob Hall Lane has been the source of dispute for many years. In November 2019, Cambridge Ward Councillors, on behalf of the residents of Knob Hall Lane, collectively raised the issue with the Head of Highways and Public Protection. Investigations were therefore commenced which involved a thorough search of the Council's documentary records, and legal advice was sought. Endorsement of the suggested position will enable officers to communicate that position to interested parties.

#### **Alternative Options Considered:**

The Council could adopt a different position to that set out. This option has been rejected, as the position suggested is considered correct on the basis of analysis of the circumstances, legislation, case law, and historic documentary evidence.

### **2. Details of the Call-In of the Cabinet Member Decision**

2.1 The following Members of the Council (who are not Members of the Cabinet) signed the requisition for the call-in, in relation to Knob Hall Lane, Southport, in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules in Chapter 6 of the Council's Constitution:

- Councillor Evans
- Councillor Dodd
- Councillor Pugh

2.2 In the requisition for the call-in, the following reasons were given by all the above Members:



“(1) to seek more understanding of the decision and its implications - as whilst legal advice has been given, it is believed there are other solutions which would be fairer to the residents, such as:

- Continuing to maintain the previous policy to maintain Knob Hall Lane to a 'keep safe' standard in recognition of its unique position and the role it plays in accessing three adopted cul-de-sacs.
- Considered any alternative route to adoption, including assisting funding, reconvening contact with the Hesketh estate or any alternative options.

(2) to question the soundness of the decision based on facts taken or not taken into account - to seek alternative solutions which the council has not examined. Effectively, it is believed that the council have sought legal advice and not sufficiently considered that there is an alternative to that legal advice. The call-in Members and many residents believe that the council have a moral obligation to the residents of Knob Hall Lane that is not being served by this new policy which will see the lane deteriorate even more than it already has and see hundreds of residents, including those living on adopted roads, forced to travel on unsafe and unmaintained roads to access their properties”

2.3 The Constitution sets out the following requirements with respect to call-in:

“All requisitions for call-in shall refer to a specific decision and provide a reason. A decision may only be the subject of one call-in. A decision may only be called-in for the following purposes:

- a) to seek more understanding of the decision and its implications;
- b) to question the soundness of the decision based on facts taken or not taken into account;
- c) to identify the need for Council policies to guide decisions;
- d) to make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or Council;
- e) to question whether the decision conforms with agreed policies.”

2.4 Members are asked to consider the requisition cited above (in paragraph 2.2) and determine which ground or grounds apply to the requisitions, if any. If the Committee determines that the requisitions fall within one of the grounds, then it can proceed to consider whether it is concerned with the decision.

2.5 The Secretary of State in his guidance recommends that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should only use the power to refer matters to the full Council if they consider that the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

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<b>Report to Cabinet Member for:</b>	<b>Locality Services</b>	<b>Date of Issue:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
		<b>Date of Decision:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Knob Hall Lane		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Highways and Public Protection</b>	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Cambridge
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary

To seek Cabinet Member endorsement of the suggested position regarding maintenance responsibility for Knob Hall Lane, Southport

## Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member:

- (1) Considers the content of this report;
- (2) Endorses the position set out in paragraph 7 of the report; and
- (3) Requests the Head of Highways & Public Protection to write to Cambridge Ward Councillors and residents, affirming the Council's position on this matter.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The issue of maintenance responsibility for Knob Hall Lane has been the source of dispute for many years. In November 2019, Cambridge Ward Councillors, on behalf of the residents of Knob Hall Lane, collectively raised the issue with the Head of Highways and Public Protection. Investigations were therefore commenced which involved a thorough search of the Council's documentary records, and legal advice was sought. Endorsement of the suggested position will enable officers to communicate that position to interested parties.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

The Council could adopt a different position to that set out. This option has been rejected, as the position suggested is considered correct on the basis of analysis of the circumstances, legislation, case law, and historic documentary evidence.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no further revenue costs associated with this report.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no Capital costs associated with this report.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no resource implications associated with this report.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
<b>The recommendations within this report will</b>	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The recommended position will result in no changes to the level of Council activity and have no impact on the Council's Carbon Footprint.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: As the local Highways Authority, maintenance of highways falling within the authority's responsibility is a core function of the Council. It is therefore important to have a clear understanding of the extent of the authority's responsibilities.
Place – leadership and influencer: As the local Highways Authority, it important that the Council maintains the highways it is responsible for in line with legal requirements and to the best of its abilities within the resources available to it.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

Effective maintenance of the adopted highway network is an important function for facilitating economic prosperity.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6589/21) and The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4790/21) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Cabinet Member decision.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Peter Moore – Head of Highways & Public Protection
Telephone Number:	0151 934 3730
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:peter.moore@sefton.gov.uk">peter.moore@sefton.gov.uk</a>

### Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers to this report

### Background

1. Knob Hall Lane is a road, approximately 450 metres (0.27 miles) in length, that runs between Radnor Drive and Marshside Road in Southport. There are three cul-de-sacs accessed from Knob Hall Lane (Granby Close, Knob Hall Gardens, and Croston Brow) and a short access road to a small number of properties (Cotty's Brow). Granby Close, Knob Hall Gardens and Croston Brow are all adopted highways but Knob Hall Lane itself has never been adopted. The Council does maintain some streetlights on part of Knob Hall Lane, but they are not installed along the full length.
2. The status of Knob Hall Lane has been disputed by land owners, residents and the Council (including its predecessor bodies) since the 1800s and whilst over the years the Council and its predecessor bodies have undertaken some maintenance to the

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road, this maintenance work has only ever been to a "keep safe" standard and the road has never been brought up to or maintained to a full adopted highway standard.

3. Several attempts have been made by the Council to secure the agreement of property owners with frontages onto the road, for it to be brought up to an adoptable standard, including the necessary agreement to contribute to the cost of these works, after which the Council would have become responsible for its maintenance, but this has been unsuccessful on each occasion.
4. Periodically, residents and Councillors have raised concerns and questions about the condition of the road and where responsibility for maintaining it sits. Whilst the Council (and its predecessor bodies) position appears to have changed over time, in recent years, its position has been that, as the road is unadopted, it is the collective responsibility of the property owners with frontages onto Knob Hall Lane to maintain the road.
5. In November 2019, Cambridge Ward Councillors, on behalf of the residents of Knob Hall Lane, collectively raised the issue with the Head of Highways and Public Protection. Investigations were therefore commenced which involved a thorough search of the Council's documentary records, and legal advice was sought.
6. In summary, the following aspects of this issue have all been thoroughly investigated:
  - (a) relevant highways Legislation and case law;
  - (b) the Agreement between Southport Corporation and the Hesketh Family, included as a Schedule in the Southport Improvement Act 1885;
  - (c) relevant historical Council and predecessor body documents; and
  - (d) their application to Knob Hall Lane.
7. Having investigated the issue, it is my view that:
  - (a) Knob Hall Lane has not been adopted in accordance with any relevant statutory provisions applicable since it was formed;
  - (b) the Agreement, included as the Third Schedule to the Southport Improvement Act 1885, was most likely an early example of the "making up of a private street" procedure introduced by the Public Health Act 1875;
  - (c) the Agreement does not apply to Knob Hall Lane, as:
    - a. there is considerable doubt that the Agreement as a whole is enforceable in contract and the obligations binding on successors of the Southport Corporation and the Hesketh family (if such even still exists as an entity); and
    - b. in relation to Knob Hall Lane, there were repudiatory breaches of terms of the agreement by the Hesketh family in the early 1930's in respect of properties on Knob Hall Lane, and thereafter the Agreement ceased to apply;
  - (d) Consequently, the Council is not responsible for the maintenance of Knob Hall Lane; and
  - (e) It remains the collective responsibility of the property owners with frontages onto Knob Hall Lane to maintain the road

## APPENDIX 2

### **CALL - IN PROCEDURE NOTE Cabinet Member – Locality Services Decision 9 December 2021 – Knob Hall Lane Southport**

The Chair to explain the call-in process as follows:

A – Is the call-in valid? – Democratic Services Officer to advise

B – To determine whether the Committee is concerned about the decision as follows:

1. 1 of the 3 Councillors that have called-in the decision to address the Committee explaining the reason for call-in. (No more than 5 minutes)
2. Leader of the Council and/or the Cabinet Member – Locality Services to explain the decision and the reasons why it was taken. (No more than 5 minutes)
3. Officer Representative(s) to report on the issues and the reasons for their recommendation and advice to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services. (No more than 5 minutes)
4. Committee Members to ask questions of:
  - (a) the lead call-in Member
  - (b) the Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member – Locality Services
  - (c) officer representative(s)
5. Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member – Locality Services to sum up (No more than 5 minutes)
6. Lead call-in Member to sum up (No more than 5 minutes)
7. Is the Committee concerned about the decision in the light of what it has heard?
  - (i) No the Committee is not concerned; or
  - (ii) The Committee is concerned and should proceed to option (a) or (b) below

The options are:

- (a) Referral of the matter back to Cabinet Member – Locality Services for consideration setting out the nature of the Committee's concerns; or
- (b) referral of the matter to Council to decide whether it wishes to object to the decision. (NB. The Secretary of State in his guidance recommends that Overview and Scrutiny Committees should only use the power to refer matters to the full Council if they consider that the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary or not wholly in accordance with the budget.)

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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton – Review of Steps Taken by Council		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To advise of a request, made in accordance with Rule 224 of Chapter 11 of the Council's Constitution, that the Committee reviews the steps that the Council has taken in response to the petition considered at the Council meeting held on 20 January 2022 in relation to "Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton".

## Recommendation:

That the Committee determine whether the Council, at its meeting held on 20 January 2022, took the appropriate steps in response to the petition with the terms "Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton".

## Reasons for the Recommendations:

To comply with a request of petitioners in accordance with Rule 224 of Chapter 11 of the Council's Constitution.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None. The Committee must consider the request in accordance with Rule 224 of Chapter 11 of the Council's Constitution.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue costs associated with this report.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with this report.

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## Implications of the Proposals:

The Implications of the Proposals are set out within the attached Cabinet Member report, as follows:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no resource implications associated with this report.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b> The recommendations within this report will:	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly associated with this report
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly associated with this report
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly associated with this report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly associated with this report
Drivers of change and reform: None directly associated with this report
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly associated with this report
Greater income for social investment: None directly associated with this report
Cleaner Greener: None directly associated with this report

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report. (FD6731/22)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer is the author of this report. (LD4731/22)

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

None

## **Background Papers:**

None

### **1. Introduction/Background**

#### **1.1 Petition – “Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton”**

1.2 The Council received a petition containing 752 signatures in relation to Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton.

The terms of the petition indicated:

**“We the undersigned petition the council to Protect people's health by halting the installation of 5G antennas throughout the borough of Sefton.**

In a press release on 9 September 2021, the government announced that £4 million of public funds will be used to help mobile phone companies work together with local councils to use “curbside infrastructure”, such as lampposts and bus shelters, for 5G network equipment.

If Sefton Council takes part in this project, there will soon be 5G wireless antennas on lampposts throughout Sefton, beaming unprecedented levels of hazardous electromagnetic radiation (EMR) into our homes, workplaces and schools.

Shockingly, the industry has not produced a single study to show that 5G technology is safe. No risk assessment has been carried out on its effects on humans, wildlife or the environment. On the other hand, evidence from thousands of peer-reviewed studies already points to possible harms from existing sources of radiation, such as WiFi, 3G and 4G. Experts warn that the addition of 5G to the mix could have very serious and damaging consequences for human health.

EMR was classified as a possible human carcinogen in 2011 by the World Health Organisation International Agency for Research on Cancer. Since then, evidence of increased cancer risks has been strengthened by further human and animal studies.

Cancer rates have skyrocketed in recent years. The vast majority of people in Sefton, and indeed across the UK, will have an affected family member or friend...or will be a cancer sufferer or survivor themselves. Who knows to what extent existing radiation is driving the increase? Who knows how many more

# Agenda Item 5

people could develop cancer as a result of 5G?

Other proven effects of EMR include damage to the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, and neurological disorders.

Children are at greater risk of harm from EMR, because their brain tissues are more absorbent, their skulls are thinner, and they are physically smaller. Why then are 5G masts being erected near schools across the UK, including Sefton?

The 5G rollout is being challenged on the grounds of safety by scientists and lawyers across the world, including a legal team headed by Michael Mansfield QC here in the UK. In August 2021 in the USA, Robert F. Kennedy Jnr's Children's Health Defense and the Environmental Health Trust successfully sued the Federal Communications Commission for failing to ensure that its guidelines adequately protect against harmful effects of exposure to EMR.

Is a faster internet connection worth the potential serious harm that 5G could cause to people's health? Have any of us ever been asked whether we think the risks are worth taking?

As residents of Sefton, we demand an immediate halt to the 5G rollout across Sefton, to allow for thorough and comprehensive health and safety investigations and risk assessments to be carried out.

References:

Government press release (09/09/2021): 'Street lamps and bus shelters to help boost 5G roll out in £4 million trial'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/street-lamps-and-bus-shelters-to-help-boost-5g-roll-out-in-4-million-trial>

World Health Organisation International Agency for Research on Cancer (2011): 'IARC classifies radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans', Press Release No 208

[https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf)

Lloyd Morgan, L et al (2014): 'Why children absorb more microwave radiation than adults: The consequences', Journal of Microscopy and Ultrastructure

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213879X14000583>

Legal case challenging the UK Government over its failure to take notice of the health risks and public concerns relating to 5G.

<https://actionagainst5g.org/>

Legal case against 5G in USA: Environmental Health Trust, et al, Petitioners, v Federal Communications Commission and United States of America, Respondents

[https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/FB976465BF00F8BD85258730004EFDF7/\\$file/20-1025-1910111.pdf](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/FB976465BF00F8BD85258730004EFDF7/$file/20-1025-1910111.pdf)."

- 1.3 In accordance with Rule 220 of Chapter 11 of the Council's Constitution the number of signatures contained in the petition triggered a debate by full Council. The petition was considered at the next available Council meeting held on 20 January 2022.

## 2. Council Meeting – 20 January 2022

- 2.1 Rule 220 states that “The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes”
- 2.2 In accordance with Rule 220 the lead petitioner addressed the Council for 5 minutes.
- 2.3 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control, Councillor Veidman, responded to the petition and made the following points:

“Planning Services took the lead on telecoms proposals in terms of regulation, which was essentially making decisions on the acceptability of proposed schemes that required formal planning approval. However, most telecoms proposals either fell within the remit of “permitted development” and did not require planning approval, or presented very limited opportunity to prevent prior approval schemes, which must be assessed in very tight timescales. For this reason, they were delegated to the Chief Planning Officer.

Regarding health concerns and the planning process health concerns with new electronic communication systems was not new, and whilst there was a view from some parts of the community that felt they presented a danger to health, the Government had maintained a consistent line on such matters, which was that the International Commission Guidelines on non-ionising radiation protection did not support the view that such equipment was a danger to health.

In respect of Planning Policy, planning decisions must be based on planning policy, and the documents the Council used in this respect were the Local Plan (2017) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The latter is most recent of the two, with the last update in 2021, and its content were a significant material consideration in the planning process. Telecom masts/equipment etc were addressed in Section 10 “Supporting High Quality Communication” in paras 114 to 118. The key messages are:

- Councils should support next generation mobile technology (such as 5G)
- Councils should not impose a ban on new electronic communication development
- Councils must determine planning applications on planning grounds only; and
- Councils should not seek to set health safeguards different from the International Commission Guidelines for public exposure”.

Members then debated the petition in accordance with Rule 220.

- 2.4 Following the debate it was moved by Councillor Veidman, seconded by Councillor Ian Maher and

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RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the Chief Planning Officer be requested to write to Government to request that they issue clearer guidance to telecoms operators and providers to ensure that they carry out adequate consultation with communities on proposals and seek to ensure that they share apparatus wherever possible, design schemes so as to make them less intrusive and avoid concentrations of equipment;
- (2) the Director of Public Health be requested to review the published information on the health effects of 5G technology and provide a report on the health risks associated with such technology; and
- (3) Ms. Joanne Allman, the lead petitioner, be thanked for submitting and presenting the petition to the Council.

### **3. Post-Council Meeting – Request for a Review**

- 3.1 Following the Council meeting the lead petitioner contacted the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer requesting a review of the steps that the Council has taken in response to her petition. This request was made in accordance with Rule 224 of Chapter 11 of the Council's Constitution. The full terms of Rule 224 are set out below.

“224. WHAT CAN I DO IF I FEEL MY PETITION HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH PROPERLY?

If you feel that we have not dealt with your petition properly, the petition organiser has the right to request that the appropriate council Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the steps that the council has taken in response to your petition. It is helpful to everyone and can improve the prospects for a review if the petition organiser gives a short explanation of the reasons why the council's response is not considered to be adequate. The Committee will endeavour to consider your request at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will take place at the following meeting. Should the committee determine we have not dealt with your petition adequately, it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. If the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee have already dealt with the matter it will be referred to the Chief Executive and an appropriate course of action determined. Once the appeal has been considered the petition organiser will be informed of the results within 5 working days”.

### **4. Lead Petitioner's Explanation for Seeking a Review**

- 4.1 Rule 224 above states that “it is helpful to everyone and can improve the prospects for a review if the petition organiser gives a short explanation of the reasons why the council's response is not considered to be adequate”.
- 4.2 Accordingly, the lead petitioner has provided the following explanation:

1. We believe this request to be justified in the first instance by the very poor

attendance at the Council meeting on 20 January. Only 25, or just over one third, of 66 councillors were present. We understand from the Mayor's opening statement at the meeting, as well as the Draft Minutes, that most of the absentee councillors "had submitted their apologies for absence to reduce the number of Members at the Council meeting for safety reasons".

However, the meeting was held at the Golden Miller Suite at Aintree Racecourse, at considerable expense, rather than at the regular meeting room at the Town Hall, because it was a "larger, easier to distance venue". It was clear to see from the rows of empty seats that the full complement of 66 councillors could easily have been accommodated at two metre spacing. We fail to understand why the majority of councillors were excluded from the meeting, when the Council had gone to the expense of booking such a large venue.

The very low turnout had a direct and detrimental impact on the outcome of the petition. At the end of the debate, Councillor David Irving proposed an amendment to site 5G masts at a safe distance from schools, however it was not seconded, and the amendment failed. If a majority of councillors had attended, there is a strong chance that the amendment might have been seconded, and the subsequent debate may have led to it being adopted. This would have represented a much more favourable result for the 752 people who signed the petition.

**We therefore contend that our petition was placed at a disadvantage due to the questionable decision to reduce the number of councillors attending the meeting, despite ample accommodation at the venue, resulting in the rejection of a proposal which would have been beneficial for schoolchildren in Sefton.**

2. We also take issue with Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control, Councillor Veidman's response to the petition, in particular, the following statement, as recorded in the Draft Minutes:

"In respect of Planning Policy, planning decisions must be based on planning policy, and the documents the Council used in this respect were the Local Plan (2017) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The latter is most recent of the two, with the last update in 2021, and its content were a significant material consideration in the planning process. Telecom masts/equipment etc were addressed in Section 10 "Supporting High Quality Communication" in paras 114 to 118. The key messages are:

- Councils should support next generation mobile technology (such as 5G)
- Councils should not impose a ban on new electronic communication development
- Councils must determine planning applications on planning grounds only; and
- Councils should not seek to set health safeguards different from the International Commission Guidelines for public exposure."

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What Councillor Veidman omitted to point out was that the NPPF is only guidance, and is not legally binding, and this should have been made clear to the Council. It is our view that the main priority of local councils should be the best interests of residents, not simply to follow government guidance slavishly. With regard to 5G installations, it is the duty of the Council to take into consideration all evidence relating to potential effects on residents' health, rather than relying exclusively on government and industry guidance.

As was pointed out in the speech presented on behalf of the petitioners, in a landmark legal ruling in November 2021, campaigners in Brighton and Hove succeeded in overturning local authority approval for a 5G mast to be sited close to a primary school. At judicial review, it was found that the Council "failed to address the health impacts" of the mast. This finding has significant implications for all councils dealing with 5G applications, as it means there is a legal responsibility to investigate possible effects on health. The technology cannot simply be assumed to be safe.

Moreover, the approach taken recently by Glastonbury Town Council is evidence that not all Councils feel constrained to adhere rigidly to government guidance in relation to 5G applications. In response to concerns raised by residents, Glastonbury Town Council set up a 5G Advisory Committee and carried out a six-month investigation, after which they "resolved unanimously to continue their adoption of the Precautionary Principle; opposing the roll-out of 5G until further information is made available on the safety or otherwise of the technology."

<https://glastonbury.gov.uk/5g-report/>

**We therefore contend that the Council should have been advised that not only is there is no legal requirement to support 5G technology, it is in fact the duty and responsibility of the Council to conduct a full safety investigation and risk assessment before approving 5G applications. This is what the Council should have undertaken to do in response to our petition.**

3. Furthermore, we are concerned that, during the Council debate on the petition, the comments of one particular councillor, Councillor Leo Evans, were defamatory, obfuscatory, and misleading, and should have been challenged by the Chair. Councillor Evans did not respond to any of the concerns about the safety of 5G raised in the petition, but instead declared that our petition should not have been brought, without offering any justification for this anti-democratic assertion.

He proceeded to launch into an extraordinary tirade, smearing our petition as 'disinformation' and 'conspiracy theory', without giving any explanation for these serious allegations. He claimed that the speech presenting the petition alluded to the Holocaust, which it did not. He made completely



irrelevant references to totally unrelated topics, such as QAnon, the Great Reset, and whether vaccines cause autism. He made no reference to the evidence presented in the petition, or even to the central issue of 5G. His irrelevant, offensive, and potentially slanderous comments were an insult to the petition signatories, and should not have been permitted to go unchallenged, or to influence the decisions of the Council.

The petitioners were not given any opportunity to respond to Councillor Evans' wild accusations, and neither the Mayor nor any other member of the Council attempted to correct any of his baseless claims, which were allowed to stand as if they were a valid and reasonable contribution to the debate. They were not.

**We therefore contend that Councillor Evans' irrelevant, inaccurate and misleading comments had the effect not only of degrading the quality of the debate, but also of prejudicing the Council against the petition objective.**

4.3 The purpose of the review is not to re-visit the issues discussed and debated by Council but to determine whether the Council dealt with the petition properly in accordance with the Constitution. To help the Committee in this matter the procedure adopted by Council is set out in below.

4.4 The terms of Rule 220 are set out in full below:

"220. If a petition contains more than 500 signatures it will be debated by the full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or refer the matter to another decision-making body of the Council. Where the issue is one on which another Council body or Officer are required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision".

4.5 The action taken by Council in respect of Rule 220 is set out below:

"If a petition contains more than 500 signatures it will be debated by the full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting".

Council action – the petition was considered at the next available Council meeting.

"The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the

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meeting”.

Council action – The petition organiser presented her petition for 5 minutes.

“The petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes”.

Council action – The Council debated the petition for a maximum of 15 minutes.

“The council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate or refer the matter to another decision-making body of the Council”.

Council action – The Council decided how to respond to the petition at the meeting. Council’s decision is set out in paragraph 2.4 above.

## **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to review the steps that the Council has taken in response to the petition considered at the Council meeting held on 20 January 2022 in relation to “Stop the 5G Rollout in Sefton; and to determine whether the Council dealt with the petition properly in accordance with the Constitution.

# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Potential to Establish a Working Group to Review the Topic of Dog Fouling in Public Places and Methods to Combat it		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Highways and Public Protection</b>	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary

This report considers the potential to establish a working group to review the topic of dog fouling in public places and methods to combat such anti-social behaviour.

## Recommendation(s):

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) consider the report, the options set out, and determine whether to establish a working group to review the topic of dog fouling and methods to combat it.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

A decision is required to determine whether to set up a working group to review this issue.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial costs associated with the proposals in this report

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no financial costs associated with the proposals in this report

## Implications of the Proposals:

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<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> Officer time will be needed to support a Working Group, if established	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b> The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
This is an information only Report and contains no proposals that will alter any impact on climate change	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Dog fouling has a negative impact upon street scene and people's impression of place.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Dog fouling has a negative impact upon street scene and people's impression of place.
Drivers of change and reform: Reducing dog fouling will require an attitudinal and behavioural change from people who do not currently clean up after their dog
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Dog fouling has a negative impact upon street scene and people's impression of place.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Actions to further tackle the issue of dog fouling may impact upon local environmental quality

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6734/22.) and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4734/22) have been consulted and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted with regard to any legal implications and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations - None**

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Steve Smith/Jonny Mouldsdaie
Telephone Number:	0151 934 4025/3027
Email Address:	Jonny.mouldsdaie@sefton.gov.uk

**Appendices:**  
N/A

### **Background Papers:**

Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group Final Report 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Council, 18/11/2021 18:30](#)

### **Introduction/Background**

1. Failure to pick up dog fouling and the inappropriate disposal of dog 'fouling bags' (littering) by irresponsible dog walkers are legitimate concerns for Members, residents and visitors to the Borough. These unpleasant and anti-social acts can significantly impact upon the use, appearance, and enjoyment of public spaces.
2. The recent consultation regarding implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog Control, including dog fouling, saw a 95.95% positive response to the proposal to allow Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued across the Borough for dog walkers who fail to pick up dog fouling forthwith.
3. The Council currently tackles this issue in several ways including:
  - Implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog Control, including dog fouling
  - provision of infrastructure such as litter bins
  - removal of fouling and 'fouling bags' from the highway and green spaces
  - highly visible enforcement patrols
  - issuing of fixed penalty notices (FPN's) to offenders, and
  - key messaging through the Council's Communications Team/channels.
4. There are many tools available to ensure compliance and change to this anti-social behaviour and these are often categorised as:

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- *Education* (promoting and encouraging compliance through an understanding of the benefits and consequences of compliance/ non-compliance, e.g. dog fouling campaigns)
  - *Engineering* (designing the environment or processes to make compliance the default option and / or make non-compliance more difficult, e.g. provision of litter bins / improved cleansing regimes) and
  - *Enforcement* (securing compliance with specific requirements and standards considered necessary or desirable by society).
5. Enforcement and regulatory activity itself, is generally within the remit of Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services), therefore any working group set up by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills) for the purposes of reviewing the topic of dog fouling in public places would need to focus upon the aspects of the issue most pertinent to the remit of this Committee.
6. There is potential to review the topic of dog fouling centred on these 3 E's of education, engineering and enforcement and a working group could explore:
- The range of activity the Council is responsible for
  - The purpose of these activities
  - The nature of any potential and actual impact (positive or negative) from this activity
  - How negative impacts can be mitigated, or positive impacts maximised
7. A working group could consider:
- Current Council policies and practices in dealing with dog fouling and disposal of dog 'fouling bags'
  - Areas of good practise within the Council
  - Good practise within other local authorities or similar organisations
  - Areas for improvement within the Council's policies and practice
8. The Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group, set up by this Committee, reported their findings in autumn 2021 and considered similar environmental areas of focus. That Working Group initially explored all areas of enforcement within the Council, before exploring similar areas to those outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7 in relation to litter and flytipping. That Working Group made several key recommendations in relation to the issue, including recognising the need for significantly more resource for enforcement. The primary dog control and dog fouling enforcement activity is undertaken by the same workforce undertaking littering enforcement.
9. Considering the issues related to Dog fouling and littering of 'fouling bags', will inevitably cover similar ground and similar issues to those considered by the Effectiveness of Enforcement Working Group. There is a danger therefore that any new working group to review the impact of dog fouling in public places and the methods to combat this may see significant duplication in the matters already considered by the previous, recent Working Group. The Committee could decide to defer the establishment of a Working Group on this issue for 12-24 months to allow some distance between the two Groups and also allow the 2021 PSPO more time to impact on behaviour.

## Options

10. There would appear to be two options available for the Committee to consider:

- (1) The Committee recognises the negative impact of dog fouling in public places but agrees not to establish a Working Group to consider this issue at this time, in recognition of the potential duplication of work and themes only recently covered by the Effectiveness of Enforcement Working Group.
- (2) The Committee notes the work and recommendations already made by the Committee's Effectiveness of Enforcement Working Group, and agrees to establish a Working Group to review the topic of dog fouling in public places and methods to combat such anti-social practice that seeks to explore relevant issues not already fully explored by the earlier Working Group.

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2021/22, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2021/22; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and to update Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee

## Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) consideration be given to the selection of a topic for a Working Group review; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to serve on such Working Group;
- (3) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2021/22 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

**(A) Revenue Costs** – see above

**(B) Capital Costs** – see above

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	

## **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the review of Winter Service and

Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report but reports would be submitted to the Committee detailing how the Council is leading on beneficial changes to be made with reference to United Utilities charging policies and new houses being sold as leasehold.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of a report in the Work Programme relating to the Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the review of Winter Service and Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21 together with the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

This report is not subject to LD and FD comments. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from this report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Head of Operational In-House Services  
 Head of Economic Growth and Housing  
 Head of Communities  
 Head of Highways and Public Protection  
 Head of Commercial Development

### (B) External Consultations

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk">Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk</a>

### Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2021/2022

# Agenda Item 7

- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

### 1. WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2021/22 is set out in **Appendix 1** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee. The Work Programme was approved by the Committee on 29 June 2021.
- 1.2 The Work Programme has been produced based on items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.3 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2021/22 and updated, as appropriate.

### 2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2021/22

- 2.1 It is usual practice for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 At its meeting held on 21 September 2021 the Democratic Services Manager was requested to e-mail all Members of the Committee seeking views on potential topics to review. This task has been undertaken but no responses were received.

Accordingly, at the meeting held on 9 November 2021 it was agreed that the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer contact appropriate Heads of Service whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee seeking their ideas on the selection of a topic for a Working Group review. Again unfortunately, no topics were suggested.

Currently therefore, the Committee does not have any Working Groups reviewing topics.

- 2.3 This up to date position was reported to the Informal Meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2022.

The Informal Meeting requested that the Head of Highways and Public Protection submit a report to this meeting of the Committee on the potential to establish a Working Group to review the topic of dog fouling in public places and methods to combat such an anti-social practice.

A copy of this report can be found elsewhere on the agenda (see agenda item no. 6)

- 2.4 For the information of Members, a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**. This is used to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.

### **3. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix 3** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 3.6 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

### **4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 22 October 2019 (Minute No. 20).
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work

# Agenda Item 7

Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

4.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

## 4.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

## 4.5 **Membership**

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Hansen, Howard and Waterfield. Councillor Howard is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Councillor Sir Ron Watson is the representative of the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

## 4.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. Councillor Steve Radford, a Liberal Party and Independent Group Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

## 4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

In the past a high number of meetings of the LCRCAO&S have been inquorate.

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation.

Following an update request to the LCRCA the positive news is that last year (20/21) was the most successful yet as only one meeting had been inquorate. A potential reason is that the remote meetings provided greater flexibility for

Members and so supported increased attendance.

The membership for this year's LCRCAO&S has seen quite a big change, with only five of the 20 Members returning. An introductory session for Members has been held and the importance was stressed about attending the Committee so that business could be transacted.

The M9 Group is the collective body for the Mayoral CA's who meet frequently with representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The quoracy issue was raised by the M9 Group with MHCLG back in March 2020. However, since then other matters including the Covid-19 pandemic have become more pressing.

## 4.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=365&Year=0>

4.9 The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 20 January 2022. The Committee considered the following items:

- Combined Authority Budget Report 2022/23
- LCR Combined Authority Corporate Plan 2021-24 - Biannual/Q2 Performance Report 2021/22
- Appointment of Substitute Scrutiny Member to the LCR Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22
- Liverpool City Region Pathway to Net Zero - Overview And Progress Update
- Equality Strategy Draft Vision and Objectives

4.10 The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 16 March 2022.

4.11 The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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## APPENDIX 1

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

Date of Meeting	29 JUNE 2021	21 SEPTEMBER 2021	9 NOVEMBER 2021	18 JANUARY 2022	8 MARCH 2022
Cabinet Member Update Report <b>Paul Fraser</b>	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update <b>Paul Fraser</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report <b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>			X		
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan <b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>			X		
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2019/20 <b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>				X	
Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth <b>Stuart Barnes</b>				X	
Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy <b>Stuart Barnes</b>				X	
Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services <b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>				X	
Leasehold House Sales <b>Stuart Barnes</b>					X
Green Sefton 2019/20 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2020/21			X		

## APPENDIX 1

<b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>					
Procurement of 120 litre Blue Wheeled Bins for Glass Recycling – Update on progress <b>Peter Moore/Michelle Williams</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:</b>					
Housing Licensing Performance Framework Working Group Update on Recommendations <b>Paul Fraser</b>			<b>X</b>		
Digital Inclusion Working Group Update on Recommendations <b>Paul Fraser</b>			<b>X</b>		
Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity - Approval of Working Group Final Report <b>Paul Fraser</b>		<b>X</b>			
Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Final Report <b>Paul Fraser</b>			<b>X</b>		

## APPENDIX 2

### CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

<b>Criteria for Selecting Items</b>
▪ Issue identified by members as key issue for public (through member surgeries, other contact with constituents or volume of complaints)
▪ Poor performing service (evidence from performance indicators/benchmarking)
▪ Service ranked as important by the community (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels)
▪ High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels/complaints)
▪ Public interest issue covered in local media
▪ High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure)
▪ Pattern of budgetary overspends
▪ Council corporate priority area
▪ Central government priority area
▪ Issues raised by External Audit Management Letter/External audit reports
▪ New government guidance or legislation
▪ Reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
▪ Others

### CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

<b>Potential Criteria for Rejecting Items</b>
▪ Issue being examined by the Cabinet
▪ Issue being examined by an Officer Group : changes imminent
▪ Issue being examined by another internal body
▪ Issue will be addressed as part of a Service Review within the next year
▪ New legislation or guidance expected within the next year
▪ Other reasons specific to the particular issues.

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## APPENDIX 2

### SCRUTINY CHECKLIST DO'S AND DON'TS

<b>DO</b>
◆ Remember that Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Is about learning and being a "critical friend"; it should be a positive process</li><li>◆ Is not opposition</li></ul>
◆ Remember that Scrutiny should result in improved value, enhanced performance or greater public satisfaction
◆ Take an overview and keep an eye on the wider picture
◆ Check performance against local standards and targets and national standards, and compare results with other authorities
◆ Benchmark performance against local and national performance indicators, using the results to ask more informed questions
◆ Use Working Groups to get underneath performance information
◆ Take account of local needs, priorities and policies
◆ Be persistent and inquisitive
◆ Ask effective questions - be constructive not judgmental
◆ Be open-minded and self aware - encourage openness and self criticism in services
◆ Listen to users and the public, seek the voices that are often not heard, seek the views of others - and balance all of these
◆ Praise good practice and best value - and seek to spread this throughout the authority
◆ Provide feedback to those who have been involved in the review and to stakeholders
◆ Anticipate difficulties in Members challenging colleagues from their own party
◆ Take time to review your own performance

◆ <b>DON'T</b>
◆ Witch-hunt or use performance review as punishment
◆ Be party political/partisan
◆ Blame valid risk taking or stifle initiative or creativity
◆ Treat scrutiny as an add-on
◆ Get bogged down in detail
◆ Be frightened of asking basic questions
◆ Undertake too many issues in insufficient depth
◆ Start without a clear brief and remit
◆ Underestimate the task
◆ Lose track of the main purpose of scrutiny
◆ Lack sensitivity to other stakeholders
◆ Succumb to organisational inertia
◆ Duck facing failure - learn from it and support change and development
◆ Be driven by data or be paralysed by analysis - keep strategic overview, and expect officers to provide high level information and analysis to help.

## APPENDIX 2

### KEY QUESTIONS

**Overview and Scrutiny Committees should keep in mind some of the fundamental questions:-**

Are we doing what users/non users/local residents want?
Are users' needs central to the service?
Why are we doing this?
What are we trying to achieve?
How well are we doing?
How do we compare with others?
Are we delivering value for money?
How do we know?
What can we improve?

### INVESTIGATIONS:-

To what extent are service users' expectations and needs being met?
To what extent is the service achieving what the policy intended?
To what extent is the service meeting any statutory obligations or national standards and targets?
Are there any unexpected results/side effects of the policy?
Is the performance improving, steady or deteriorating?
Is the service able to be honest and open about its current performance and the reasons behind it?
Are areas of achievement and weakness fairly and accurately identified?
How has performance been assessed? What is the evidence?
How does performance compare with that of others? Are there learning points from others' experiences?
Is the service capable of meeting planned targets/standards? What change to capability is needed.
Are local performance indicators relevant, helpful, meaningful to Members, staff and service users?

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 APRIL 2022 - 31 JULY 2022**

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public at least 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

1. any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater;
2. any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the Key Decisions to be taken
- Other documents relating to the proposed decision may be submitted to the decision making meeting and these too will be made available by the contact officer named in the Plan
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

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## APPENDIX 3

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
  - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
  - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
  - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
  - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
  - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
  - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
  - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
  - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

**NOTE:**

*For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.*

**Dwayne Johnson**  
**Chief Executive**



## APPENDIX 3

### FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
New Realities 2022	Andrea Watts andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2030
Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk
Bootle Canalside - Business Plan	Garry Lewis garry.lewis@sefton.gov.uk
Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk
Bootle Regeneration Strategy	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619
Levelling Up Funding Round 2	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619
Housing Strategy 2022 -2027	Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk
Southport Events Centre Business Case	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>New Realities 2022</b> To consider a revised New Realities Protocol which has been co-produced with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	7 Apr 2022  21 Apr 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			

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Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Healthwatch Steering Group, Every Child Matters Forum and network members, Health and Social Care Forum network, Sefton Faith Forum network members and Sefton In Mind network
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, briefings and emails
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	New Realities 2022
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrea Watts andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2030

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton</b> To present the Business Case for the provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Apr 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 10/03/2022 to 07/04/2022. Reason: Work is still being progressed in respect of the proposal			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Paragraph 3)			
Wards Affected	St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing, Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, Finance			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails and Meetings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk			

## APPENDIX 3

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Bootle Canalside - Business Plan</b> To seek approval of the Bootle Canalside Business Plan.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Apr 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 10/03/2022 to 07/04/2022. Reason: Business planning work is ongoing			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Derby; Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Sefton Communities and Sefton CVS, Cabinet Members & Ward Councillors			
Method(s) of Consultation	Informal Engagement Event.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Bootle Canalside - Business Plan			
Contact Officer(s) details	Garry Lewis garry.lewis@sefton.gov.uk			

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project</b> To seek approval to proceed with the Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project.
Decision Maker	Cabinet
Decision Expected	26 May 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 10/03/2022 to 26/05/2022. Reason: evaluation of options are ongoing

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## APPENDIX 3

Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Potential providers of service, Sefton Council Growth Board and Cabinet Member -Communities and Housing			
Method(s) of Consultation	Soft market testing, Meetings and Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project			
Contact Officer(s) details	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Bootle Regeneration Strategy</b> Update and review Bootle Regeneration Strategy (Strand transformation related).			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Apr 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 10/03/2022 to 07/04/2022. Reason: ongoing work is continuing on strategic options			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Linacre; Derby			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members, Ward Councillors			
Method(s) of Consultation	Via briefings and meetings (e.g. Members Reference Group).			

## APPENDIX 3

List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Bootle Regeneration Strategy
Contact Officer(s) details	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Levelling Up Funding Round 2</b> To present Sefton Council submissions for Levelling Up Funding			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Apr 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Officers and key stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Levelling Up Funding Round 2			
Contact Officer(s) details	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Housing Strategy 2022 -2027</b> Seek approval for refreshed Housing Strategy for Sefton
Decision Maker	Cabinet

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## APPENDIX 3

Decision Expected	26 May 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Housing Strategy Consultees include all members of the public and residents of Sefton with an interest in housing and the provision of housing services. Other key stakeholders will be those external organisations who will be working in partnership with the Council to deliver, own and manage new or existing housing as well as providing housing services. Specific consultees include: Cabinet Member -Communities and Housing, Adult Social Care, Public Health Assets and Property, Planning Policy, Regeneration and all Registered Providers of Affordable Housing (Housing Associations) operating in Sefton.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails, direct meetings and briefings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Housing Strategy 2022 -2027			
Contact Officer(s) details	Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Southport Events Centre Business Case</b> Seeking approval of the Events Centre Business Case			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	23 Jun 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 06/01/2022 to 23/06/2022. Reason: Business case work is ongoing and will not be completed until the end of 2021			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes

## APPENDIX 3

Exempt Report	Fully exempt
Wards Affected	Cambridge; Dukes
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Members
Method(s) of Consultation	Briefings and various meetings.
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Events Centre Business Case
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8 March 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Reports – December 2021/February 2022		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period December 2021/February 2022.

## Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options have been considered because the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

# Agenda Item 8

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

Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member report that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from matters referred to in the Cabinet Member reports will be contained in reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member update provides information on activity within Councillor Atkinson's, Fairclough's, Hardy's, Moncur's (relating to Green Sefton) and Veidman's portfolios during a previous two/three-month period. Any reports relevant to their portfolio considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committees during this period would contain information as to how such reports contributed to the Council's Core Purpose.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above

Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above
Greater income for social investment: As above
Cleaner Greener: As above

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Cabinet Member Update Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the attached Cabinet Member update report will be included in those reports as appropriate

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing  
Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element)  
Cabinet Member - Locality Services  
Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control  
Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills

# Agenda Item 8

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

- 1. Introduction/Background**
- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 The Committee is requested to consider the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills portfolios. If any Cabinet Member reports referred to above are not included with this report then they will be submitted to Members in due course as part of a supplementary agenda.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>		
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COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	March 2022

## HOUSING

### Housing Strategy (2022 – 2027)

Work is continuing on Sefton’s Housing Strategy refresh. The development and publication of this new strategy would help reflect upon the successful implementation of a range of housing priorities over the past 5 years. Additionally, new strategic housing goals and Sefton’s adopted 2030 Vision, alongside numerous national policy and legislative changes, mean that a refreshed and robust strategy is essential for the delivery of local authorities’ housing functions over the coming years. It is proposed that the draft strategy will be consulted upon, via a wide-ranging and inclusive public engagement process, during Spring 2022. All consultation comments will be reflected upon, and a final Housing Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in Summer 2022.

### Rough Sleepers and Homeless services

Rough sleeping continues to remain low in the borough due to the preventative work by Housing Options in securing nightly crash-bed options for them, and Light for Life intervention in working with anyone reported to them as rough sleeping. Sefton’s most entrenched rough sleeper recently agreed to be accommodated and his tent removed. Sefton only has one-person rough sleeping at present in the former International Public House, which is being dealt with by Light for Life, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Building Control.

There continue to be a large number of people approaching Housing Options for assistance and are often utilising all eleven of the Sit-Up spaces it has at its disposal. When an Out of Hours calls are then taken by the Emergency Duty Team from people claiming to be rough sleeping or homeless, they are left with no Sit-Up spaces to offer these people, which is becoming more difficult to manage.

This has prompted the re-opening of a former building in Beatrice Street, used by one of the Council’s commissioned Providers, Excel Housing, up until recently. This will provide four additional nightly Crash Beds, which will help Housing Options manage the demand of the number of people approaching them for assistance on a daily basis. It is proposed that this arrangement lasts until the end of March 2022.

### Property Pool Plus Allocations Policy

A revised social housing allocations policy for the Liverpool City Region (LCR), known as Property Pool Plus, is due to be considered by Cabinet in March. The policy has been updated to bring it into line with current good practice and legislation and following sign off at officer level will now be considered for formal adoption by each of the LCR local authorities.

### Tenancy Strategy

The **2011 Localism Act** introduced a duty on Local Authorities to prepare and publish a Tenancy Strategy.

# Agenda Item 8

The purpose of this strategy is to set out what registered providers (housing associations) who own social housing stock in the borough need to have regard to when formulating their policies on tenancies. Since 2016 all the Liverpool City Region local authorities have adopted the same policy to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the city region.

Because of the time which has passed since the document was originally adopted it has recently been reviewed and refreshed by the authorities, and this updated strategy will also be consider by Cabinet in March.

## **Private Rented Sector**

Our 3 private landlord licensing schemes continue until February 2023. Selective licensing requires all private landlords in Bootle to hold a licence and 'Additional HMO' licensing schemes in Southport and Waterloo/Seaforth require all Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) in these areas to be licensed. In December, Cabinet approved the Business Case for the re-designation of the 3 schemes from March 2023 and officers are preparing to carry out a full public consultation on the proposals.

Since the December update, a further 41 properties have been identified as potentially requiring a licence, but no application has been received. Officers have sent final warning letters to these owners and will follow up with enforcement action if required. 5 Final Civil Penalty fine notices have been served on 4 landlords for failure to licence 5 properties in the Selective Licensing area since the previous update.

We have received notification from the Housing Tribunal of 7 appeals against 7 Civil Penalty Notices that we have served against 3 landlords. Bundles of evidence are currently being prepared for hearing dates in the coming months.

A further 156 properties have been licensed. Since lockdown began 1964 new licenses have been issued. Compliance inspections have re-commenced, and 14 inspections have been carried out since the previous update.

Since the December update the team have responded to 77 requests for service relating to poor housing standards issues throughout Sefton. Inspections have been carried out on the majority of these properties and informal action taken to remove hazards where required. Formal enforcement action was required in 2 of these cases. Work continues on preparing a further 4 long term vacant homes for the enforced sale procedure, which will force the sale of the property and bring it back into use. Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues, and officers attended 2 unauthorised Traveller encampments during December and January.

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The L30's Million Partnership group have given the Council notice of change to LTO (Locally Trusted Organisation). The change in LTO will take effect from 15th March 2022. The Council will continue to make payments for any commitments already in place, however, the new LTO (Groundwork), will take on the role of LTO for any new commitments the group make.

A Vehicle Activated Speed sign on loan from the Police Road Safety team is currently sited on Victoria Road Crosby. This is the last of the three planned locations identified for the pilot, the other locations were Mersey Road and Manor Road in. Data from the first two locations has been collected and will be summarised in a report, along with data from the third location, to show number of vehicles, speed, and date/time of offences.

# Agenda Item 8

The report will be reviewed by the Crosby Operational Group members and decisions taken on how to proceed. Initial discussions have covered the possibility of sharing the cost of purchasing a unit (£2500 - £3000) between several wards and for it to be periodically moved about the borough providing evidence to inform Police and Council decisions around road safety.

Rear alleyway cleansing remains the primary cause of complaints for the team in the South of the Borough. Requests for rear entry cleansing, including the removal of vegetation have significantly increased. Some rear alleyways are completely overgrown with weeds and vegetation, making it impossible for the crews to access. The Team are working with colleagues in the Operational inhouse services to resolve residents' issues.

Following the successful partnership working with the High Park Project, parks in the area have seen improvements including the planting of fruit trees, willow structures and the construction of planters. There is now a proactive community group that continues to work in the area.

The Community Payback Manager has informed the Neighbourhood team that it is unlikely that there will be a return to the original model of service users signing in at Bootle and being transported to work sites. Current intention is for welfare sites to be identified around the borough and for service users to make their own way to these sites using their own vehicles or by public transport. The team is at present operating from the Pavilion at Victoria Park to support Green Sefton with maintenance work at Victoria and Alexandra Parks.

A recent meeting with the Probation Service and members of the Green Sefton and Neighbourhoods teams discussed plans for deployment of service users going forward.

As part of the Afghan Resettlement programme a family has been successfully matched to a property in Sefton.

## **Welfare Reform**

### Food bank

1st April 2021 - 1st January 2022	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	4083	1208
Adults Fed	5075	1602
Children Fed	3321	1059
Total Fed	8396	2661
Crisis Type	Low income - 2838 vouchers presented 5938 people fed	Low income - 654 vouchers presented 1486 people fed
Family Type	Single 2327 vouchers presented 56.99%	Single 654 vouchers presented 54.14%
Age group	25-64: 4470	25 – 64: 1315

The Council has been awarded £998,470.00 Holiday activity fund funding for 2022/23. To deliver the programme a Project Manager and an administrator will be recruited to build on the success of the previous year.

# Agenda Item 8

## **Hate Crime**

The Hate Crime JAG (formerly MARAC) meetings continue to take place via MS Teams.

## **Equalities**

The Corporate Equality Group Met in January 2022 via Teams.

Online training on Equality Impact Assessments continues.

An initial meeting has taken place of a Women's staff group and it is planned that a full launch will take place on 8th March to coincide with International Women's Day.

Navajo charter mark action plan from the reassessment has been received and shared with the CEG. Actions have been incorporated into the Equality & Diversity action plan which was considered by SLB at their January meeting.

## **Domestic abuse update**

Following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act in April 2021, Sefton refocused its multi-agency domestic abuse group as part of the Council's statutory obligations in relation to safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) arrangements are now in place and the newly formed group has met on two occasions to date. The key focus for the Board at present is on the completion of the domestic abuse needs assessment, which is currently underway, and for the outcomes of the assessment to be used to refresh Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy.

The public consultation surveys linked to the needs assessment, one for professionals and the other aimed at survivors of domestic abuse, were approved by the Consultation and Engagement Panel in December 2021. These will be live until 22 February 2022. The results of both surveys will provide a good source of qualitative information and will be incorporated into the needs assessment report.

The next Partnership Board meeting is scheduled for 23 February 2022 which the consultants will attend to present their findings, any key patterns/ anomalies and to share draft recommendations for discussion.

It is imperative that work associated with domestic abuse is joined up across other relevant partnership boards in Sefton and so discussions are already underway to consider how best to link cross cutting work that sits with the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership, the Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board.

## **INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICE**

### **YOT Performance**

This will be the last update on YOT performance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee as responsibility has now transferred to the Cabinet Member (Children's Social Care). Future updates will be presented in the Cabinet Member (Children's Social Care) report to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny committee.

The latest PNC data is unavailable, however there is unlikely to be significant change since the last update in November. The data issue is National and affects all YOTs.



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We do not anticipate a spike reoffending or first-time entrants and there are no Sefton children in custody.

Our reoffending data has been stable at 38% which compares well Nationally and Locally. We will be tracking local data to reflect more recent timescales which will start in March 2022.

Our First Time Entrant (FTE) data is shown below, when Quarter 4 data is available we will have a rise in FTE for this year, which will be investigated further.

<b>First Time Entrants</b>	<b>Apr-Jun Quarter 1</b>	<b>Jul-Sep Quarter 2</b>	<b>Oct-Dec Quarter 3</b>	<b>Jan-Mar Quarter 4</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of FTEs 2019-20	10	10	9	12	41
Number of FTEs 2020-21	5	6	6	0	17
Number of FTEs 2021-22	7	5	5	N/A	17

## Inspection Readiness

A significant amount of work is currently taking place both within YOT and the wider Partnership Board to prepare for the anticipated Ofsted and HMIP Inspections. A series of “deep dive” audits have been completed with a focus on the quality of court disposal assessments and plans and to identify any drift and delay. YOT Board members engaged in a Development Session to discuss the inspection framework relevant to them. A further Board development day took place in December to review the therapeutic offer as the YOT Cohort Profile indicates that there are a significant number of children with mental health concerns.

These preparations are designed to highlighted areas for improvement to align with Inspection Domains so that progress can be tracked. Comparison checks are also taking place to identify good practice in other YOTs who have recently been inspected. It is interesting to note the variance in how YOTs deliver their business, in particular the out of court disposals. This is an ambiguous area with no standardised assessment or planning documents from the Youth Justice Board, in contrast to court disposals. Out of court disposals accounts for approximately 50% of YOT work and the inspection standards have significantly changed in this area therefore this will be a priority area going forward in YOTs improvement journey.

## Change of Name for YOT to Youth Justice Service (YJS)

In 2021, the Youth Justice Board published the ‘Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership Guidance’ which replaces all previous guidance for Boards and Youth Offending Teams. There is an emphasis on ‘child first’ and less so on the offender. As such, there is a move away from language such as Youth Offending Teams / Youth Offending Team Management Boards as it could be viewed as stigmatising. Therefore, to align with this, the Board Chair has changed the board to the Youth Justice Partnership, which was agreed by members in October 2021, likewise the team has been supported to become the Youth Justice Service instead of YOT.

The Team will now be referred to the Youth Justice Service to reflect National guidance and the strategic partnership.

# Agenda Item 8

## Sefton YJS Service Development Plan

The YJS Service Plan has been refreshed and reflects the following priorities:

### National Priorities

- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing re-offending rates
- Reducing the use of custody

### Local Priorities

- **Preventing offending and reoffending** through delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities
- **Reducing inequality**, and minimising the impact of custody and the wider CJS
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation, and association to gang culture

The plan is a dynamic document which will be updated each quarter and submitted to the Youth Justice Partnership for agreement. The current plan was agreed on 26<sup>th</sup> January and the board will be next updated on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### Serious Youth Violence Inspection - HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

HMICFRS supported by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) will be inspecting 12 Police Forces during January and February focusing on Serious Youth Violence as a theme. Merseyside field work will take place week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February, during which Merseyside YOT Managers and Strategic Leads will form a focus group and Merseyside Police Officers seconded to YOT will form another. The inspectors will not focus on specific cases however will focus on Violence Reduction Partnership contributions and partnership strategies to tackling serious youth violence. The focus groups will take place face to face or via online platforms.

### Community Panel Member Training

Training of volunteers from the local community who have expressed interest in facilitating Youth Offender Panels took place recently. Children who are subject to statutory Referral Orders must attend an Initial Panel to discuss their offence and put together a contract of intervention which forms the plan for the duration of their court order. They must then to return to panel every three months for the panel to monitor progress. It is up to the trained community volunteers to decide whether the child has completed the court order successfully and the conviction therefore considered spent. This is the first training that has taken place since Covid restrictions began, with trainees ages ranging from 21 to 66 years.

### Youth Service

**Outreach** - Outreach work continued in Dec 21 to provide some Christmas Activities utilising the Youth Bus in communities across the borough. Community By Nature supported the delivery of a Christmas Party for Children and Young people in the Queens Road community of Bootle and through the HAF fund a number of Sefton Children and Families were provided with tickets to attend the Christmas Panto at the Atkinson

# Agenda Item 8

**New Beginnings** - Sessions have started at Space in Bootle on Monday evenings to support both personal and group need/s enabling the join up with Music and Dance sessions to develop positive engagement and emotional health and wellbeing.

**Workforce Development** - To support workforce development staff are engaging in training through e-learning programmes to support core training and individual awareness. Staff members are also attending and contributing to meetings such as MACE, Operational Groups, Equality and Diversity, Development of Youth Voice, Merseyside Police Community and Sefton Hate Crime Joint Agency Group Meetings.

## THE ATKINSON

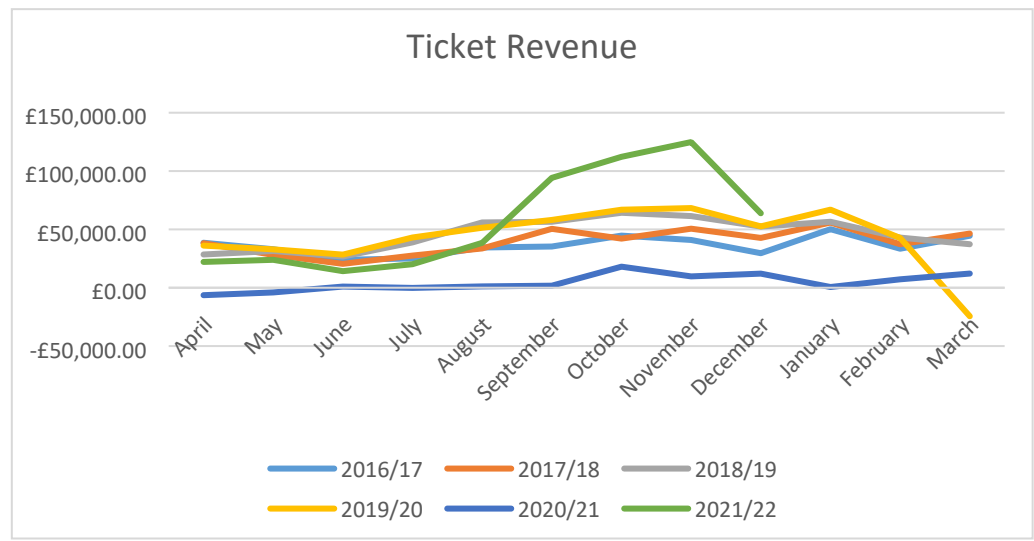
**Performance Analysis 2019/20 vs 2021/22 year to date:** the following information has been prepared as part of the Communities Department's submission to the LGA Review

	2019/2020	2021/2022 (Apr – Dec)
<b>Visitor Figures Whole building</b>	<b>Total Visitors: 478,743</b>	<b>Total Visitors: 164,469</b>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Visitor Figures - Entrance</p>	
<b>Visitor Figures Galleries</b>	<b>Total Gallery Visitors: 64,142</b> 13 % of total visitors	<b>Total Gallery Visitors: 33,788</b> 20% of total visitors
<b>Visitor Figures Museum</b>	<b>Total Museum Visitors: 35,193</b> 7% of total visitors	<b>Total Museum Visitors: 20,833</b> 13% of total visitors
<b>Ticket Revenue</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b> £522,860.05 <b>Total quantity of tickets sold</b> 34,997 <b>Total number of orders</b> 14,897 <b>Total unique customers</b> 9,272	<b>Total Revenue</b> £502,997.40 <b>Total quantity of tickets sold</b> 29,695 <b>Total number of orders</b> 10,695 <b>Total unique customers</b> 7,856 <b>Total unique shows</b>

# Agenda Item 8

**Total unique shows**  
267  
**Total unique events**  
331

176  
**Total unique events**  
258



**Audience Profiles**  
Performing Arts  
*(Taken from ticket data)*

Average party size: 2.67  
Average ticket yield: £15.65

53% - Postcode PR  
28% - Postcode L  
5% - Postcode WN

28% - Dormitory Dependables  
20% - Commuterland Culturebuffs  
20% - Trips & Treats

Average party size: 3.38  
Average ticket yield: £17.33

48% - Postcode PR  
30% - Postcode L  
7% - Postcode WN

26% - Dormitory Dependables  
23% - Trips & Treats  
17% - Commuterland Culturebuffs

*Audience Finder Segmentation*

**Dormitory Dependables**

A significant proportion of arts audiences are made up of this dependably regular if not frequently engaging group. Most live in suburban or small towns and show a preference for heritage activities alongside popular and more traditional mainstream arts. Many are thriving, well off mature couples or busy older families. Lifestage coupled with more limited access to an extensive cultural offer mean that culture is more an occasional treat or family or social outing than an integral part of their lifestyle.

**Trips & Treats**

While this group may not view arts and culture as a passion, they are reasonably culturally active, despite being particularly busy with a wide range of leisure interests. Tend to be comfortably off and living in the heart of suburbia. Children range in ages and include young people still living at home. With a strong preference for mainstream arts and popular culture like musicals and familiar drama, mixed in with days out to museums and heritage sites. This group are led by their children’s interests and strongly influenced by friends and family.

	<p><b>Commuterland Culturebuffs</b></p> <p>Affluent and settled group with many working in higher managerial and professional occupations. Keen consumers of culture, with broad tastes but a leaning towards heritage and more classical or traditional offerings. Often mature families or retirees, living largely in leafy provincial suburban or greenbelt comfort. A group willing to travel and pay for premium experiences, their habits perhaps influenced by commuting. Motivations are multiple, ranging from social and self-improvement, to the pursuit of learning opportunities for older children. Tend to be frequent attenders and potential donors.</p>	
<b>Website</b>	<p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk">theatkinson.co.uk</a>  Sessions - 283,198  Page Views - 940,463  Pages/Session - 3.32  Avg. Session Duration - 00:01:41  New Visitors – 82%  Returning visitor – 18%</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events</a>  Page Views – 317,618</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions</a>  Page Views – 7,843</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum</a>  Page Views – 3,313</p>	<p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk">theatkinson.co.uk</a>  Sessions - 265,126  Page Views - 770,137  Pages/Session - 2.90  Avg. Session Duration - 00:01:26  New Visitors - 83%  Returning visitor - 17%</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/events</a>  Page Views – 253,452</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/exhibitions</a>  Page Views – 10,648</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/museum</a>  Page Views – 3,866</p> <p><a href="http://theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/online-exhibitions">theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/online-exhibitions</a>  Page Views – 1,985</p>
<b>Facebook</b>	<p><a href="https://facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport">facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport</a>  8K – Page Likes  1.3K - New fans  24K - Engagements  3.3K - Check-ins  976 - Posts</p>	<p><a href="https://facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport">facebook.com/TheAtkinsonSouthport</a>  9.3K – Page Likes  578 - New fans  13K - Engagements  1.8K - Check-ins  489 – Posts</p>

## Theatre Programme

The ticket revenue data for 2021 demonstrates the positive recovery that the Atkinson is making in spite of ongoing Covid uncertainty.

The impact of rescheduling events has led to a compressed theatre programme from the end of September to the New Year. It has been a tremendous effort from the whole team to deliver such a busy schedule, especially given the challenge of staff absences through sickness and Covid.

The Cinderella panto has been a particular highlight. Most of the 36 performances were sold out with significant secondary sales. We have also received numerous compliments via social media such as the following:

# Agenda Item 8

*'Absolutely Fabulous, definitely recommend it, lovely venue with reasonable ticket prices and refreshments etc.'*

*'Absolutely fantastic panto! Took my Grandchildren last Sunday and enjoyed every minute! The cast put their heart and soul into the performance and their jokes and antics have you laughing out loud! 🎭 A real tonic and lots of fun! Thank you to all involved in putting on this wonderful show!*



## **Museum Engagement – overview of 2021 activity**

**Education Offer:** School visits, loan boxes, outreach sessions in school, etc.

Primary students engaged – 416 (10 schools)

University students engaged – 51 (1 university)

Outreach: total loan box hire – 8

### **History Hunt:**

Participants: 216 during 3 week launch event.

**Family Offer:** Free Family activities (e.g. Construction Club and Make It! Workshops, etc.)

At The Atkinson: 810 / Online: 675

### **Hope Street:**

British Museum Digital Trainee – 1 x year placement

**Adult Offer:** Adult Activities (e.g. Talks programmes, workshops, tours, PVs etc.)

At The Atkinson: 367

Online attendance in real time: 727

Outreach loan box hire: 1 (1 nursing home)

2021 Talks recordings total views to date: 2092

Exhibition content/tours: 5970

**Heritage Open Days:** 4 fully booked volunteer led tours (x2 Lord Street and x 2 Clue Is In The Architecture)

### **The Landing Gallery:**

Exhibitions: 5

Artworks sold: 90

### **Sefton Open Online:**

Number of Artworks: 246

Artworks Sold: 10

**Young Artists of The Year:** 106 entries from individual Young Artists and six schools (KGV, Formby High, Peterhouse, Presfield, Newfield Specialist School and St Mary's Crosby). Prizes sponsored by Art Society Southport.

### **Digital Museum Engagement:**

Augmented Reality Tours views to date:

Ba Bird Tour: 777

Local Legends Tour: 1561

## **Communications**

Events promoted via the Council website, The Atkinson website, The Atkinson social media, through the press and Liverpool City Region

## **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **New Library System goes live**

Libraries have been working with an existing supplier PTFs, to upgrade the libraries public facing catalogue by replacing the existing public portal with an entirely new product called Aspen. Aspen is the next generation of library catalogue which allows library members to search the catalogue and renew their books as normal. However, Aspen also links the portal to the multiple project websites provided through the library service such as Sefton Looking Back and The Human Libraries Project. It also has links to the Sefton Directory and the Sefton CVS Directory. This means when a resident is looking for a book on substance misuse, not only will Aspen provide details on the books available in libraries on this topic, but it will also provide details of support groups and services locally. In effect, the library catalogue automatically provides referral details to those residents looking for books on a topic possibly affecting them.

Sefton Libraries have been at the forefront of the development of this product, which is new to the UK. It is now being further developed to maximise on the early intervention and prevention referral information that can be provided via Aspen.

### **Human Libraries Project shortlisted for award**

The Human Libraries Project has been shortlisted in a category at this year's LCR Cultural Awards. The project has been a runner up in previous awards, and this year Human Libraries is shortlisted for the Covid Response Award. During lockdown, Human Libraries activities immediately switched online but were able to offer blended activities in spite of restrictions. For example, an online cookery tutorial was produced where participants could pick up ingredients from Bootle Library, which was closed but operating click and collect at the time. The class was then run online and staff supported residents in attending virtually, where they still all cooked together (just not in the same space) and got the benefit of social interaction with each other.

### **Bootle 80 - Strand exhibition**

Libraries hosted an exhibition of now and then photographs of Bootle in the blitz and what is now on the site of bomb-damaged building. Bootle MP Peter Dowd attended the launch and the exhibition also met some of the blitz survivors all now in their 90's. As part of the project, school children from Bedford Primary learnt photographic techniques from renowned artist Jon Turton who has exhibited his work all over the world and visited some sites of bomb damage to take photos of the sites today. They also got to interview some local survivors of the blitz, who talked to them about their experiences of being a child themselves when bombs were falling all around them. Part of the project was to produce a publication 'Bootle in the Blitz' which was written and researched by library staff based on the memoirs of Major Salt, Bootle's ARP Officer in the Second World War. The book is now available via the libraries. An exhibition on the blitz was displayed in The Strand before Christmas and transferred to Crosby Library in January. This completed the project.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) – 8 March 2022		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	February 2022

## Green Sefton

Overall: Green Sefton

- The 2021 Annual Review, was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills) meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November, and provides an update on the progress of Green Sefton’s establishment and development, its operational delivery over the last year, and sets the strategic work programme for the coming year, all in line with the Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan.
- Visitor Action Plan: to address excess visitors seen on the coast in recent times, and taking forward the successful pilots from 2020. See here: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4375/coast-visitor-action-plan-2021.pdf>. A review is ongoing, led by the Cabinet Member Reference Group, to consider resources and actions for future years which is to be discussed/ agreed at Budget Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Coast Plan sub strategies development, incl Position Statement production to summarise the vision, and progress to date on the delivery of the Coast Plan, see here: [Sefton Coast Plan Visioning Position Statement 2021](#)
- Coastal Gateways mapping sessions have taken place for all four gateways; Crosby, Formby, Ainsdale and Southport, which require a final edit/workshop with partners from the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership (SCLP), and then presentation to Cabinet Member to consider masterplanning and next steps.
- Climate Emergency Action Plan; particular actions re: offsetting and other aspects specific to Green Sefton. Overall summary statement was shared as part of the COP26 agenda, see here: [Green Sefton Archives - Page 2 of 15 - My Sefton News Channel](#) three articles are listed on this page; for strategic land use development with partner agencies, for launching our Business Supporter scheme, for monitoring coastal change and climate, and for our ‘managed for nature’ initiative.
- Our ‘place based’ strategy remains in development.
- Re-looking at time management; to make sure we focus on the right things at the right time – see workload matrix within the Annual Review document and presentations.

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These are now shared with me on a regular basis (service wide, and team by team, and individual officers now use them in their monthly 1:1 meetings with line managers).

- Internal Working Groups continue to develop – (incl the various strands for developing income and growth, information and intelligence, systems of working, health and safety etc).

More detail on all of the above, and our prioritised work programme, has been summarised again in an Annual Review newsletter, which includes links to a 2 minute headlines short film, and a narrated version of the main presentation, see here: [Green Sefton](#).

Further, officers are more than happy to discuss any of the issues as requested.

In summary, key ongoing issues headlines are as follows, split into the three service areas of Green Sefton:

## Green Sefton; Development:

- There haven't been any flood events or storm events of note over the last period.
- The Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy is due to be adopted by the Council in early March after being recommended for approval by Cabinet in early February.
- The detailed design for the Pool Project is underway and feasibility and affordability will be assessed in March.
- Rainbow Drive – development works are ongoing with ward members to deliver a multi-use games area in 2022, following consultation undertaken pre-pandemic
- Bootle Driving Range – construction is complete and opened to the public with a 'soft launch' at the end of January 2022 with positive feedback to date. A more formal opening will take place early Spring. It is worth noting that this was constructed from using a new self-funding business case model.
- Ainsdale gateway short term improvements – the Toad Hall artwork completed in late summer 2021. The successful trail of pop-up high quality food and drink concessions at Ainsdale and Crosby is to be followed up in 2022 with longer term arrangements to be tendered asap. Officers are progressing with design work for the off-beach car park improvements at Ainsdale and initial scoping of toilet improvements – both have been hampered by much increased cost estimates, which will slow down progress. Planning application for the car park has been submitted however, and officers remain hopeful for these works to be completed during 2022/23.
- Successful bid to Historic England to undertake repairs to Hesketh Park Conservatory during 2021. Consultation has been completed for the future development of Hesketh Park, following a legacy fund being gifted in a will.

The outcome of this is to be shared with me as Cabinet Member, with formal approval of the resulting scheme, early in 2022.

- Successful bid to Veolia Environment Trust for major redevelopment of Runnels Lane Park in Thornton.
- Binastructure funding secured from WRAP– 48 new bigger litter bins have been installed across Sefton in parks and greens spaces including communication campaign to combat litter.
- Surface Water Management Plan – final amendments to reports for Formby and Maghull.
- Working with Highways to seek opportunities to deliver highways drainage schemes where flood risk to properties can be reduced, with funding allocated for the next 5 years.
- Working with Mersey Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to seek options to slow the flow and improve water quality to Melling Brook.
- FCERM have updated their pages on Sefton.gov.uk to make the information available easier to find and more accessible.
- In discussions with United Utilities to secure 300k match funding to undertake some interim works along the Crosby Coast where erosion is continuing and the sea wall is failing, to bide time until funding is secured to deliver a major coastal defence scheme to the section of coast most at risk.
- Ainsdale Birkdale land drainage scheme has opened up watercourses through the Green Beach to allow free drainage of the surface water drainage systems.
- We have successfully recruited to the vacant shoreline management co-ordinator post who will be commencing employment with Sefton at the end of March.
- Continuing to work with risk management authorities to find solutions to alleviate flooding in Maghull, following storm Christoph and the publication of a statement of intent signed by all risk management authorities.
- Continuing to undertake routine inspections and maintenance to inland and coastal assets and undertake reactive works when necessary.
- The FCERM team worked with the Ecocentre and Edge Hill University to produce a series of short animations called 'coasts for kids'. The project has been successful in being shortlisted for a Liverpool City Region Culture and Creativity Award for the environmental sustainability category. The awards ceremony is the 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## Green Sefton: Community and Resources

- A budget proposal is included for Budget Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to consider increasing the revenue budget allocated for management of the 55 play areas in the borough. Further updates on the allocation of this, and a forward planning style programme of works will be presented to me as Cabinet Member if approved.

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- Storm Arwen resulted in a high volume of calls for fallen trees over the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November. Storm clear-up was significant, and the aftereffects will take more further time to respond to – over 100 call outs; mostly full trees and some reporting multiple trees. Sterling work from the Tree and Woodland team inspecting and responding through the night as the storm hit, plus the Council’s contractor, Ide Verde, making sure highways cleared promptly and trees made safe. Not to forget the wider Green Sefton team who have checked parks and carried out clearance and safety work where it was safe to do so.
- The Tree & Woodland team are now well into planting season, having secured funding for planting 270 standards and approx.1000 whips this season, linked to the Northern Forest, Trees for Climate and Queens Green Canopy projects. Several community groups and schools have already taken part in planting activity across the Borough.
- Development of a new Tree Management strategy is still in progress and will be shared for discussion early in 2022.
- Market testing of empty buildings and land opportunities, incl new concessions on the coast for summer 2021 has provided some new opportunities (see Dev Team above) and is continuing despite slow progress during the pandemic.
- Golf development - Bootle driving range now open, see above. Work on Southport Golf course development plans is moving forwards and will be reported to Cabinet for approval of next steps asap in 2022.
- Works for a new artificial football pitch at Orrell Mount Park (on Green Sefton land, but project managed by the Localities/ Communities team) are on hold pending further consultation in 2022. However, the upgrade works to the play area have been completed.
- Early work has begun on development/ refresh of a new Playing Pitch Strategy (led by Planning colleagues).
- Allotment strategy working group; consultation during July and August 2021 proved popular with over 800 participants – will help inform the long-term strategy development. A newsletter has been produced to update Allotmenters, with further development anticipated in 2022.
- Allotment viewings for new tenants restarted and plots are being re-let, helping to address waiting lists. A number of Allotment events were held in 2021 including clean up campaigns and intend to continue in 2022.
- Volunteers and group development strategy in progress, groups and volunteers returning to sites as restrictions ease, resulting in need update Volunteer Handbook early in 2022 – to set out and make clear what friends/ volunteers can expect from Green Sefton, and what we expect in return (including their behaviour to one another, and demands they place on our limited resources).
- Natural Alternatives expansion - halted during the pandemic, however numbers or participants starting to get back towards pre-pandemic levels. New hub opened at Botanic Gardens, incl growing fruit and veg, and consideration of hubs in the south of the borough ongoing. The Team have been supporting the High Park project, Ainsdale in Bloom and South Park hub, making and helping to install raised planters and supplying plants.
- ‘User-survey’ incl customer satisfaction, for parks and greenspaces and coast launched, ran until end of October 2021. Report due early in 2022.
- Northwest in Bloom and It’s Your Neighbourhood Judging 2021 took place despite Covid, results have all been good.

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- Green Flag Award for Kings Gardens and Community Awards results have been released (all retained), and planning is in development for 2022.
- Friends Forum June 2021 remote meeting with support from SCVS identified concerns (esp standards of site maintenance) but was broadly positive. Next meeting planned for early 2022.
- Launch of Crosby Coastal Park Forum – new steering group in place and up and running incl assisting the service with leading a conversation about the future of Crosby promenade
- Community Ranger Team Activities / monitoring at a number of sites identified as having increased ASB – seasonal rise. Monthly site-visits, site inspections ongoing and Go Wild events in October half term.
- Rangers have planted 36,000 bulbs (Snowdrop, daffodil and bluebell) with 3 community groups and approx. 15 schools over Autumn 2021.
- Educational Strategy Development - school materials including; heritage, beachcombing and trees, Forest and Beach Schools available to book on the Schools portal - heritage educational project is 'complete' and sheets for Botanic Gardens / Hesketh Park and Derby Park are available for use online.
- Derby Park Memories Project completed with Green Sefton and Libraries with the Killen Family, which will form an interesting and unique background piece to support a wider funding bid for the park in due course
- Ranger activities have included Go Wild during Autumn half-term.
- Corporate Team volunteer activities have been supported by Community Rangers.
- National Campaign activities completed: KBT Dog-fouling, Spring Cleans, World Ocean's Day, World Environment Day, Love Parks Week. Further campaigns in the pipeline for 2022.
- PSPO for dog fouling in place and permanent signage installed.
- Partnership Work with Merseyside Police, MFRS Outreach Team, Adult Social Care continues.
- Business sponsorship scheme approved by the Cabinet Member and a 'soft launch' undertaken in November. The first sponsor has come forward to undertake a planting scheme in Moorside Park in October 2021, followed by wildflower planting in April 2022 in Victoria Park
- 'Binrastructure' school anti-litter campaign took place with 5 schools and relaunched in autumn 2021.
- Ambassadorial programme for the Coast continues with activities planned for winter. Supporting practical conservation tasks on the coast – with NMARG and Beach clean groups.
- Foster service coast walks; talks and activities to take place as there is planned programme until March 2022.
- Staff volunteering monthly events in place.
- Funding Support for community groups continues. New opportunities include Lottery and small grants aid at Climate Change mitigation and green recovery.
- Area/ ward funding has continued to support infrastructure improvements in parks, esp our public play facilities but the long term funding/ maintenance issues relating to play areas continues to be a concern.
- Leases - a number of lease renewals are being completed with support from colleagues in Legal and Estates.

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- Concessions – income has been affected by the pandemic but there was some pick up over the summer, especially with the golf courses, and the team are working on new ideas (see development above).
- Sport and Recreation - Allocation of sports pitches for the 2021/22 season complete.

## Green Sefton: Land Management

- Staffing capacity remains a challenge. At times this Winter, circa 45% of operational staff have been unavailable (due to Covid, other sickness, bereavement, training and other reasons). There is little resilience within the service, and grave digging at the cemeteries and crematoria has been prioritised, meaning only basic maintenance/litter picking and bin emptying at best is being prioritised at remaining parks, coast and other sites.
- Resource issues also continued to be an issue throughout the summer with approximately 500+ days lost due to COVID or COVID related isolation episodes. This combined with a period of increased visitor activity and prolonged periods of good summer weather have been a real challenge. Litter, bin emptying and daily cleansing have for some teams taken priority over other routine maintenance tasks. In many locations our grass cutting schedules have reduced to up to 4 weeks between visits which has led to an increase in complaints.
- A proposal for 'normalising' some of the Visitor Action Plan activities has been included in the proposals to be considered at Budget Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and would assist in ongoing capacity during the summer months.
- The workload matrix and programming is assisting in prioritising works and agreeing the areas of focus. Also, an exercise is being undertaken to define the standards the team are able to provide on the ground, given the resources available in 2022.
- Green Sefton: Enterprise (our steps into the commercial world – bringing additional staffing and resource) The team have continued receive works and have increased the number of small contracts. In addition the team are tendering for larger contracts (eg Merchant Taylors School and Sandway homes). The team plan to review the commercial working approach with a view of establishing a better structure to support future growth opportunities.
- The extended beach car park open hours and increase in ticket pricing have resulted in a bumper year for the beach car parks in summer 2021. Visitor management has been a challenge at times due to an increase in incidents of ASB, considered to be linked with the wider frustration with COVID restrictions and increased visitor number due to a reduction in foreign holidays. This led to the team engaging security guards in the evenings, and the VAP update referred to above will look to employ 'patrol stewards' directly for summer 2022.
- During the period the team have developed a successful application via Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier for 5 years funding to support essential habitat maintenance and improvement works, e.g. grazing and the control of invasive species. This will fund circa £500k of both capital and revenue works over the next 5 years, which will keep essential, statutory activities ongoing until the central government Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) is launched (anticipated from 2024, as part of the Environment Act).

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- Cemetery operations have been challenging which unfortunately resulted in a short, but intense, period of complaints in Summer 21 – especially with the maintenance of Southport Crematorium due to resource limitations. Additional works have recovered the condition of the site and a dedicated maintenance resource going forwards, and further development of volunteering on site.
- The team are supporting the project development of the Bootle Strand Canalside venue. The project will include an exciting new urban landscape and the opportunity to develop community gardening, events and activities.
- Working closely with colleagues in the Tourism service, a fixed term 1 year post has been created for a site based gardener at Kings Gardens, Southport. This additional resource, filled by one of our successful Apprentices, will tackle the backlog of park based maintenance activities, assist in engaging the public, and overall address concerns raised by the HLF in their recent site visit (pre pandemic), where they were concerned we were struggling to meet the requirements of the Management and Maintenance Plan. After only a couple of months on site, the benefits of the return of a site-based gardener are clear, with compliments having been received from a number of sources,

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Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning	8 March 2022

## Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning Service is set up to operate the Council’s regulatory functions in relation to the development and use of land.
- 1.2 It comprises the following functions:
  - Development Management
  - Building Control
  - Local Plans
  - Heritage and Conservation

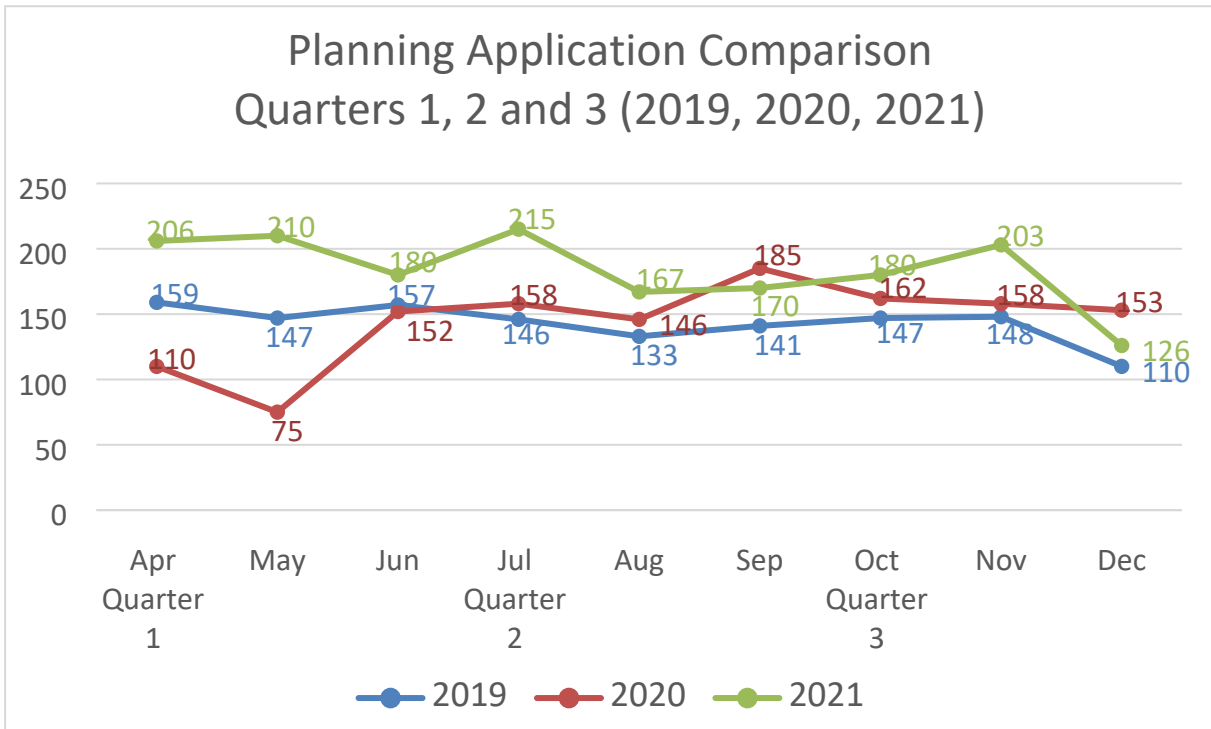
These are supported by the Technical Support team.

- 1.3 Since lockdown in March 2020, staff have adapted to running the Service from home. The Service responded to lockdown with a series of initiatives to stimulate economic activity. These included free meetings with developers and investors, and free pre-applications. Despite the severity of the challenges, the Service has continued to be provided with minimal disruption and has played its part in assisting economic recovery.
- 1.4 Our message has been very clear: “Sefton is open for business”. The graphs in in this report compare Quarters 1, 2 and 3 from the past three years, providing a comparison of activity pre-COVID, in the early days of COVID and more recently as we were beginning to emerge from COVID and before the onset of the Omicron variant.

## 2. Development Management

- 2.1 The graph below shows the number of planning applications received during Quarters 1, 2 and 3 in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. It demonstrates that though there was a significant dip in applications following the onset of COVID 19, activity has picked up since then and the number of applications received in Quarters 1, 2 and 3 was 28% higher than the number for the same period in both 2019 and 2020 (figures for both years being very similar).

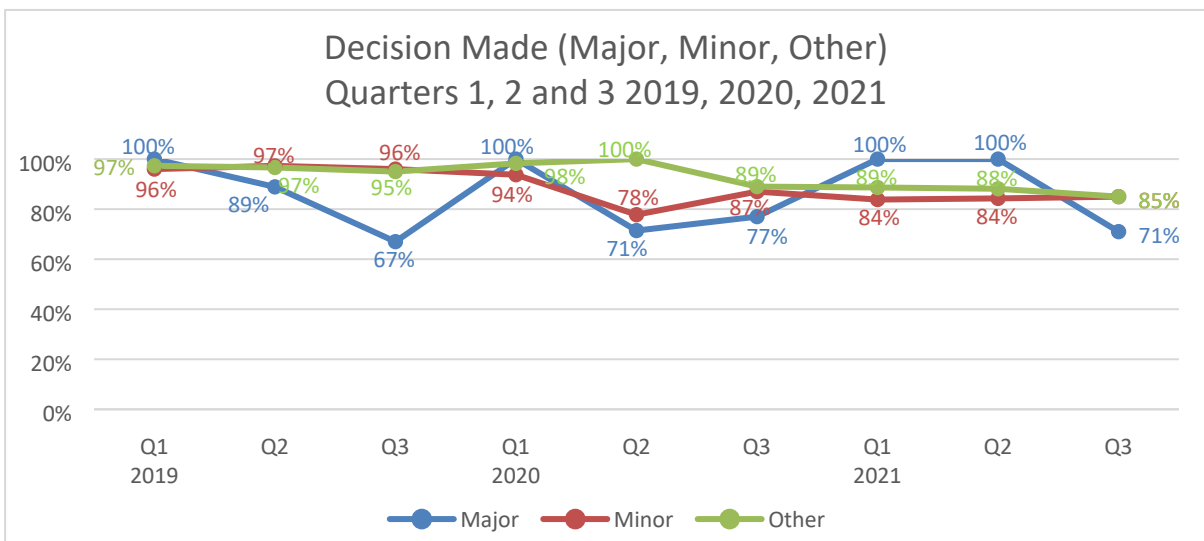
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2.2 The chart below shows the performance of the Service over the same time periods. The rate of determining applications ‘minor’ and ‘other’ applications (this comprises the vast majority of all applications) has slowed down a little in 2021. This is only to be expected given the high numbers of applications received during 2020. The determination rate still significantly exceeds national and local targets.

2.3 This is a major achievement but has depended on the ability to agree ‘Extensions of Time’ with the applicant. This gives us more time to determine applications and still meet Government targets. The case for more resources has been accepted and we have been able to recruit to a number of posts in December and expect new appointments to be in post early in 2022.

Key performance against national targets for speed and quality of decision making:  
Quarters 1 -3 (April – December): 2019 - 2021



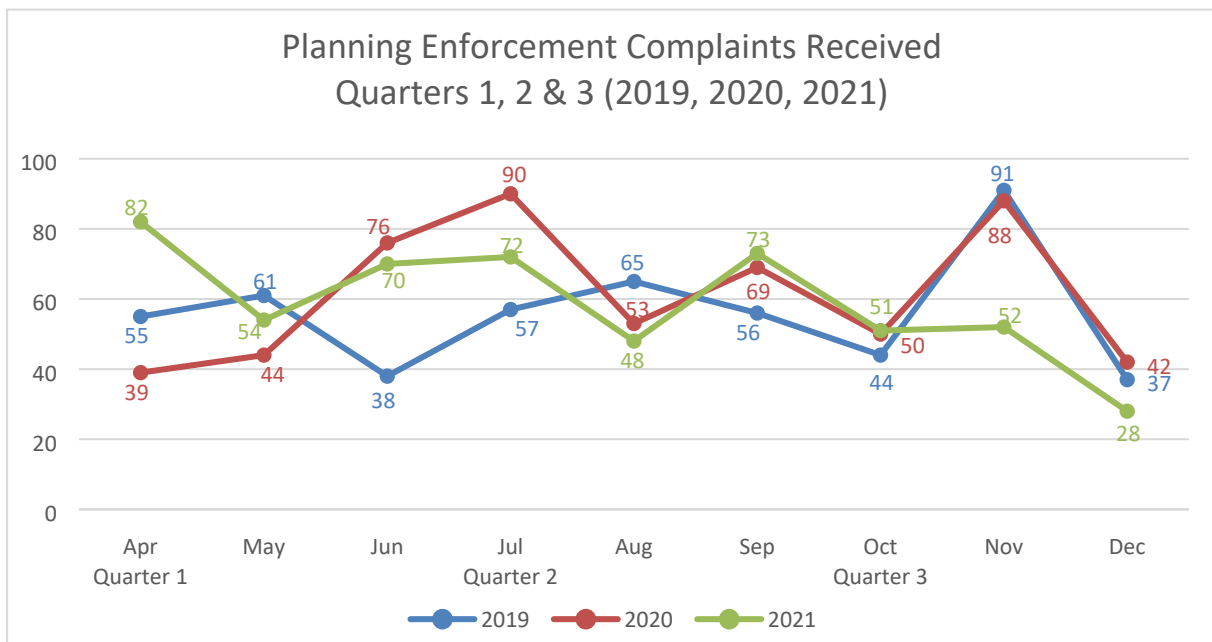
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2.4 The pressure on this part of the Service continues with planning applications having been received for 31 of the 47 housing sites allocated in the Local Plan (approximately 5,400 homes (as at 30 November 2021). This equates to 73% of the homes allocated in the Local Plan.

2.5 The capacity of the Service is stretched by the increased pressure relating to dealing with many complex and contentious applications. Whilst working from home has not presented any major issues it does however have some implications for performance. It is a significant team effort across the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.

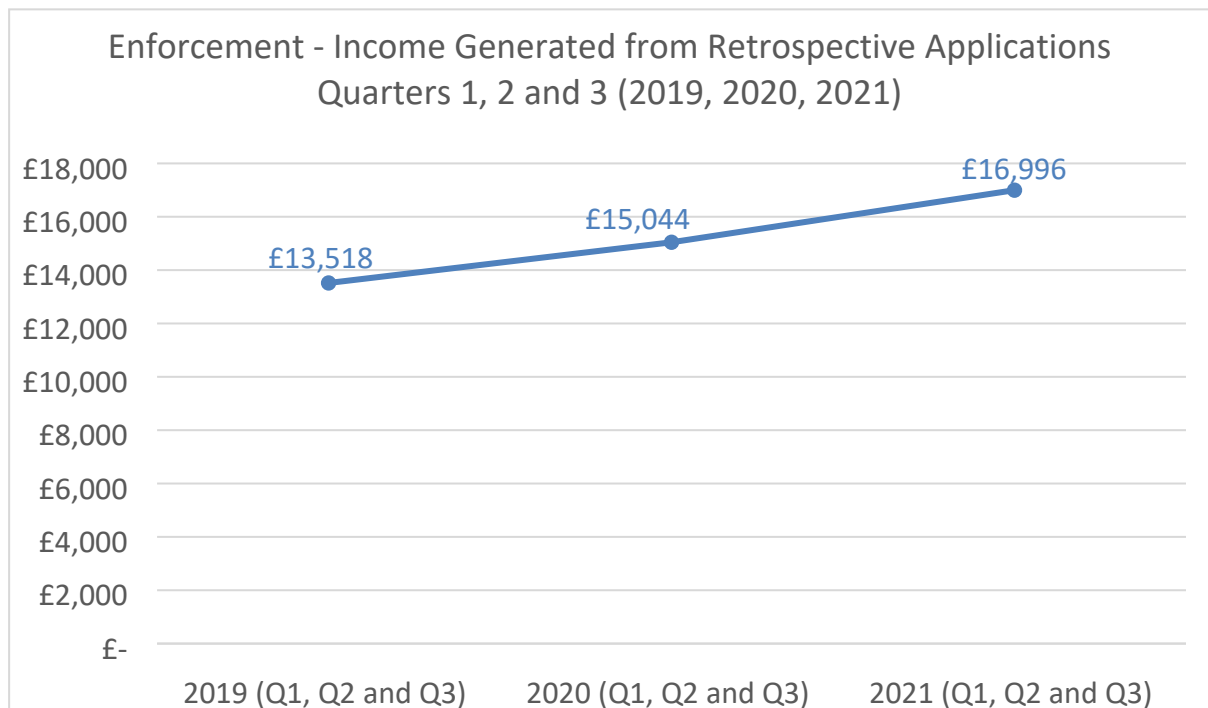
## Enforcement

2.6 At the start of lockdown there was a significant dip in the number of enforcement complaints. However within a few weeks this began to rise again and the number of complaints significantly exceeded those in the same period the previous year. There was another peak in complaints in late 2020 when there was a further lockdown. These might be explained by more people working from home and deciding to carry out development to their home, and more people noticing what is happening as they are also based at home. Complaints in 2021 show lower levels than just after the onset of COVID, but higher than pre-COVID numbers. The numbers in Quarter 3 have been lower than in the same period for 2019 and 2020.



2.7 The chart below shows the income generated from following up complaints which has resulted in planning applications being submitted, with a steady rise from 2019 to 2021.

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2.8 During Quarters 1 – 3 in 2021 there have been some contentious enforcement complaints to deal with, notably:

**Formby Football Club** – The enforcement notice that has been served has not been fully complied with. The use of the site as a waste recycling centre has ceased and the operators have left the site but have left some material behind. The land owners have claimed that this material was in situ previously and the land has now been returned to its previous condition. The Council disputes this and the matter is now being dealt with by the Council’s Legal department with a view to prosecuting for non-compliance with the notice. The preliminary hearing was heard in December during which the defendant pleaded not guilty to failing to comply with the enforcement notice. The matter is therefore proceeding to trial in the Magistrates Court in March unless the remaining material is removed and the enforcement notice is fully complied with before that date.

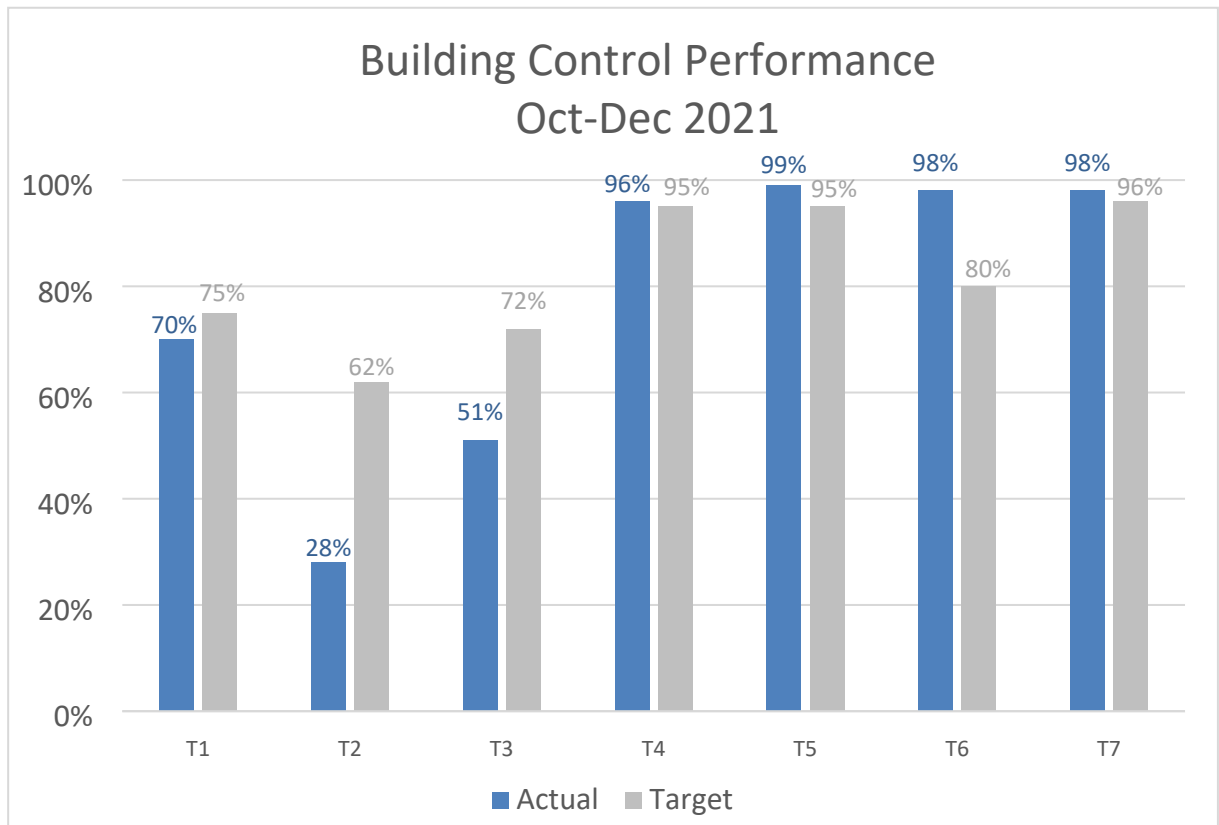
### **Rock Lane Travellers Site, Melling**

In December the Planning Inspectorate issued their decision, quashing the enforcement notice and granting planning permission for the continuation of the use of the site for residential purposes including the siting of caravans.

## **3. Building Control**

### Performance targets

3.1 The number of building regulation applications received over the past 18 months is shown elsewhere in this report. This section focuses on the Building Control Team’s performance over that last quarter (Quarter 3 Oct - Dec 2021), as shown in the tables below:



	Detail	Target	Actual	Remarks
T1	Market share	75%	71%	Target not being met – increased workload/ reduction in marketing
T2	Full Plans app decision / schedule within 3 weeks	62%	31%	Target not being met – increased workload, covering site work, staffing
T3	Full Plans app decision / schedule within 5 weeks	72%	55%	Target not being met – increased workload, covering site work, staffing
T4	Full Plans app conditionally or fully approved	95%	96%	Target being exceeded
T5	Site insp’s carried out on day they were arranged for	95%	99%	Target being exceeded
T6	Customer satisfaction rating (from March 2019)	80%	98%	Target being exceeded - from 2019 ISO customer questionnaire
T7	Sickness absence – attendance levels	96%	98%	Target being exceeded

3.2 The Building Control Team continues to meet its key statutory targets in relation to plan-checking and the carrying out of site inspections. It is also meeting the majority of the locally set performance targets. Results for year 2020/21 show that the Team’s market share was 75% - which is equal to or better than that of neighbouring authorities and is significantly above the average for English Councils, which stands at 67%. However, results from the first, second and third quarters of 2021/22 show that the Teams market share has reduced slightly.

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The Team’s performance in respect of timely decision making on deposited applications shows that all statutory targets are being met. However, due to an increased number of Building Regulation applications being received and staffing shortages, the performance against some of the locally set targets (including market share) has shown a slight reduction in the first three quarters of 2021/22.

## Income and financial performance

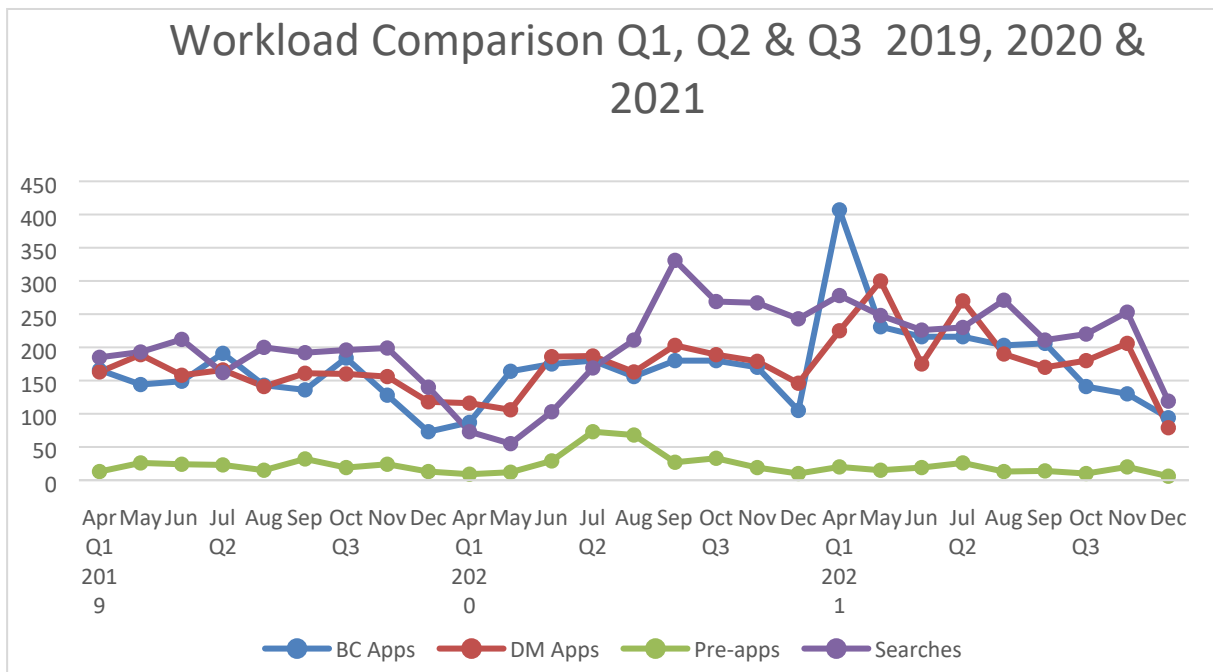
3.3 Building Regulation income for 2020/21 delivered an operating surplus - which will be used to off-set the cost of providing the statutory elements of the service, such as dealing with dangerous structures and safety at sports grounds. Income remains on course to deliver another operating surplus.

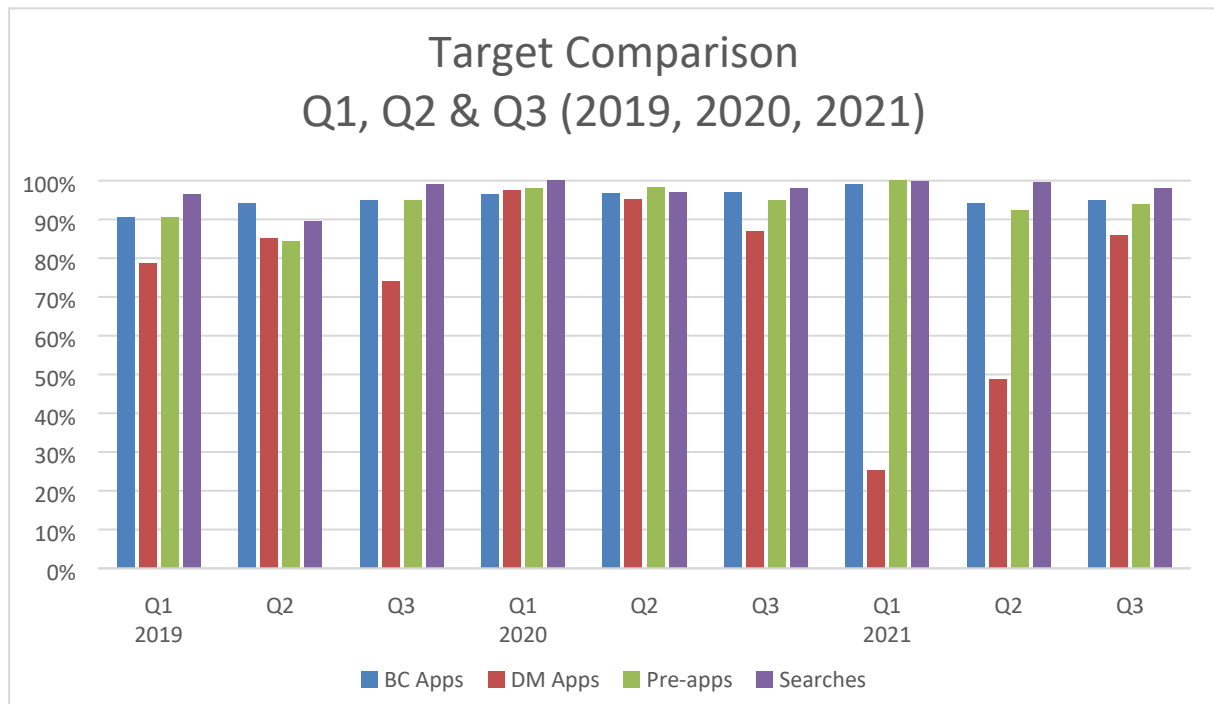
## Safety at sports grounds

3.4 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections in order to check the grandstands are properly maintained. The inspection of the five grandstands at Aintree Racecourse were undertaken in January 2021 and inspections at Southport FC and Marine FC are due be undertaken towards the end of 2021/ beginning of 2022. In January 2022, Building Control Officers will start the process of checking plans and details for temporary structures for the April 2022 Grand National meeting at Aintree Racecourse.

## 4. Technical Support

4.1 The chart below shows performance over the last three quarters (April –June, July – September and October - Dec 2021) compared with the same periods for 2019 and 2020.





4.2 As can be seen from the graphs above, the number of applications and service requests across the Service has continued to at a high level. Quarter 3 has seen an improvement in performance over Quarter 2 in respect of the validation of planning applications. Performance is good, and over target in most areas. One key member of the team has left the team this quarter and another has commenced maternity leave. This will have an impact on the performance of the team until additional resources are in place.

4.3 The team is multi-functional and resources are allocated to the most urgent priorities daily. Whilst there has been an increase in performance on the planning application and land charges functions this has led to a slight reduction in performance against the targets for building control and pre-application enquiries.

#### 4.4 **Service Development**

Work is progressing at pace to ensure the transfer of the Local Land Charges Register to HM Land Registry. The project is now in the data extraction and data cleansing phases and completion is anticipated in mid 2022.

### 5. **Local Planning**

#### The Sefton Local Plan

5.1 Planning applications continue to be submitted on allocated sites. Of the 47 housing sites allocated in the Local Plan (policy MN2) planning applications have been received for 31, equating to approximately 5,400 homes (as at 30 November 2021). This equates to 73% of the homes allocated in the Local Plan.

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## Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents

5.2 The Planning Policy Team are currently working on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents to support the Local Plan. These include:

- Affordable Housing
- Conversions to Flats and HMOs
- New Housing
- House Extensions
- Design
- Sustainable Travel
- Shopfronts, Security and Signage
- Boundary Treatments

5.3 Whilst these have been delayed a little due to staff being temporary used for other projects, it is anticipated these will be made available for public consultation in the 2022.

### Liverpool City Region work

5.4 The Combined Authority undertook early engagement with the public on the Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) for the Liverpool City Region concluding January 2020 to which the Council submitted comments. The next stage of consultation on the SDS is expected in Summer 2022 and the Council will fully engage with this, and the supporting evidence.

### Bootle Area Action Plan

5.5 To help support the regeneration and transformation of the wider Bootle area it has been decided to produce a Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP). This will set out a vision, objectives, projects, policies and priorities for the area. This will be led by the Planning Policy Team. In order to assist with this work, the Council has been successful in securing funding from a range of sources for various aspects of the Bootle AAP. These are:

- £138,000 from the Combined Authority to secure consultants to help with the AAP document preparation, background evidence and community engagement
- £50,000 from the MHCLG for the Council to test the Draft Model Design Toolkit in Bootle as a pilot scheme. Sefton was one of 14 Local Planning Authorities that were successful (out of over 70 applicants)
- £14,000 from the Local Government Association to procure guidance on a range of project delivery methods.

5.6 Public consultation on the Bootle AAP Issues and Options paper is currently ongoing.



- 5.7 The Design Pilot work is now completed, and the report was been submitted to the MHCLG. The Design Pilot focussed on canal side sites in Bootle. Public engagement was undertaken on this over the summer. The Design Pilot will help to inform the strategy and policies in the emerging Bootle AAP. The report received exceptionally positive feedback from the MHCLG (now DLUHC - Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities).

## Other work

- 5.8 The Planning Policy team continues to provide policy advice on all relevant planning applications and pre-application inquiries, including large housing developments on the Local Plan allocations.
- 5.9 Following recent applications and appeal hearings for traveller accommodation sites, it has been decided that the Council's evidence base for gypsy and traveller accommodation needs to be updated.
- 5.10 The Council is also undertaking a replacement Playing Pitch Strategy so that we have the evidence to deal with applications on existing playing pitches or can help secure contributions for improvements to existing pitches from large development proposals. The new strategy will also help support the Council's applications for funding for improvements to its playing pitches.
- 5.11 To inform a future Sefton Local Plan review, and the emerging Bootle AAP, the Council wish to commission an Employment Land and Premises Study. This will look at the need for employment land and premises in Sefton and assess the Council's current supply and make a recommendation on whether a shortfall, or over-supply, exists or not. This will be commissioned before Easter and will report later in the summer of 2022.

## **6. Heritage and Conservation**

### Heritage at Risk

- 6.1 We are continuing to work towards the removal of the 6 Conservation Areas from the National Heritage at Risk Register. This includes a number of different work areas including raising their profile through Twitter and Facebook, regeneration funding bids, working with the local community, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, taking enforcement and other legal action in relation to a number of derelict sites and listed buildings in these areas..
- 6.2 Progress has been made on a number of Heritage at Risk sites including working with colleagues and partners on a number of Council owned Listed Buildings to secure their improvement and long term use and sustainability.

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## Regeneration

- 6.3 The capital build part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project is progressing, and discussions continue with targeted building and discussions with interested property owners. The first grant application has been awarded and works have started at 509-515 Lord Street, a grade 2 Listed Building on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register.
- 6.4 The learning and skills part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project has made significant progress in developing complementary training and education initiatives. This includes Southport's Victorians is a ninety minute interactive play aimed at school children aged 9-14yrs. Excerpts of the script have been filmed for Youtube and we are looking to find ways of introducing it into the curriculum, working with Southport based Primary Schools. A successful and comprehensive week of Heritage Open Days 10-19th Sept has been undertaken in the town centre, the first events within the project. This included devising new town trails and a special children's heritage treasure trail. Volunteers are being recruited for a variety of events programmed over the next three years. We are working closely with The Atkinson, CVS, Southport Civic Society and other local organisations.
- 6.5 Discussions have taken place on a number of Heritage at Risk sites which are considered to be key strategic sites to find new uses or upgrade them to modern facilities so that they continue to be or find their optimum viable use and save them from further deterioration.

## Other Projects

- 6.6 After a successful joint bid from Sefton, Knowsley and Wirral Councils the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded a grant to develop both the supporting documentation (selection criteria) and to establish a system for members of the public to propose heritage assets for local listing. The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), a joint environmental service, are leading on the project which will hopefully enable the development of a platform for nominations very soon.

## Advice to Development Management team

- 6.7 The pressure on this part of the Service has increased significantly over the past year for consultation requests on planning applications and pre-applications relating to a number of Listed Buildings and developments within a number of our Conservation Areas and non-designated heritage assets.
- 6.8 This is a significant rise in workload in this area. Back in Quarter 3 of last year this number was up on the figures for the previous two quarters, mainly in response to the rise in pre-applications as a result of the fee being waived. However this number has been exceeded in Quarter 1 this year despite the fee no longer being waived. In addition, this part of the Service continues to assist in various appeals, on-site monitoring and

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The past months have been unprecedented for the Council. The Service has strived to maintain high levels of performance, but sustained increases in the numbers of applications and staffing issues have begun to impact on performance and a number of key targets are unlikely to be met this year.
- 7.2 Appropriate technology has been put in place to support staff and services, and staff have performed to the best of their ability. Staff surveys show the service has been able to respond to key issues in order to maintain essential services whilst maintaining staff morale.
- 7.3 The service has risen to the challenge posed by Covid with an innovative package of measures to promote and encourage economic activity by incentivising development, and the Council has been recognised nationally for this exceptional approach. We are seeing the results of this now with numbers of applications for planning permission and building approval restored to, and exceeding, pre-Covid levels which is maintaining inward investment into the Borough.
- 7.4 A new measure aimed at making the planning process more transparent and participants more accountable in the form of publishing comments online has taken a short while to embed, and this has impacted on resources.
- 7.5 Major legislative change is heralded in the Planning White Paper and we will outline the implications of this for the Planning Service in subsequent updates. In the meantime, the Service continues to respond to the unsettled context in which we are currently operating and we look forward to being able to improve performance in areas where it has been under strain due to high workload levels. We are prepared to adapt to further changes on the horizon.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) -</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Marion Atkinson	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills	March 2022

## **INVESTSEFTON UPDATE**

### **Summary**

InvestSefton’s key area of focus for the past 20 months has been the development, delivery and disbursement of emergency business grant funding from Government Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) which are summarised in this report. At the start of the pandemic InvestSefton also supported business rates by handling 2,140 telephone enquiries for a six- week period to allow the Revenues team to expedite grant support. Since April 2020 Sefton Council has made 23,147 grant payments to 22,848 business recipients totalling £97,613,018

Further ARG has been allocated to the Liverpool City Region for a new grant scheme titled ‘Trading On’ to help support small-medium sized businesses (10-249 employees). Sefton’s allocation is £1,438,890.58 has now been fully expended with grants awarded to 96 businesses.

A further £336,185 ARG has also been allocated and an additional grant window was opened for two weeks ending 7 February 2023. Over 300 applications were received, and appraisals are ongoing.

InvestSefton has continued to provide business support during the pandemic through its external funded programmes with enquires reaching unprecedented levels alongside website visits which have surpassed 52,000. The team has also handled over 4,800 enquiries.

The LCR ERDF Business Growth Programme has been approved for a project extension from 1 January 2022-30 June 2023 by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities . The legal process is currently being firmed up. The ERDF Place Marketing for Investment Project has also been approved.

Inward Investment has also been secured most notably in Bootle through Mersey Reach and Atlantic Park while the team has supported Southport Town Deal and Southport Business Park activities. Other investment and expansion enquiries remain ongoing and active.

The team is now beginning to return to ‘business as usual’ activities as part of the Economic Growth & Housing service’s Recovery plan. This will help with transitioning work which is being planned as part of the wider review of the Sefton Economic Strategy for summer 2022. The team have begun face to face events for businesses and Business Advisers are also meeting customers on site which is also encouraging.

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## Covid business Grants

### Trading On Scheme

The Business Grants team is currently delivering the ARG Trading On Scheme. This is **£1,438,890.58** grant programme for Sefton businesses for small or medium-sized businesses, with between 10 and 249 employees

Update as of 10 February 2022:

Total no of applications	125
Rejections/Transfers /Withdrawals	29
Ready for Payment/Approved	96

All checks completed approved applications banded into a matrix to determine grant levels on a broad LCR basis based on job no's.; financial losses and commercial property costs. Sefton has now defrayed its entire allocation of £1,438,890.58 with grant payments reaching business accounts by 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### LCR ARG 3 Scheme

The Government has provided Sefton Council, and other neighbouring local authorities in the Liverpool City Region, with further Additional Restrictions Grant payments (ARG3). This fund is to support businesses severely impacted by the rise of the Omicron variant and will be allocated to those businesses most in need, in particular those in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors.

Sefton Council's ARG3 allocation is **£336,185**. The Council anticipates high demand for ARG3 grant funding, therefore it could not guarantee that all applications received during the grant window would be approved for a grant payment i.e., the ARG3 grant scheme is not intended to support all businesses that have been impacted by the Omicron variant. For the avoidance of doubt, the ARG3 grant is intended for businesses that are ineligible for the Omicron Hospitality & Leisure grant (OHLG) which is being delivered Council's Business Rates team.

In determining the criteria of this grant scheme, the Council has had to balance defraying the small allocation of funding within the shortest period and supporting those businesses that can evidence being most impacted by the Omicron variant.

The scheme opened on 25 January and closed on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. ARG 3 allocations are limited and applications were dealt with on a first come first served basis. Grant levels have been agreed at LCR level:

£1,0000-Home based businesses

£3,000-Businesses in commercial premises (but not eligible for Omicron Grant)

Update below as of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022:

Total Number of Applications	309
Stage One	207
Rejections/ Transfers/ Withdrawals	77
Ready for Payment/ Approved	25

Full details on all Covid schemes can be viewed at:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/business-rates/covid-19-business-support-for-202021-202122/>

The Business Grant and Business Rates teams are working closely to ensure we meet our government deadlines in February and March to ensure all monies are fully expended.

## Business engagement

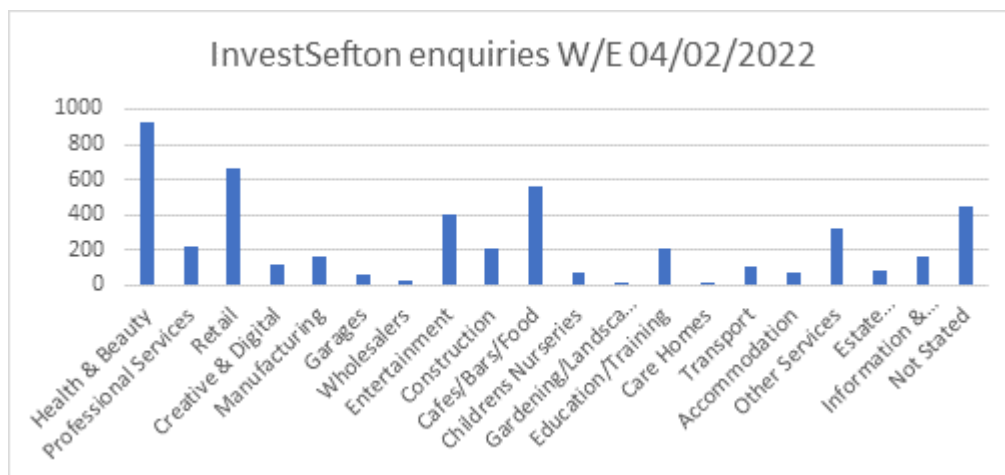
### Website

InvestSefton website has a dedicated COVID 19 landing page which is updated regularly with the latest guidance and news from Government, Growth Platform, Sefton Council and other sources of help. Since the site has gone live (Monday 30th March 2020) until Thursday 3rd February 2022, it has received 52,172 unique sessions. From Friday 28th January 2022 to Thursday 3rd Feb 2022 the website has had 344 sessions.

The top two visited pages were financial support and starting a business. The top five countries of origin accessing the website are as follows: UK (85.5%), US (7.6%), China (1.5%) Canada (0.9%) and Ireland (0.9%).

### Business enquiries

InvestSefton supported Business Rates during the first month of the delivery of the Small Business Grant and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grants, handling over 1,740 recorded calls with a further 400 unrecorded due to the volumes of demand. The team is receiving record numbers of enquiries. InvestSefton has handled **4,833 enquiries** from a wide range of businesses. Breakdown by type of business is provided as of 4 February 2022.



*Of these, 1,767 were in connection with business premises, starting a business, rates and business grant payments/ongoing business support through the pandemic. The remaining 3,066 are of a general business support nature including business start-up and property searches. As can be seen in the above graph most enquiries have come from businesses services such as high street retailers, including cafe's, hair/beauty salons but other sectors are also emerging as owners seek what support will be available in the event of ongoing restrictions.*

Recent case studies below; business names have been anonymised:

**Murder Mystery weekends-Crosby**-owner invented the interactive murder mystery concept in 1981 and received an M.B.E. for the huge boost to tourism that she has achieved. The business performs mystery murder weekends all over the country but like most businesses during lockdown suffered financially through loss of business. InvestSefton has supported the owner by advising on access to finance including Covid Grant support and the team recently received the following message from the business "I know this isn't exactly the thing to do, but I just wanted to say a genuine 'thank you so

# Agenda Item 8

*much', for your help thus far. We have received two small grants from Sefton and a small grant for help with marketing a new business"*

**Litherland Based US and novelty sweet retailer and wholesaler.** The business sells a wide variety of sweets, desserts and soft drinks taking orders in person and online and delivering throughout the Merseyside area. Stock is sourced throughout the UK to find products not sold by immediate competitors. Due to the pandemic the split of sales from in person to online has fluctuated and the business is now reviewing its model to identify areas of growth potential. InvestSefton supported the business by reviewing their website and providing recommendations for SEO improvement as well as supporting the business to apply for ARG grant funding.

**HR Consultancy based in a Business Centre in Maghull.** Customers include Local Government, schools, academies, call centres, hospitality and supply chain. The Company offers a range of HR and Business improvement services, including recruitment, absence management, performance management, conflict management and mental health & wellbeing. The Business is looking to source more business. InvestSefton supported the business by identifying specific sectors for targeted marketing including care providers and nurseries as well as helping with the development of a marketing flyer to specifically target SME's.

**Waterloo based nutrition business, providing support, consultations and nutritional strategies for clients based on scientific assessment of an individual's metabolic health.** The business operates from a private clinic in Waterloo or on site for group sessions with public sector/private organisations. The owner has a strong network of professional associates that they take referrals from and collaborates with but has reached a point where they need to review their business model in order to achieve further growth. InvestSefton has supported the business with developing a business plan as well as undertaking a managed referral to the New Markets programme to secure funding for digital marketing expenditure.

## **Inward Investment**

Inward Investment enquiries have seen an increase, although this continues to be focused on Industrial Space. The lack of a pipeline of supply remains a restraining factor on investment and growth. Nevertheless, the team is engaged in several confidential projects which, when more advanced and free of non-confidential agreements will be reported. Ongoing, non-confidential work includes:

- Mersey Reach Bootle-CNC Robotics has occupied a 12,133 sq ft unit following a recent relocation
- Southport Business Park- Ongoing work to support investment in the site. Work with interested local end users and developers. No 3 Southport Business Park (Former Paymentsfield House) – refurbishment works commenced to refurbish building in to a multi-let space. Working with agent and landlord to attract investment/occupiers.
- Santander – 15,000 sq ft of accommodation taken on a 10-year lease in Alaska House, Atlantic Park. Fit out to commence early November, with occupation early 2022.

## **Tourism**

### **Conferences**

Below is a summary of the opportunities that are being progressed, please note due to the closure of the Southport Theatre and Events Centre securing any form of major conference is extremely difficult.



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Pursuing	12
Proposal submitted	1
Awaiting response	0
Won	1
Lost	6
Closed	9
Low Priority/Future contact requested	2
RFP	2

Lions Club and Ladies Aglow have committed to requests for proposals for their events in Spring 2023, Further contact has been made with them since the festive break period and activities to progress their bids continue. Both events are approximately 500 delegates for three nights and two nights respectively. These would be held in local hotels with the right conference space.

Ladies Aglow previously were considering October 2022 but after a board meeting with their members on 7<sup>th</sup> January they decided that there remains a cautious attitude to attending an in-person event so opted to request pricing and availability for Spring 2023.

- A workshop was hosted with the events staff from Britannia Prince of Wales and Royal Clifton. The workshop focussed on how Britannia hosting the biggest capacity venues have an opportunity to win business during the closure of the current Southport Theatre and Convention Centre (STCC) and the opening of the new entertainments, conference, and exhibition venue. It is also an opportunity for Britannia to change perception of their product and service by responding and delivering to exceed expectations. An action plan was drawn up to implement some key activities to improve their response to bids and a further meeting is to be confirmed with their group GM.
- Sustainability and Carbon Zero – We are currently working with Scott Mclean representing Green Business Tourism Association (GBTA) and Green Business Meetings (GBM). GBM have recently formed a partnership with Meetings Industry Association with a view to rolling out their accreditation across the country. Engagement with our respective partners to seek commitment is taking place.
- Business reviews are planned with some of the Guest Houses and a meeting with key Southport Hotels Association members took place to discuss the challenges of the coming year and how Meet Southport can best support them. Hospitality Southport which engages with the larger hotels will be meeting late February.

## Destination Marketing

**Christmas Campaign** – the Christmas campaign ran throughout December. Advertising to the local market was funded by Southport BID and included local radio, press ads and targeted digital activity. The regional campaign was funded via the ERDF. This included regional radio, Instream, 48 sheet digital displays, e-newsletter, VisitSouthport website, Facebook, Instagram and Google. It was generally felt that it was the best campaign we had run for some years and Marketing Southport and the BID look forward to developing this partnership further for Christmas 2022.

**Design Agency** – the contract for our Design & Campaign Management Agency was placed on The Chest in November and the contract for 2022 was awarded to Gingerhead.

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**PR** – The tender for our agency went on The Chest in December. There were 11 submissions and after scoring Fido PR were selected. They have provided an initial calendar and activity schedule for the 2022-23 financial year. Discussions with them are ongoing.

**Visitor Guide** – the 2022 guide has been delivered to various national and local channels and distribution commenced at the beginning of February.

**Southport Restaurateurs Association** – The 2022 Eating Out Guide has been printed and is currently being delivered to the local distribution network (restaurants, attractions, accommodation providers etc.).

**E-newsletter** - Database stands at circa 50,000 with the addition of 2021 data and regular newsletters are sent to this audience.

**Travel Trade** – We continue to see enquiries from travel companies over recent weeks – requests for images for their 2022 guides, information requests regarding parking, drop-off points etc. Campaign planning for 2022 is underway in conjunction with our agency. Options being worked on are exhibitions, buyer familiarisation trip, advertising, e-newsletter and PR / editorial placement.

**Golf** – We are working with England's Golf Coast to manage the re-scheduling of overseas golf business. 2021 was a difficult year with travel restrictions across the world. However, on a positive note, most of the business has been rewritten into this year rather than lost. Sefton golf clubs and hoteliers are being extremely supportive in holding rates for the rescheduled business. Our main issue at present is the availability of tee times on the top courses for overseas groups.

**Marketing Southport** – membership currently stands at 107 (111 this time last year). We have lost several businesses (closures or COVID affecting cash flow so unable to afford membership fees).

## Events

### The Southport Food & Drink Festival (2<sup>nd</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> June)

- The closing date for applications is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February. There has been a huge interest in the event.
- After the closing date, the applications will be assessed, and the successful companies will be contacted in due course.
- Due to the Jubilee celebrations and additional bank holiday's the event will span 4 days instead of the usual 3.

### Southport Air Show (9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July)

- The Air Show tickets are now on sale. Changes for 2022 are that under 16's are free. There is also a new ticket allowing you to view the show from the Pier.
- Trader booking are starting to increase, and time will be spent contacting companies who have previously attended to see if they are booking for 2022.
- Procurement of infrastructure is taking place and quotes are being requested. Orders will be placed after the 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- The Armed Forces have been contacted regarding their involvement in the ground activity.
- An aircraft 'shopping list' is being pulled together by the Flying Display Director for consideration by the Events Team.
- Various ground attractions are being contacted and booked in.
- The Air Show is in July this year due to tide times.

### The British Musical Fireworks Championship (23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July)

- 7 competitors have now been confirmed for 2022.
- Infrastructure is being secured and quotes obtained.
- Tickets will be on sale shortly

We are also working with The European Tour with regards to the Cazoo Classic that will take place at Hillside Golf Course on the 21<sup>st</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Tourism Operations**

### **Southport Market**

- Southport Market performed strongly over the Christmas period. The market closed for a two-week period after the festive season, giving the chefs and serving staff a two-week break.
- The Market continues to evolve, and the offer refine, recently the market has seen a new children's play area/shed installed along with delivery of a new outdoor seating area ready to accommodate up to 100 customers
- A new independents market has now commenced to complement the monthly maker's market. An Arts Market along with Flower Market will also commence from April.

### **Southport Theatre and Convention Centre**

- The STCC will be mothballed over the next couple of months, this will minimise the costs of services, gas, electric etc. We will also take the opportunity of making the building safe against illegal entry.
- Work has started to remove the ceiling in the theatre due to the high risk of it collapsing.

### **Southport Pier**

- After going out to tender, we expect the contract to replace the pier decking to be awarded imminently. The decking will take several years to complete due to the size and cost of the project.
- At the request of Sefton's insurers, we are looking at the viability of CCTV and gates on the pier, we continue to work with our colleagues in Planning and Sefton Arc to bring this request to fruition if we can secure the finances and planning permissions.

### **Marine Lake Events Centre**

- The Design team have been appointed to take the scheme through to completion. AFL Architects who have vast experience in event centre design have been appointed.
- Both the procurements for Civils and Mechanics have been completed, AECOM have been appointed for both services. AECOM did the initial work up to stage 2
- Meetings with Water and Light Show companies have taken place to understand the services in more detail. Procurement to commence shortly.

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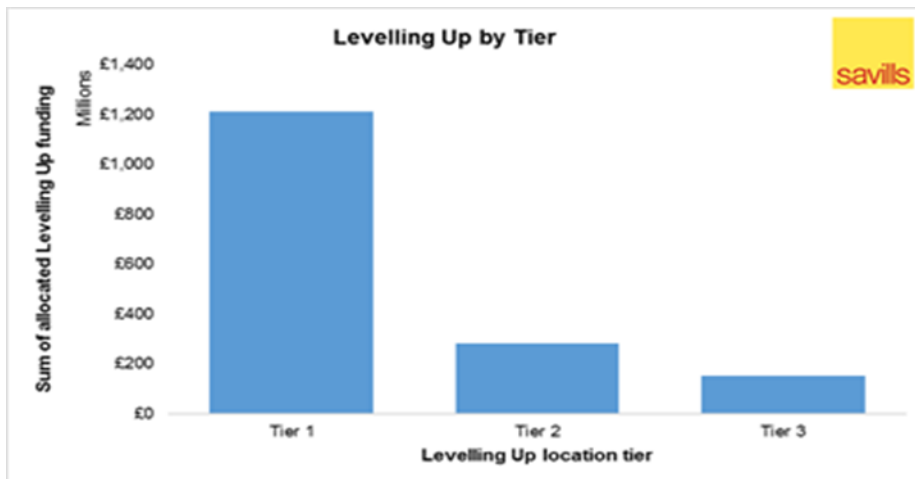
- CBRE have been appointed as Planning and Heritage consultants, the same team that worked on the new Everton stadium with WSP being appointed as transport advisors
- Procurement for Environmental advisors is underway via The Chest along with a number of other services and surveys
- The Operator Procurement is also underway, this process will take 5-7 months to complete
  
- Meetings with other LA's have taken place to understand best practice and lessons learnt

## **GROWTH & INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATES**

### **LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER**

The Levelling Up White paper was issued by DLUCH in February 2022. [Link here: [Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom)] There has been no corresponding announcement yet on new funding allocation to support delivery however further announcements are anticipated including the emerging Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)

It is anticipated there will be a further round of Leveling Up Funding in 2022. It is not clear yet when the prospectus will be issued or what categorisation/criteria will be used. The Levelling Up White Paper provides some clarity on the main areas of focus for the Government. Informal feedback on Sefton's Round 1 bids advised strong bids were submitted clearly identifying strategic fit, deliverability and value for money. The graph below shows where the funds were directed in terms of Category Tiers 1-3 priority. (Sefton was in Tier 3).



## **SEFTON GROWTH AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

### **Welcome Back Fund (DLUCH)**

This is an extension to the current Re-opening High Street Safely (RHSS) funding allocated to Sefton last year for safe re-opening following the first Covid lockdown in March 2020. This brings a further allocation of £344K to Sefton Council to spend on its town centre re-opening. This ERDF fund is very constrained in terms of eligible activity and can only be used on specific types of activity. Events and activity associated with attracting people back into the town centres, making them more attractive and safer has been the main focus of the fund.

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Welcome Back Fund has supported a number of activities:

- Support to develop an action plan for safe reopening of local economies;
- Communications and public information relating to public safety messaging;
- Business-facing awareness raising activities and guidance.
- Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
- Support for a safe public environment for Sefton's visitor economy.
- Events and activities to encourage visitors back to the High Street.

All funds have to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 so this programme is nearing its end.

## **BOOTLE TOWN CENTRE**

**Bootle Strand** –The Council is driving forward plans for a repurposed Strand Shopping Centre following completion of key acquisition and site clearance work including :

**Strand Transformation** – work is ongoing to explore options for repurposing the Strand. This will look at the future development options and operational arrangements for this key town centre asset and help inform member consideration of the best approach to take to optimise this key town centre asset, to aid town centre recovery and regeneration.

**Bootle Canalside** - Work is progressing to complete the semi-permanent Bootle Canalside event and activity space. Following the successful August Bank Holiday event and recent Christmas themed family event linking with local schools and community groups, further consultation and engagement on use of this site is ongoing. The Bootle Canalside pop-up provided a taster launch of the area concept and the Christmas event was used as a further opportunity for feedback on the use of this key site next to the canal and included involvement of local primary school children who came down to the site for a pre-Christmas event.

## **SOUTHPORT**

### **Southport Town Deal**

Following the Southport Town Deal allocation of £37.5m work is progressing to finalise detailed business case approval in accordance with the Town Deal requirements. These will go to Cabinet for consideration in March 2022 for the next phase of projects in the £37.5M programme:

- Enterprise Arcade
- Les Transformation de Southport (Public Realm enhancement)
- Building a Better Customer Experience

The Business Case for Marine Lake Events Centre will be submitted later this year as agreed with DLUH.

Programme Management includes development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for programme delivery and output measurement reporting to Government for the Town Deal programme. Following the Business Case approval these will be submitted to Government for approval later in 2022.

### **Southport Market**

Comprehensive refurbishment and refit of traditional market hall into a new food and drink offer with a flexible events space capable of holding events and temporary markets.

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Southport Town centre investment strategy identified the need to broaden out the traditional local visitor economy and encourage diversification and enterprise development. In particular it identified a number of key opportunity areas including areas of public sector ownership which could be utilised to help address the connectivity and visitor movement as well as business enterprise and development. The existing market was struggling and in need of refurbishment to both attract investment and meet customer demand. Building on the success of the Southport Food and Drink Festival, its town centre location the market hall was identified as a key opportunity for both changing the town centre offer to attract new visitors, generate footfall and help draw people into new areas of the town centre as part of a market quarter.

Refurbishment and repurposing of this key facility were seen as a way to optimise the building's unique architectural form and presence in the town centre whilst at the same time signaling change, creating a sense of place, generating additional footfall and encouraging diversity. The £1.4m refurbishment and repurposing of this key town centre facility is now complete, trading well and receiving positive feedback from customers and visitors to the area. Significant trade has been noted following its opening and adjacent vacant premises become occupied since its opening. addition.

## 5.3 The Enterprise Arcade, Southport

Linked to para 5.1, refurbishment of one of Southport's central town centre buildings next to Southport Market for a new business hub. This will be the first ever purpose-built workspaces for start-up creative and digital businesses in Southport. In October Cabinet approved plans to transform the Crown Buildings in Southport town centre into a high tech, collaborative and affordable workspace for small businesses, dubbed the 'Enterprise Arcade.' Forming part of the Southport Town Deal, £1.5 million has been earmarked for the regeneration and transformation of Crown Buildings, eventually creating a purpose built hub for individuals, freelancers, enterprises, and independent professionals who are taking their first steps into setting up their own business.

The Enterprise Arcade project is a key project within the Southport Town Deal programme to kickstart the previously untapped digital, creative and technological sectors within the resort.

Press release can be seen here: [Exciting Enterprise Hub plans revealed for historic Southport building - My Sefton News Channel](#)

## CROSBY

### CROSBY TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Levelling Up funding bid was unsuccessful however feedback from Government was encouraging and did not discount further effort in this regard. The Levelling Up White Paper was published 2/2/22 awaiting a prospectus for a round 2 call for project expected later this year.

2021 Stakeholder engagement and consultation complete and a summary report and feedback will be presented to Consultation and Engagement Panel at next opportunity. Turnout was good for both the stakeholder and "drop-in event" in addition to c. 550 responses to the online questionnaire.

Central Buildings site development by Plus Dane for a mixed residential and commercial scheme is anticipated to start in early 2022.

## **CROSBY LAKESIDE**

Crosby Lakeside refurbishment continues with a new contractor following termination of the previous contractor due to failure of the contractor to perform. This has however been quickly addressed and procurement of a new contractor has taken place and a revised programme for delivery being is underway. A revised delivery programme is awaited for this scheme and a further update will be issued in the new year. The Sefton Council hospitality company (Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited) is in place to oversee the fit out and ongoing facility hospitality management once complete. Ongoing work on lake management and cycle path improvements and highway works has also taken place this year.

## **AINSDALE ON SEA**

### **Ainsdale Coastal Gateway**

Green Sefton consultation and engagement on Ainsdale Beach Gateway improvements completed and outcome being analysed, and report prepared. Planning application for beach Concessions has been submitted and is due for decision shortly. Beach Hut Petition (Boroughwide) presented to Full Council November 21 and decision made to progress with further expressions of interest. Toad Hall Artwork complete and receiving great coverage and exceptionally positive reviews. More positive media coverage continues and information sign in place. Tender for refurbishment of existing toilets being prepared and basic refurbishment due to start soon. Planning application for car park changes submitted and registered.

### **Ainsdale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandbrook Way**

Following member agreement to acquire leasehold interests in this centre to bring it into full Council ownership, negotiations have continued throughout the pandemic period and through 2021 and a number of properties have now been secured. The Council are exploring options for this centre once in Council ownership including how it can support the wider neighbourhood. Consultation on site development options took place in 2021 with Cabinet and Local Ward Councilors, which has helped inform the option appraisal for this site which is being assessed.

### **Cambridge Road Sefton Community Learning Centre**

Following approval in 2020 for Skills Capital Funding from LCRCA, work is almost completed on the refurbishment of this key adult learning facility which will provide enhanced access to training and skills resources for out of work residents or those wishing to retrain.

The investment has helped to improve the learning environment for users of the Cambridge Road facility, making better use of the space and reducing the operating costs for Sefton Council. Investment in this Grade II Listed building has resulted in the complete refurbishment of the ground floor facilities, a new reception area and café and a reconfiguring of the school hall as a new flexible area for teaching. The Community Learning Hub will also benefit from new IT infrastructure and will be fully WIFI enabled as a result of the investment. Work will also include repairing

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and enhancing the building's original features, with external improvements to the roof, windows, brick and stonework.

The investment works will ensure the external envelope of the building is wind and watertight. This will improve the energy efficiency of the building and reduce running costs. Work is anticipated to complete at the end of December on the first phase of refurbishment work.

## Employment And Learning Overview and Scrutiny February 2022

### European Structural Funding

Sefton@work is currently delivering two Esf projects. The main funding stream is through the LCR Ways to Work project to provide a broad-based employment offer for workless residents regardless of their benefit status, and the other is a more focused project called positive Inclusions which targets specific disadvantaged groups.

Cessation of European structural funds will occur at the end of 2023. With the extension of ESF for the LCR Ways to Work project now in place, this will allow Sefton@work to continue the provision to workless adults aged over 16 through to the autumn of 2023. Positive Inclusions will complete in December 2022.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The government has recently published its initial guidance on these funds which will be distributed via Mayoral combined authorities. Shared Prosperity funding was intended to provide a replacement for European structural funds for those areas which accessed it. The working assumption on the level of funding available for UKSPF is approximately £60m over 3 years. This will not cover the entirety of the ESF provision across the city region, so competition for funding is likely. Clarification of the offer provided under ESF will be extremely important to inform dialogue with government

### Sefton@work

### General Performance Data January 2022

NB these data may not be as comprehensive as usual due to the ongoing implementation of the Aptem CRM system and the exportation of cases from the system previously in use. Data will be validated once this process is complete.

Data Description	Range	Figures
Total Clients accessing service	Since 01/01/2016	4430
New Clients accessing service	January 2022	55
New clients registering by age	January 2022	16-24 14 25-49 29 50+ 12
New Registrations – NEET 16 - 25 1.3 clients only	January 2022	5
W2W contracts Male	Since 01/01/16 January 2022	54.5% 51.8%
W2W contracts Female	Since 01/01/16 January 2022	45.5% 48.1%
Positive Inclusions Male	Since 01/01/21 January 2022	72.2% 100.0%
Positive Inclusions Female	Since 01/01/21 January 2022	27.8% 0.0%
ESF clients with Disabilities/Health Conditions	Since 01/01/2016 January 2022	1,412 13
ESF clients without basic skills	Since 01/01/2016 January 2022	1,340 17
Supporting Families (new project replacing	All months	15



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Turnaround)		
People leaving the programme (into jobs/self-emp/training)	Since 01/01/2016	W2W & PI 1,635 200 Other programmes <b>Total 1,835</b>
Ways to Work Starts	Since 01/01/2016 January 2022	4,221 32
Positive Inclusions Starts	Since 01/01/2021 January 2022	72 4

## **Social Care Sector Workforce response**

Discussion have been ongoing with Adult Social Care teams to respond to the social care workforce crisis. The Council is in receipt of some funding to develop local responses to this problem. Sefton@work and Sefton Adult Learning have produced a menu of options which are being considered currently. Activities could include a survey conducted among social care employers about their recruitment methods, engagement with individual jobseekers about their attitudes and perceptions of the sector, jobs fairs with participating employers, training routeway for the sector or a workforce mentoring scheme to promote retention among new entrants.

## **Restart**

Sefton@work continues to deliver the Restart offer for clients referred in by JobCentreplus. Provision is going well, with all job & engagement targets met but the forecasted numbers of clients have not met expectations and the rate of referrals remain low. Almost no referrals of young people have been made to Restart, despite the high rates of youth unemployment. We expect this will change once the Kickstart scheme is wound up.

## **Positive Inclusions**

This project which has a stream targeting younger vulnerable people under 25 and another stream for older jobseekers over the age of 50. In common with all the other projects, the participation of young people remains lower than expected. A range of new engagement methods are being deployed to reverse this trend and new referral pathways with the Leaving Care team have been put in place. Sefton@work is also participating in Sefton's NEET Case Conferencing process, which promote collaboration across a wide range of agencies and providers.

## **Kickstart**

The government's Kickstart scheme will close for new entrants shortly, with last starts on the programme needing to be made before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. We expect the last starts on the scheme for the Council will be for new trainees within the Employment & Learning team, to be deployed in client engagement and reception duties, social media and marketing and a trainee information/advisory role.

## **Sefton Adult Learning Service**

Figures for this year are better than the same point in 2021, so the trend is a positive one and staff are constantly engaging new methods to market courses to potential learners, despite the reticence of many to come back to learning. Figures for the month of January since 2018/19 are compared below:

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**Sefton Adult Learning  
Performance update  
Year to Date Comparison**

	Target	18/19 1st Aug to 1st Jan	20/21 1st Aug to 1st Jan	21/22 1st Aug to 1st Jan
Total number of learners	2000	902	346	704
Total number of unique learning aims	2940	1218	518	896

Curriculum area	Learners			Learning Aims		
	18/19	20/21	21/22	18/19	20/21	21/22
01-Health, Public Services and Care	7	10	266	7	11	276
02-Science and Mathematics	8	0	0	8	0	0
03-Agriculture, Horticulture ad Animal Care	0	46	75	0	50	76
06-Information and Communication Technology	141	11	59	175	11	98
07-Retail and Commercial Enterprise	75	15	13	93	15	19
08-Leisure, Travel and Tourism	56	0	0	62	0	0
09-Arts, Media and Publishing	277	62	97	295	69	128
10-History, Philosophy and Theolog	0	16	23	0	16	23
11-Social Sciences	0	0	7	0	0	7
12-Languages, Literature and Culture	53	47	28	54	53	29
13-Education and Training	26	12	4	26	12	4
14.1-Foundation for Learning and Life	123	119	140	149	203	198
14.2-Preparation for Work	290	64	34	349	78	38

## Current Performance Highlights at 10/02/22

**729** learners have enrolled onto total number of **1075** courses since August 2021

**726** learners have completed Community Learning on 1005 courses. This reflects the comparatively greater demand for non-accredited learning at this time, and the prevalence of craft and wellbeing courses being offered throughout the Christmas period.

**66** Learners have completed qualifications since August 21, who have enrolled onto **70** qualifications

Curriculum Managers are currently planning our summer curriculum the deadline for this is 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. The focus is on developing more qualifications to rebalance the service's offer.

**142** courses have been cancelled since the beginning of the academic year August 2021

Recruitment Interviews for Site Coordinator and Community Learning Officer posts are in progress and should be concluded shortly.

Recruitment of sessional tutors remains an ongoing challenge, particularly for Maths and English delivery. This issue is a common challenge across all Adult Learning and vocational training provision and is proving difficult in the current climate.

## NEET REDUCTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE UPDATE

We are now in the process of collecting the Activity Survey from all schools, 50% have responded to date. This piece of work identifies Year 11 destinations for September this year and it highlights those young people who may be at risk of NEET and require additional support to assist them in making informed choices. Some schools have yet to respond, and these will be chased up within the next few weeks. In Sefton we aim to complete this exercise much earlier than the national deadline for completion (end May) to allow us to identify the groups to be supported and devise appropriate early interventions as quickly as possible in the academic year.

### CURRENT PERFORMANCE

- At **3.07%** the Sefton NEET and Not Known combined indicator for 16 and 17 year olds has decreased by **-0.51%** in comparison to January 2021
- In comparison to Sefton's 10 statistical neighbours, December 2021's performance showed that we had the lowest NEET & Not Known combined indicator
- Sefton's actual NEET had decreased by **0.91%** since January 2021
- Sefton's actual NEET had reduced year on year in the 16-17 age group by **-0.48%**
- NEET clients in Sefton are spending on average 11 days less NEET than in January 2021

### Performance against LCR partners, statistical neighbours, and North-West

- Sefton is ranked the lowest in the LCR NEET and Not Known for 16-17
- Sefton Statistical Neighbour 16-17 NEET and Not Known % (ranked 1st for lowest % in both 2020 and 2021)
- At **3%** for NEET and Not Known, this is the lowest recorded performance for Sefton
- December 21 performance is **-2.4%** below Northwest and **-2.3%** below the national average
- **30%** of the 16-17 year old NEET and Not Known clients are in a vulnerable group (51 out of 170)
- At **0.6%**, Sefton's Not Known has remained the same year on year. This is **-1.8%** below the regional average of **2.4%**
- On February 16, the current NEET is 279, a reduction of 94 young people from February 2021 (370)

### NEET CASE CONFERENCING MODEL

The NEET Case Conferencing Model was set up as a task group from the Post 16 Partnership Group. Its main aim is to bring together a range of internal and external partners to target and plan around some of Sefton's most vulnerable young people who are not in education, employment, or training and as a group, identify creative and innovative solutions to support a successful transition into EET.

The group has met 8 times and have received 20 referral cases. Of the 20, we have achieved 12 positive outcomes, 1 client has now moved out of the area, 5 are still NEET (2 of these have health problems) and 2 are new cases which are now being actioned.

The core members of the group include representatives from:

- Local Authority Reps – Lead officers working across all Vulnerable Groups
- Career Connect – Chair

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- Sefton@Work
- Colleges
- Training Providers
- Health
- Alternative Provision
- Schools Career Leads
- Family Support – Early Help

Some additional positive outcomes through this group in addition to the practical support for our young NEET clients have included:

- Sharing best practice
- Increased partnership working and ease of referrals across agencies
- Identifying gaps and themes to support NEET and 'at risk of NEET'
- Identification of pathways and training opportunities at Post 16
- Improved Information Sharing on new opportunities

## **Intensive Case loading of Young people with experience of Care across Employment & Learning Services**

We are currently undertaking an in-depth review of the support Sefton@Work, Sefton Adult Learning and Career Connect, through the NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service are offering to our NEET LAC/Care Leavers. This is still in its early stages but will help us to understand the barriers and obstacles some young people face which may be preventing them from entering into EET. This enables us to understand what additional vulnerable groups they may be linked to, the type of accommodation they currently live in, where they went to school, what level of qualifications they have and what vocational areas they are interested in should they be in a position to engage with us in the future.

## **LCR CARE LEAVERS task group**

Prompted by the LCR Employment & skills Portfolio holders group, this Task Group represents the 6 LAs and its scope will include:

- Establish common data sets across all Councils, to improve outcomes of NEET young people living out of area
- Identify what more can be done to support housing needs of Care leavers
- Engage with broader range of organisations and people for whom the corporate parenting duty is not mandatory.
- Identify reasons for inactivity and solutions to address these challenges
- Consider what further travel support could be provided for these young people
- Identify how care leavers can be helped to move on from their first job and progress in work
- Consider how to make ringfenced opportunities available within our own organisations; and

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- Identify how social value obligations from a wider range of providers, contracts and stakeholders can be optimised for the benefit of young people with experience of care leavers

## Positive Inclusion Case Studies -

Name of participant – AB

### **Brief overview of participant (including their background, barriers to employment, reason for registering with the project):**

Client was initially referred by Parenting 2000 and first presented to our outreach service. She is under the treatment of her GP and specialist services for extreme social anxiety. She is awaiting the results of an ASD test herself and is the mother of an autistic child who has transitioned to secondary school whilst we have been working with Client.

During our work with client her daughter has begun to receive support at home from CAMHS and several other organisations relating to safeguarding issues that she has disclosed.

AB wanted to move forward with her life and reach her full potential, setting an example for her children about the importance of education and eventual employment.

### **Summary of support provided by the project:**

Despite a fraught and distressing set of circumstances, client has worked with us to apply for, enrol and participate in a number of courses at her local FE college. Despite numerous issues at home and admitting she can be overwhelmed by deadlines set by tutors for handing in assignments etc, she has participated fully in her learning programme and produced work to a good standard and in a timely manner.

Client is finishing a level 2 course in autism awareness this month and moving on to a related L2 in understanding specific learning difficulties. We helped facilitate the latter course as it appears upon examination to provide the best foundation for AB's goal of undertaking a full level 3 diploma in SEN in the next academic year and progressing to allow her to progress to a teaching assistant role in SEN schools.

As an incentive for AB and to give her something to aspire to, while dealing with her current circumstances, we have looked at some of our current SEN TA roles to give her a flavour of what the work might look like and its availability.

### **Positive results/impacts on the participant as a result of their participation on the Positive Inclusion Programme:**

AB is working towards higher qualifications and career goals. She is better plugged into a network of support able to appreciate her personal circumstances. AB is aware she is on a long journey to overcome a range of anxiety issues but she seems to present as more confident at meetings with her advisers as she is more relaxed, more talkative and is better able to ask for particular help and articulate next steps.

Despite challenging personal circumstances relating both to her closest family and her own long-term, ongoing difficulties with anxiety, AB has stuck valiantly to her journey plan. Not only has she sustained engagement with the programme, but she has also met all her milestones in a positive and timely fashion.

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AB presents as much more confident currently than she did at initial interview. AB's journey presented her with many challenges, including walking through the door to first meet us, building courage to disclose sensitive information to us, being willing to talk about her dreams and ambitions, dealing assertively with other agencies which were all very difficult for her. AB's journey plan then presented a second tier of challenges including producing work around ongoing family life, speaking to lecturers and course leaders and making friends with her own learner group.

It is a tribute to AB's new found self- belief about her career path that she has met these challenges and continues to build on them.

## **Name of participant – AAH**

### **Brief overview of participant (including their background, barriers to employment, reason for registering with the project):**

AAH is of Somali heritage and graduated as a social worker in the UAE five years ago. Client is an asylum seeker here in Sefton and has recently been granted permission to work in the UK. AAH presented to Sefton@Work to access help applying to register as a social worker in England. AAH's doctor had referred him to the Sefton Social Prescribing team as there were concerns about his mental health. The Social Prescribing Team asked for Sefton@Work's support.

After assessment, Sefton@Work agreed to support the Client through his social work registration process with the profession's regulatory body for Social Workers. This has included Sefton@Work financially funding the scrutiny fee that is mandatory for overseas applicants to pay to register. The registration process itself is, of necessity, thorough and relatively complex. The Client has required support and guidance throughout the registration process from his Advisor at Sefton@Work. Sefton@Work was also able to certify all the Client's documents for his application.

To support our Client, Sefton@Work has consistently liaised with the regulatory body directly as well as a network of other agencies such as Asylum Link, Refugee Action, City Hearts and the social prescriber team.

Currently the Client is working with Asylum Link to complete his supervised training hours to finalise his application as a social worker. Our client is now able to provide translation and interpretation for new asylum seekers accessing these services and it is expected he will have completed all his prescribed hours toward finalising his registration within three months.

### **Summary of support provided by the project:**

Supervised the complete application/registration with social work England.

Provided funding for application- £495.00

Legally certified all relevant documents for application.

Liaised with social prescriber, Asylum Link, Refugee Action and all relevant agencies.

### **Positive results/impacts on the participant as a result of their participation on the Positive Inclusion Programme:**

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AAH was originally sent to his social prescriber due to depression and low mood he fell into as a result of being unable to use his skills and knowledge and make a contribution to the society which he feels is allowing him a fresh start in life. His relations with others had been severely affected and lack of social contact was exacerbating these symptoms, as there were no apparent answers for him to move forward. Depression, as described by the prescriber, would be a perfectly rational response to AAH's circumstances upon presentation. However, this condition now seems to have improved and medication reduced. AAH says he feels more positive and optimistic about his circumstances as he has been able to seriously work towards his legitimate longer-term goals (ie. to be a social worker registered to work in the UK, be economically active and independent financially, and to participate in society) with help and support.

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