

Public Document Pack

Sefton Council 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday, 7th March 2023

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

Member

Councillor
Cllr. Liz Dowd (Chair)
Cllr. Christine Howard (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran
Cllr. John Dodd
Cllr. James Hansen
Cllr. Christine Maher
Cllr. Greg Myers
Cllr. Catie Page
Cllr. Sir Ron Watson C.B.E.
Cllr. Veronica Webster

Substitute

Councillor
Cllr. Nina Killen
Cllr. Brenda O'Brien
Cllr. Sean Halsall
Cllr. Yaso Sathiy
Cllr. Janet Grace
Cllr. Anne Thompson
Cllr. Carran Waterfield
Cllr. Carla Thomas
Cllr. Mike Prendergast
Cllr. Carol Richards

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 0151 934 2068
Fax:
E-mail: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

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.

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

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 Meeting

(Pages 5 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting held 17 January 2023

4. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2022/23

Presentation by the Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority

5. Data on Weed Control Operations since April 2022

(Pages 15 - 18)

Report of the Assistant Director of Place (Operational In-House Services) / Cabinet Member - Locality Services

6. Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

(Pages 19 - 44)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

7. Cabinet Member Reports - January 2023 to February 2023

(Pages 45 - 102)

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 TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Dowd (in the Chair)
Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Corcoran, Dodd, Hansen, Chris Maher,
Page, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Atkinson and Hardy

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Myers.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declaration of personal interest was made and the Member concerned remained in the room but took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor Howard	Minute No. 32 - Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies	Is a board member of Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

30. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESSION OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY - PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from Andrea Watts, Executive Director of People that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (CA) Digital Inclusion Strategy (the Strategy).

Ms. Watts advised the Committee:

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- About the key components of connectivity, equipment and skills
- That Digital inclusion was a priority set out in the CA's Corporate Plan; and that the CA's Digital Infrastructure project included a substantial social value element that had significant ambitions towards supporting digital access and inclusion, as well as jobs and apprenticeships
- Work to date which included the proposals being formulated that would deliver the Digital Inclusion workstream, with the aim of targeting provision, providing a joined-up approach with other programmes, and ensuring that residents across Liverpool City Region had the abilities, access and support needed to take part in a modern digital life
- About the Digital Inclusion Alliance Network whose premise was to build a membership network that would drive the Digital Inclusion agenda from a strategic perspective, harnessing a range of key sector representatives both from statutory services, but also bring in employers, community groups, housing providers, education providers and health to name but a few
- About the Digital Inclusion Pledge and that as part of the membership of the Digital Alliance Network, members would be invited to sign a Digital Inclusion Pledge that would commit organisations to supporting digital inclusion efforts and would be co-designed via the Taskforce underpinned by a number of principles
- About the Digital Champions Model that built upon former schemes and would include support through trained LCR Digital Champions. This would enable volunteers to be trained who would provide holistic support and guidance to individuals who were digitally excluded, helping them get online and make the most of a modern digital life
- About Digital Support Intervention Pilots that informed by data and local authority colleagues, other areas of intervention would be explored that helped target digital exclusion –e.g., social broadband tariffs, recycled digital kit or free mobile data for those most in need
- About the next steps which included the inaugural Digital Inclusion Taskforce Meeting on 23rd January 2023; the completion of several surveys gathering lived experience of digital inclusion through programmes including Households into Work and the Department for Work & Pension's Restart Scheme; working closely with UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) colleagues in the Combined Authority; funding that was expected to be committed by the end of the financial year.

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

- Areas of the borough with high populations of residents in their "third age" and efforts to promote digital inclusion
- Barriers to digital inclusion due to financial constraints associated with the cost of ICT equipment and broadband contracts

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- Digital exclusion accessing health services online
- Good work undertaken by Library Service staff helping service users with the use of ICT equipment
- Cross-generational support offered by schools to help residents with ICT skills such as “silver surfer clubs”
- Recycling of out-of-date ICT equipment

RESOLVED:

That Ms Watts be thanked for her informative presentation.

31. SANDWAY HOMES LIMITED - 2021/22 OUTTURN REVIEW OF COUNCIL WHOLLY OWNED COMPANIES

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services the aim of which was to allow Members to carry out effective scrutiny of the Council company Sandway Homes Limited to provide a level of assurance that both the Council's interests and the services or products provided by the company to our residents, were safe and well managed and offered good value for money.

The report provided information on the aims of the Sandway Homes Annual Report; expected outcomes; the Council's objectives for the company; the Council's governance arrangements including the governance arrangements in place for the company in 2021/22; the key objectives for the Company as per the Business Plan in 2021/22; a review of performance for 2021/22; key areas of risk during the year; evaluation of performance in 2021/22 compared to Council objectives for setting up the company and the approved Business Plan for the year; and the Delivery and Improvement Plans for 2022/23.

The Committee was requested to:

- provide feedback on key issues arising from the report and to advise on further information that would support the scrutiny review in future years
- provide feedback on current performance (operational and financial) and how this supported the Council's strategic aims and ambitions and aligned with the objectives and reasons for setting up the companies; and
- seek clarification or additional information from officers in order to carry out the scrutiny function

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

- the alleged imposition of charges to obtain copies of annual reports and audit of accounts of wholly owned Council companies

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- the potential for elected Members who were not board members of Council wholly owned companies to attend board meetings
- it was stated and noted in response that lots of private companies receive major public funding but that did not give the public the right to attend such companies' board meetings
- bearing in mind the wholly owned companies were 100% underwritten by the Council it would be beneficial for non-Cabinet elected Members to have access to information about the companies
- it was stated that as part of good governance, accountability and transparency regular information was provided to members through Cabinet as the shareholder via the annual business plan update which is in the public domain and providing this report for scrutiny by members
- members were advised that should there be a material variation to the delivery of the business plan that this would be reported at the earliest opportunity to cabinet in the first instance
- commissioning and tendering procedures undertaken by the company
- the dichotomy of the company operating under private sector rules but being wholly public funded
- if local authorities were adequately funded by Government then Councils would not need to operate such schemes
- cashflow being heavily predicated on sales income, and it was noted that this would continue to be a significant consideration for the Company in the next period
- the current position in respect of open market sales and market fluctuations that could impact the company

RESOLVED:

That the report on Sandway Homes Limited - 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies be noted.

32. SEFTON HOSPITALITY OPERATIONS LIMITED (SHOL) - 2021/22 OUTTURN REVIEW OF COUNCIL WHOLLY OWNED COMPANIES

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services the aim of which was to allow Members to carry out effective scrutiny of the Council company Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited to provide a level of assurance that both the Council's interests and the services or products provided by the company to our residents, were safe and well managed and offered good value for money.

The report provided information on the aims of the Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited Annual Report; expected outcomes; the Council's objectives for the company; the Council's governance arrangements including the governance arrangements in place for the company in

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

2021/22; the key objectives for the Company as per the Business Plan in 2021/22; a review of performance for 2021/22; financial performance 2021/22; key areas of risk during the year; evaluation of performance in 2021/22 compared to Council objectives for setting up the company and the approved Business Plan for the year; and the Delivery and Improvement Plans for 2022/23.

The Committee was requested to:

- provide feedback on key issues arising from the report and to advise on further information that would support the scrutiny review in future years
- provide feedback on current performance (operational and financial) and how this supported the Council's strategic aims and ambitions and aligned with the objectives and reasons for setting up the companies; and
- seek clarification or additional information from officers in order to carry out the scrutiny function

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

- in respect of the Business Plan and company's projected loss during 2021-22 of £178,350; and the cessation of the previous annual subsidy from the Council to CLAC of £250,000 per annum and the potential impact this may have on the Council's revenue budget
- how the company was supported or underwritten by the Council
- the low level of staff turnover and the high percentage of staff employed at the Lake House being Sefton residents
- the successful operation of the Lake House since opening and particularly over the recent Christmas period
- bookings already being taken for Christmas 2023
- positive Lake House customer feedback

RESOLVED:

That the report on Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited 2021/22 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies be noted.

33. SEFTON ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) that updated on the outcome of the Sefton Economic Strategy (the Strategy) consultation and next steps.

The report advised that the Strategy was last produced in 2018 and that the subsequent Action Plan was approved by Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills in December 2019; that the delivery of the Action Plan was almost immediately disrupted in March 2020 with the outbreak of

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

the Covid-19 pandemic and part of the emergency response was the production of the Council's Sefton Strategic Recovery Plan to help the Council prioritise its emergency support activities; that Sefton had since commissioned Mickledore to undertake further work in the refresh and repurposing of the Strategy in 2022; and that this followed previous well received work undertaken by Mickledore during the pandemic which resulted in a Covid-19 Response report and Sefton Prospectuses outlining key opportunities for attracting new inward investment with a specific focus on Bootle and Southport.

The report also provided information on the Strategy consultation and annex A attached to the report detailed a summary of the results of the consultation exercise.

The Sefton Economic Strategy-final version, that was approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 November 2022, was attached to the report as annex B. The key headlines of the Strategy related to:

- Economy and income levels
- Business activity
- Out-commuting
- Employment and skills
- Place
- Disparities in Sefton

The report concluded that the Strategy would focus on the four key thematic objectives of employment and opportunities for work, business growth and investment, regenerated places and social inclusion and access for all; and that the next steps would include:

- further consultation with the Health and Wellbeing board in January 2023, to ensure that key aspects of Health and Wellbeing objectives were integrated in the development of specific actions and projects
- ensuring that Net Zero and Sustainability links were identified in the relevant actions
- the production of a detailed Performance framework in the form of an Excel Spreadsheet that would include all the actions necessary to deliver the objectives of the Strategy

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

- external funding elements of the Strategy
- had the Council made applications for Levelling-Up funding to contribute to capital projects that support the Strategy. It was noted that Sefton had been placed by the Government in category 3, the lowest level of priority for such funding; that two Council bids for funding in round 1 had been unsuccessful and that feedback was awaited from Government on two bids submitted for round 2

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- the Council was progressing the Strategy in the face of 50% reductions to its budget
- encouragement and promotion of Sefton to harness the spending power of disabled households known as the “purple pound”, building on existing engagement with stakeholders and community groups
- potential actions to bring back into use vacant and underutilised floorspace (vacant shops /offices etc) to support other uses and the need to work with the private sector to achieve these aims given private sector ownership of the assets in question
- unemployment and its impact on mental health and wellbeing, particularly parents/carers leaving the job market to look after children in their care
- women leaving the job market due to medical issues such as the menopause
- the Strategy document was a great framework to support the growth of the borough’s economy

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on the outcome of the Sefton Economic Strategy consultation and next steps be noted; and
- (2) further updates on progress for the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan be submitted to the Committee when appropriate.

34. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; 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; that sought consideration of the views of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group; that sought approval to no further updates being provided on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Digital Inclusion Working Group; and that updated on issues associated with the reporting on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Digital Inclusion Working Group.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- (3) in respect of the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group:
 - (a) the views of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be noted;
 - (b) the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to provide a more complete response to the next meeting of the Committee; and
 - (c) Councillor Lappin be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss this matter;
- (4) no further updates be provided on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Digital Inclusion Working Group;
- (5) the presentation by the Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority on the Service Delivery Plan 2022/23 be made to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 7 March 2023; and
- (6) the informal meeting of the Committee to review the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough, scheduled to be held on 23 January 2023, be postponed and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to arrange a fresh informal meeting.

35. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - OCTOBER 2022 TO JANUARY 2023

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 (Green Sefton element); Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills.

Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing presented her report and highlighted the issue of damp mould and condensation and that a review of the Housing Enforcement Policy would be undertaken.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills presented her report and highlighted the following issues:

- NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY, 2023

- Sefton's success in winning the Federation of Small Businesses award for the best NW Council response to Covid support for businesses

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the update reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted;
- (2) congratulations be extended to the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) and his team for their achievement in winning the Federation of Small Businesses award for the best NW Council response to Covid support for businesses; and
- (3) Councillors Atkinson and Hardy be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET MEMBER REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed Control 		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	February 2023

Operational In-House Services

As with many areas nationwide, Sefton has had issues with weed growth across varying areas of the Borough. Whilst there are certainly challenges Boroughwide, the weed growth has been particularly prevalent within the South substantially.

Members will recall that this was given significant focus through the formation of a MRG in 2021 dedicated to exploring these issues and seeking resolution, including the production of a commissioned assessment report from APSE. The South of the Borough has increased street furniture, is significantly more industrialised and high volume of commercial traffic creates increased detritus in channels. In turn, this creates significant seed beds for germination within short periods of time, particularly with warm and wet weather conditions becoming prevalent.

With effect from 1st April 2022, the management of the weed control programme delivered via a contractor was moved from the Highway Service to the Street Cleansing Service as part of recommendations made by the MRG. The interim Operations Manager for the Waste Management & Street Cleansing Service now leads on the contract management of this outsourced provision.

A robust monitoring process has been introduced to ensure contract compliance in addition to regular contract review meetings. The programme delivery schedule completed four blanket sprays Boroughwide during the 2022 season.

During the spraying season, the contractor provides a daily update of areas sprayed and officers undertake spot inspections of those locations to evidence 'die back'. Failure of the weed control chemical is reported back to the contractor for respray at

Agenda Item 5

their costs. A full weed spray and weed removal programme on the identified trunk roads is also provided within the contract and again, a successful outcome was achieved at the end of the spraying season. Significant steps have been taken to ensure that the contractor is fully compliant and understands the quality of finish that is required/expected.

Weed control cannot be addressed as an isolated function. Adequate provision of an effective street cleansing service in conjunction with a weed control and removal programme is key to a multi-pronged approach.

Statistics

The number of weed complaints received over the last 2 years is as follows:

2021/22	289 complaints received
2022/23 (to date)	194 complaints received

This data tells us that there has been an improvement in the complaints received over the last 12 months. The focus will now be to further reduce the complaints over the next 12 months, with stringent performance monitoring and effective communication between management, street cleansing staff and the contractor.

Issues that were identified pre-April 2022:

The service delivers mechanical cleansing (both channel & footpath) and manual cleansing. The current assumed frequency for mechanical channel sweeping is quoted as a 12–14-week rota, however due to only having 3 large mechanical sweepers on the fleet this was not being achieved.

For a Borough the size of Sefton, with the density of population, high leaf fall areas in addition to the highly industrialised locations and docks of the south, this is an ineffective timeframe to address the deterioration of the local environmental quality.

The large mechanical sweeping fleet requires increase to efficiently rectify this issue. Additionally, a 'needs based' provision should be considered rather than a 'one size fits all' approach to fully maximise outcomes.

The employees who deliver the manual cleansing service have a keen focus on the litter picking aspect of their role, however, the wider understanding of 'street cleansing' required reinvigoration. A culture of not seeing the wider issues within the 'street scene' such as accumulation of leaves, fly posting, weed growth or graffiti has developed and this contributes to the deterioration of the local environmental quality or the 'broken window effect' in many locations.

Improvements to the Street Cleansing provision since 1st April 2022:

There has been an increase of the large mechanical sweeper fleet from 3 to 4 – the focus of the new round is the South of the Borough, areas of high footfall and locations with high deterioration of local environmental quality.

Site visits have been undertaken on a regular basis by the Operations Manager to assess quality of finish. Spot visits have also been carried out by both the Assistant Director and the CEO on occasions.

Rear entry teams have increased from 4 teams to 5, they have been allocated their own 'zone' and will work on a continuous loop within the designated zones. This means that the teams will begin to take accountability for their own work area and be a presence within the locations, able to respond to issues timely.

A small pilot project was undertaken within the Litherland Ward which incorporated the full removal of vegetation from the rear entries following fly tipping removal. Whilst this was a costly undertaking as the vegetation removal was undertaken by our weed control contractors, it did provide an excellent outcome. Sadly, it did not deter residents from continuing to fly tip in the rear entries in some areas, often as quickly as within a day of the final clearance.

3 x 'Glutton' machines were purchased and have been deployed across the Borough, they have both suction and wash facilities. Additionally, teams have been provided with additional equipment such as blowers and hand tools. The removal of significant low base epicormic growth from street trees has been underway to prevent trapped litter and detritus.

All street cleansing staff are aware of the necessity to scrape out weeds encompassed within their daily duties.

There are currently 12 x vacancies within the Street Cleansing Service. Recruitment has been underway across the service over a number of months with a focus on internal opportunities in the first instance before external advertisement. Agency staff have been utilised in the interim period until all permanent positions are filled.

Next steps

There are regular meetings scheduled throughout the year between management and the contractor, the meetings will be held to review and monitor the performance of the spraying throughout the scheduled sprays. The meetings will be recorded, and the agreed spraying programme (running order) will be made available and shared with members.

Management to meet with the street cleansing staff to reinforce expectations for the season ahead.

Agenda Item 5

Appointment of Street Cleansing Manager (already within budget) to bring greater focus to the service as a whole and the dual aspect of managing waste and street cleansing means that waste usually takes precedence.

Contact Officer:	Gary Brennan
Date:	27.02.2023
Telephone Number:	0151 288 6145
Email Address:	gary.brennan@sefton.gov.uk

Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	7 March 2023
Subject:	Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; to consider the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group; and to seek formal approval of a decision taken by an informal meeting of the Committee in respect of leasehold house sales.

Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) 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;
- (3) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (4) consideration be given to the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group.

Agenda Item 6

- (5) the following recommendation arising from the informal meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2023 in respect of leasehold house sales be approved:

“the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing), via his Housing Team be requested to look into adding reference information relating to flat/apartment leaseholders (residents’ management company) on the Council’s website”.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2022/23 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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: None	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
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.

- Assistant Director of Place (Operational In-House Services)
- Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)
- Assistant Director of Place (Communities)
- Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)
- Assistant Director of Place (Commercial Development)
- Cabinet Member – Locality Services
- Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services

(B) External Consultations

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 6

Contact Officer:	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2022/2023
- 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 2022/23

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2022/23 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 28 June 2022.
- 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 2022/23 and updated, as appropriate.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2022/23

- 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 However, at its meeting held on 28 June 2022 the Committee agreed to a fresh approach to the operation of the Committee during 2022/23 by making arrangements for two additional informal meetings to be held:
 - The week commencing 10 October 2022 to focus on Locality Services and to consider an update on the Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services and the Green Sefton 2021/2022 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2022/23; and
 - The week commencing 6 February 2023 to focus on Housing and to consider reports on Leasehold House Sales and an update on the operation of Sandway Homes.

This new proposal would obviate the need for the Committee to establish

Agenda Item 6

Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at informal meetings.

- 2.3 The Committee has also agreed to hold an informal meeting to review the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the Borough and to seek input from Sefton's representatives on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority.
- 2.4 Arrangements had been made for the informal meeting to be held on 23 January 2023 but unfortunately, this meeting had to be postponed.
- 2.5 A new date for the informal meeting has yet to be arranged.

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 2** 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 2 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.
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and

Agenda Item 6

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 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.

4.6 **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be Members 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 2022/23 Municipal Year; and Councillor Pat Moloney, a Liberal Democrat Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Vice-Chair.

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.

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?CId=365&Year=0>

4.9 The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 19 January 2023. The Committee considered the following items:

- Combined Authority Budget 2023/24
- Corporate Plan 2021-24; Quarter 2 (July to September) 2022-23 Performance Update
- Fair Employment Charter: Implementation and Next Steps
- Appointment to the Audit and Governance Committee

4.10 The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 1 March 2023.

At the time of writing this report it is anticipated that the Committee will consider the following items:

- Verbal update from Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
- Appointment to the Audit and Governance Committee

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

5. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP

5.1 At its meeting held on 28 September 2022 the Committee considered a report updating on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group. The recommendations had been approved by both Cabinet and Council.

5.2 The Committee agreed (Minute No.15) that the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to give further consideration to the implementation of the recommendations referred to above and report their findings to the next meeting of the Committee.

5.3 In accordance with the above decision the views of the Cabinet Members were considered by the Committee at its meeting held on 17 January 2023.

5.4 Following consideration of the views of the Cabinet Members on 17 January 2023 it was agreed (Minute No. 34 (3)) that in respect of the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group:

- (a) the views of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and

Agenda Item 6

Corporate Services be noted;

- (b) the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to provide a more complete response to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (c) Councillor Lappin be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss this matter;

5.5 Councillor Lappin has been invited to attend the meeting and her further response is as follows:

- Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services recognises and shares the concerns expressed by the OSC Working Group.
- The issue of flytipping is a significant one in Sefton and across the UK.
- Tackling the issue requires a combination of education, enforcement and engineering, so that we change people’s behaviour and penalise those who refuse to change. This includes better promotion of the Council’s actions and the penalties issued.
- This change will not happen overnight. It requires a persistent and consistent focus, and greater resources than we are currently able to deploy.
- The Council currently employs 3 FTE Environmental Enforcement Officers, and has recently also recruited an apprentice into the Environmental Enforcement Team. When other duties, such as monitoring and enforcing the Duty of Care for the correct disposal of waste by businesses, enforcement of trees and shrubs overhanging the highway and annual leave is taken into account, this allows for approximately 50hrs per week investigating and enforcing flytipping.
- Due to the small size of the team, responses and investigations relating to fly tipping are prioritised on the basis of the nature and scale of the incident and the likelihood of identifying the offenders
- In 2021, the Council received 4323 reports categorised as flytipping. As the Council is legally responsible for removing flytipping from its own land, the majority of these were referred direct to Operational In-House Service (OIHS) Street Cleansing or Green Sefton teams to address (dependent upon where the material has been flytipped).
- These services work closely with the Environmental Enforcement Team, and where they believe there may be evidence of the perpetrator, this is also referred through for investigation. Otherwise the waste is removed. The impacts of Fly-tipping on Sefton and elsewhere has been on the rise for several years. The estimated cost for Sefton to remove fly-tipped waste for the year of 2021 was £344,276
- Those matters referred either directly to the Environmental Enforcement Team, or via OIHS, resulted in 5 Fixed Penalty Notices and 1 successful prosecution during 2021 and a further 6 Fixed Penalty Notices and three pending prosecutions in 2022/23 to date. These figures are lower than in previous years. In more than half of cases referred to the Environmental Enforcement Team, either no evidence was found linking the waste to a

perpetrator, or the waste was removed before they were able to attend and investigate.

- It is recognised that this does not paint an impressive picture and Officers are continuing to review ways of increasing the efficacy of enforcement, the number of penalties issued and cases prosecuted. This includes how they work with others to prevent and tackle flytipping, and exploring the use of technology to detect and provide evidence of perpetrators.
- Since 2017 the Council has also employed an external contractor, NSL Ltd, to provide Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) who undertake a dual enforcement role, which includes identifying both: Parking Offences (yellow line restrictions, schools, bus stops, residents parking areas, Pay and Display and limited waiting restrictions, etc); and Environmental Offences (litter, dog fouling and dog control). Officers are deployed on a mixture of patrols across the Borough averaging approximately 3000 hours per month, typically this results in 12 officers per day Monday to Saturday, and 10 officers per day Sundays/Bank Holidays. There is a Deployment Plan in place which sets out the agreed principles for deployment of these officers in terms of locations, activities etc. In 2021/22 CEOs issued 782 Fixed Penalty Notices for Environmental Offences and to date in 2022/23 they have issued almost 400.
- The Council will shortly commence a procurement process for a new Parking and Environmental Enforcement Contract, to come into effect from 1st October 2023. In line with normal practice the contract specification will be reviewed prior to re-procurement and as part of this, consideration can be given to the nature of offences enforced under the contract and the balance of deployment. The Cabinet Member will be consulted on that review.
- However, the key issue remains that the resource available is insufficient to satisfactorily tackle the scale of the problem, particularly in relation to flytipping. At the same time the Council's budgetary position has not enabled the Council to allow any growth in the Environmental Enforcement Budget. Cabinet are continuing to work with officers on this and will seek to increase resources as soon as possible.

5.6 Any comments in respect of the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, as referred to in section 5.5 of the report, are sought.

6. INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE – 6 FEBRUARY 2023 – LEASEHOLD HOUSE SALES

6.1 As referred to in paragraph 2.2 above the Committee had agreed a new proposal to hold informal meetings of the Committee to undertake short reviews of services rather than establishing Working Groups.

6.2 An informal meeting of the Committee was held on 6 February 2023 and reviewed the topics of housing supply and demand, leasehold house sales and the operation of Sandway Homes. Minutes of the informal meeting have previously been circulated to Members.

6.3 Informal meetings of the Committee have no formal decision-making powers and

Agenda Item 6

therefore, any recommendations made at the above informal meeting, require approval at this meeting.

6.4 As part of its deliberations on leasehold house sales it was agreed that:

“the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing), via his Housing Team be requested to look into adding reference information relating to flat/apartment leaseholders (residents’ management company) on the Council’s website”.

6.5 Formal approval of the above recommendation is sought by the Committee.


OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Tuesday, 17 January 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2020/21	Michelle Williams (liaising with MRWA)
2.	Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth	Stuart Barnes
3.	Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy	Andrea Watts
4.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
5.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 6.30 p.m., - Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Data on weed control operations since April 2022, at the end of the season	Michelle Williams/Mark Shaw
2.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
3.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser
4.	Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2020/21	Michelle Williams (liaising with MRWA)

This page is intentionally left blank



APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 - 31 JULY 2023

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

- 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:-

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

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 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 2

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Council Housing Business Plan	Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842, Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk
Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk
Enterprise Arcade	Keith Molloy Tel: 0151 934 2734
Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton	Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk
Supplementary Revenue Report Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding	Steven Martlew steven.martlew@sefton.gov.uk
Crosby New Library	Keith Molloy Tel: 0151 934 2734
Bootle Regeneration Strategy	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619
Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Information Notes	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558
Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy	Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk
Article 4 Direction E to C3	David Robinson david.robinson@sefton.gov.uk

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Council Housing Business Plan The development of a robust and financially viable Business Case and Business Plan for Council Housing in Sefton. This Business case is intended to identify a programme of Council housing to bring forward future social housing & identify a series of recommendations for implementation by the Council to support a new Council Housing Programme			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Apr 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 06/04/2023. Reason: Internal discussions are on-going regarding the proposal			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing, Sandway Homes, Chief Officers from Finance, Economic Growth and officers from Housing, Planning & Finance have been consulted.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Internal consultation on the development of the business case has taken place, guided by our consultants Ark Ltd. Externally, Sandway Homes have also been consulted.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Council Housing Business Plan			
Contact Officer(s) details	Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842, Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Strategy for equalities, diversity and inclusion for Sefton, with emphasis on the Council as an employer as well as a commissioner of goods and services, and as a place leader.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Apr 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 06/04/2023. Reason: to enable ongoing consultation and engagement, and alignment to workforce strategy			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Range of internal and external			
Method(s) of Consultation	Via Corporate Equalities Group and range of internal and external consultation and engagement			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk			

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Enterprise Arcade To determine the Agreement to Lease with the preferred operator			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Apr 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 06/04/2023. Reason: operator engagement ongoing			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills, Town Deal Board,			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, emails and briefings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Enterprise Arcade			
Contact Officer(s) details	Keith Molloy Tel: 0151 934 2734			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton Capital renewal approval is to be sought for the replacement of essential fleet and machinery			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Apr 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 06/04/2023. Reason: internal officer discussions are on-going on this matter			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	None			
Method(s) of Consultation	None			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk			

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Supplementary Revenue Report Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding This report sets out the supplementary revenue grant funding received by the Council from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in respect of Domestic Abuse New Burdens funding for the period of 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	6 Apr 2023 20 Apr 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of People (Communities) Assistant Director of People (Communities)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal Stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings & Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Supplementary Revenue Report Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding			
Contact Officer(s) details	Steven Martlew steven.martlew@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Crosby New Library To seek approval for the development of the Green Car Park Crosby for a new Library and Health facility.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	25 May 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 25/05/2023. Reason: due to ongoing work on business case following outcome of Levelling Up funding bid			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Paragraph 3)			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Church; Manor; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet members, ward councillors, local community stakeholders, businesses			
Method(s) of Consultation	Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, on-line questionnaire, Stakeholder meetings (on line) Social Media, Face to Face consultation event.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Crosby New Library			
Contact Officer(s) details	Keith Molloy Tel: 0151 934 2734			

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Bootle Regeneration Strategy Update and review Bootle Regeneration Strategy (Strand transformation related).			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	25 May 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/03/2023 to 25/05/2023. Reason: ongoing review in context of Levelling Up funding bid outcome			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Derby; Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members, Ward Councillors			
Method(s) of Consultation	Via briefings and meetings (e.g. Members Reference Group).			
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			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p>Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Information Notes</p> <p>Approval is sought to adopt the following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Information Notes that support policies in the Sefton Local Plan: Affordable and Supported Housing SPD; Conversion to Flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD; House Extensions SPD; New Build Homes SPD; Social Value (Employment and Skills) in Development SPD; Contributions towards Education Provision: A Guide for Developers Information Note; and Recreational Pressure from Development Information Note. Once adopted they will replace existing relevant guidance and be used in development management.</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	25 May 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Head of Regeneration and Housing			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members, officers, Registered Providers, Developers, specific stakeholders, general public.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Discussions with Cabinet Member for Planning and Council officers. Draft SPDs and Information Notes approved by Cabinet Member for publication and public engagement using website, emails, social media, press			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Information Notes			
Contact Officer(s) details	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558			

Agenda Item 6

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy The main purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework to make sure that Sefton will be able to best meet the existing and future need for cricket, football, hockey, rugby union, tennis and bowls in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility within the constraints of limited resources. It will provide a robust and objective justification and strategy for current and future playing pitch, tennis court and bowling green provision throughout Sefton.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	22 Jun 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal and external Steering Group partners; Clubs and schools have been consulted during the PPOSS preparation process.			
Method(s) of Consultation	The PPOSS has been prepared by jointly by the Council (with input from service areas including Planning, Green Sefton, Communities and Education Excellence) and other Steering Group partners such as Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of sports; in line with Sport England guidance.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Approval of the Playing and Outdoor Sports Strategy			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Article 4 Direction E to C3 To seek final approval for the article 4 direction.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Secretary of State for Communities; Landowners; Public			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual letters; Press Notices; Site notices			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Article 4 Direction E to C3			
Contact Officer(s) details	David Robinson david.robinson@sefton.gov.uk			

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee -(Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	7 March 2023
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – January 2023 to February 2023		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	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 January 2023 to February 2023.

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.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Agenda Item 7

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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
Legal Implications:	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
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.

Contact Officer:	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

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Agenda Item 7

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 Attached to this report, for information, are the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing, Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; Regeneration and Skills and Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) portfolios.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 07th March 2023)		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	March 2023

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Neighbourhoods

Due to an increased demand for skips the team have altered the community skip schedule to accommodate as many requests as possible. From April 2023, there will be an increase in the cost of each skip used for the scheme. When the costs have been finalised and agreed the team will share the information with Councillors.

A day of action took place on Bianca Street in partnership with One Vision Housing, Merseyside Police and Community Payback on Thursday 26th January after numerous reports of ASB and fly tipping. OVH provided 2 x 8-yard skips on the day which assisted Community Payback in the clearing of a piece of overgrown land on the junction with Stanley Rd. the Councils rear alley crews and Hit Squads also supported on the day along with enforcement officers from Environmental Health.

Officers have worked with the schools STRAND partnership on their topic of Cyber Security. Partners have arranged for Police within the Cyber Security Division to attend a school Council event to offer support and information to the young people to help with their assignment of debating “Should Social media be Banned”.

Merseyside Police have been given £62k from the Home Office to spend on reduction of crime linked to the Night-Time Economy (NTE) in Southport. After several meetings with the Police and Sefton Arc, eight cameras have been identified for upgrading including a change of camera type. The change in type will switch the main camera on West St / Waverly St to a dome, to alleviate the issue of being able to see in which direction the camera is pointing. Southport BID have also asked for a discussion to discuss CCTV optimisation in the town centre.

Parking around the beach areas in Formby is an historic problem that has proved difficult to resolve for several years. One of the contributing factors is cars parking illegally on doubly yellow lines, especially at key junctions. This has led to access difficulties along several roads. The Harington Councillors are investing Section 106 funding to install permanent bollards on two key junctions to prohibit cars parking illegally and improve access for pedestrians and road users.

Cost of Living / Welfare Reform

Foodbank voucher information:

1st April 2022 – 1st January 2023	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	5541	1596
Adults Fed	6698	2187
Children Fed	4511	1292
Total Fed	11509	3479
Crisis Type	Low income – 4148 vouchers presented 8692 people fed	Low income – 896 vouchers presented 1924 people fed
Family Type	Single 47 vouchers presented 55.84%	Single 753 vouchers presented 47.18%

Sustainable Affordable Living Coordinator

The Project Coordinator has developed a bespoke SharePoint Site and Microsoft Teams group to facilitate the new Sustainable Affordable Living Network (SALN) which will be the network that brings together Food Banks and related organisations in the same sector (Food Banks/Pantries, Community Groups & Growers, Development Trusts etc.) to be able to collaborate and share knowledge, facilitated further by a monthly meeting to discuss any pertinent issues with the benefit of all partners present.

The Teams group and SharePoint will create a 'Hub' with different channels within pertaining to different aspects of Sustainable Living, such as Food Security, Affordable Warmth and Community Growing, which will allow our partners to post any pertinent information they believe they should be aware of.

Holiday Activity Fund

During the Christmas period 1230 young people attended 21 HAF holiday clubs, of which 1132 were funded through the HAF programme. 905 primary aged and 227 secondary aged attended, including 185 SEND young people. Attendees took part in the usual physical and creative activities offered by HAF providers as well as Christmas parties, cooking sessions, silent discos, and trips to Gulliver's World, the pantomime, and the cinema.

The team are currently taking applications for Easter HAF provision and have four new holiday clubs operating for this first time this year. It is expected that there will be approximately 1350 places for young people over Easter across 38 providers.

Hate Crime

The Hate Crime JAG (formerly MARAC) are aware of increasing reports of far-right graffiti in different parts of the borough and are looking at ways of addressing this. Merseyside Police Hate Crime Coordinator will be attending the Sefton Prevent Multi Agency Group in the future to work with partners to identify possible areas where radicalisation could happen.

Equalities

The new Disability staff group and LGBT staff group have had their third meetings and discussions have led to a number of issues being raised which will be addressed by the corporate equality group. The Diverse Ethnic Background group and Women's Network continue to meet regularly.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Officers have supported Crosby Housing Association who have reported 3 of their residents causing ASB over a period of 18 months. Officers investigated the allegations and have issued a Community Protection Notice to one resident and warning to the other two residents. All the evidence is now with Crosby Housing Association for them to act as the Landlord.

Strategy Adoption & Production

On the 2nd of February 2023, Cabinet agreed to the adoption of both the Safer Sefton Together Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Domestic Abuse Strategy is a key requirement of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (DA) which places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to :-

- Form a Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB).
- Conduct a Local Needs Assessment.
- Develop and Publish a Strategy.
- Give effect to the Strategy.
- Monitor Strategy effectiveness.

- Report back to government via the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

Whilst Sefton has had a Domestic Abuse Strategy for several years, we have taken the opportunity, following the statutory duty placed on the LA following the DA Act, to refresh the existing strategy to not only meet our statutory requirements but to reach much further in addressing such an important issue.

This strategy sets out how we will do this in Sefton over the next five years. It outlines the key themes partners will focus on and identifies priorities which will be translated into practical areas for action which will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

The strategy is based around three strategic themes:

- Prevent – Early intervention and prevention to reduce the cycle of abuse.
- Protect - Keeping victims and their families' safe whilst challenging the behaviour of perpetrators.
- Repair - providing ongoing support beyond crisis intervention and developing resilience for the future.

It also incorporates the elements of Sefton's Safe Accommodation Strategy for victims of domestic abuse which the local authority is required to have as part of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act.

By adopting the strategy, the Council, and wider partnership, will have an overarching strategic document to inform the delivery of services. The Council can also bid for additional funding streams that will serve to address the priorities contained within. The strategy will also ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

Safer Sefton Together Strategy

Safer Sefton Together (SST) Partnership have produced a 3-year strategy. The strategy reflects the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the priority themes contained within the annual Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment (SSNA) as well as local knowledge gained from staff, elected members and community groups.

The Strategy contains 6 themed priorities.

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women & Girls
- Vulnerable People
- Child Exploitation
- Community Engagement
- Serious Organised Crime & Serious Acquisitive Crime

The strategy outlines the success we have achieved for each theme so far but also sets out the priorities for activity over the next 3 years. Many of the areas for development involve a public health approach to long term generational behaviour change. The strategy also includes a list of boards, partnerships and strategies where the work of the SST overlaps and a strategic link needs to be maintained.

The strategy places the priorities for Community Safety on a more realistic 3-year timetable that allow for longer term projects, that will affect significant change.

By adopting the strategy, the Council, and wider partnership, will have an overarching strategic document to inform the delivery of services and can bid for additional funding streams that will serve to address the priorities contained within.

Cultural Strategy procurement

Throughout 2022 the Sefton Cultural Steering Group has met to share information on cultural delivery in the Borough and to plan a Cultural Strategy for Sefton.

Agenda Item 7

In bringing together the cultural stakeholders with independent networks the meetings have also begun the process of building an infrastructure for collaboration between artistic practitioners. The steering group have developed the procurement brief for the Cultural Strategy in order to commission consultancy support to deliver the following elements.

- Needs Analysis
- Consultation & Engagement – to ensure we are capturing the aspirations of Sefton’s residents and cultural stakeholders.
- Authorship – to produce the document.
- High level action plan

The indicative timeline for delivery will see appointment ready for the new financial year with a draft version of the strategy available by end of July.

LIBRARIES & INFORMATION SERVICES

Summer Reading Challenge benchmarking

This year the Library Service threw everything at the summer Reading Challenge in an attempt to get back the number of participants to pre-pandemic levels. Sefton had a very successful year and have faired well against neighbouring local authorities. While having the 3rd highest number of participants in the North West, Sefton had the highest number of participants in the Liverpool City Region, far outstripping some of our neighbours.

Participation and completion numbers for the LCR are shown below:

Local Authority	Numbers participating	Numbers of completers
Halton	517	245
Knowsley	484	207
Liverpool	616	201
Sefton	2678	1902
St Helen’s	1561	1061
Wirral	2436	1576

Successful community event at Netherton Library

Community engagement has brought good results at Netherton Library this year, with library visits up by over 40%. Much of this is down to a new approach to community engagement by library staff. This December saw the library host it’s first ever Christmas community event which 45 residents attended. The choir from St Benedict’s School performed Christmas carols in the library and staff provided craft sessions to showcase the library as a community hub.

New ICT infrastructure rollout begins

The long awaited roll out of replacement public computers has now begun. Netherton Library was selected as the pilot site and this has gone well with minimal disruption. As well as all the public printers being replaced, all computer base units are being replaced and upgraded to Windows 10. The security filter has also been replaced with a new filter called Checkpoint, and a new version of deepfreeze installed which allows for remote updates and fixes being applied by Agilisys. Roll out will continue throughout February and into March.

Heritage Fund bid success

Earlier in the year Libraries submitted a bid to the Heritage Fund to work on improving heritage activities out of Meadows Library. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful due to the high demand for funding from the Heritage Fund, a follow up bid has been approved by the Heritage Fund. Work will start in the new year on constructing a model railway in the Meadows

Leisure Centre garden, theming the library with Hornby images, and the creation of a heritage walk. The Frank Hornby Society are working as partners with the library to ensure any activities and changes to the library fit with the existing heritage centre at Meadows, and to provide expert consultancy.

First Community Christmas meal event

Bootle Library hosted it's first Christmas community meal for socially isolated residents on the 16th December with over 30 residents attending. Each resident who attended received a Christmas card and were provided with a hot vegetarian Christmas meal. They were all encouraged to help with the meal creation and were delighted with the results. Only 1 resident was disappointed; after asking if we were laying on food, and been told yes, she then asked for 2 sausage butties and a cup of tea. She got the tea but declined the vegetarian meal.

THE ATKINSON

Theatre Programme

Panto by numbers: in reviewing its delivery of the Aladdin Christmas pantomime our team has captured the following statistics to highlight the scale of the production -

- £49,000 secondary income from bar and merchandise sales
- 14,425 tickets across 37 shows (including school performances)
- 1239 light up wands sold
- 3934 ice creams sold

This represents a tremendous effort from all Atkinson teams, including the additional support provided from back office and curatorial officers to ensure we had sufficient staffing in place for every performance.

Forthcoming highlights from the Theatre programme include a variety of music performances such as T.Rextasy, Ian Prowse & Amsterdam and Paul Young. Blackeyed Theatre bring their production of John Godber's Teechers to the stage and we are delighted to be hosting popular wildlife presenter and film-maker Gordon Buchanan as part of his *30 Years in the Wild* tour.

Exhibitions Programme

The Henry Moore Foundation has produced this fascinating video to promote their exhibition on Victorian sculpture, *The Colour of Anxiety* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xjb58JY-Nw>

The Atkinson's painting *Pygmalion & Galatea* by Ernest Normand is on loan to the Foundation and features in the film.

f

The Sefton Open is an annual exhibition celebrating the creativity and artistic talent across the Borough. This year it will run from 1 April to 13 May. The entry form is now available to download from The Atkinson's website. This handy video has also been created to help local artists to prepare their artworks for submission.

<https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/exhibition/sefton-open-2023/>

Museum Programme

Digital promotion: The Atkinson has been invited to join the **Bloomberg Connects app** which enables users to upload video content and podcasts. The project is sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies and other organisations participating include the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum. The app also links through to Art UK which promotes merchandise sales from the Atkinson's collection.

Southport Library

The provision of a Warm Hub offer at the library continues to be appreciated by local residents with each session attracting approximately 14 attendees each time.

Agenda Item 7

The new library spaces are proving to be helpful spaces for confidential 1-1 sessions and the library has taken our first booking for use of the Transparent Language online facility for an Arabic speaker to develop their learning English.

Other news

Visit England Assessment: following a recent inspection the Atkinson has increased its score from last year by 1% to 87% and retained its overall venue evaluation as 'very good'. This is the seventh consecutive year of increased assessment scores. It was particularly pleasing to note that the highest score was in the staffing category which is now 96%! This is based on the inspector's direct interaction with staff and volunteers all around the building from the library, galleries, shop and foyer.

The summary for the building describes The Atkinson as: 'A very well laid out, maintained and popular attraction which encourages a broad demographic range of visitors to include families and educational groups.'

On 26th January the Atkinson hosted a **Music Careers Day**, a collaboration between Sefton's Music Service and the Merseyside Music Education Hub Alliance. The event attracted approximately 100 young people from across the Borough to explore career pathways in the music sector. Sessions included presentations from industry professionals and artists covering topics such as public relations, radio sound production, DJ workshops and music journalism.

The February 2023 edition of **Lancashire Life** 'People & Places' section includes a feature on the new Bee Hive installed on the Atkinson roof, and provides a positive overview of the centre's varied programme.

Communications

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

HOUSING

Damp Mould and Condensation (DMC)

As reported at the last meeting in the wake of these tragic events I have directed officers to carry out a review of housing enforcement in the borough. Substantial progress has been made with regard to this.

- Review of the Housing Enforcement Policy – the policy has been reviewed in light of the tragic events in Rochdale and updated accordingly.
- Review of the 'service request pathway' – this has been completed and the Council Website has been updated to ensure that Registered Provider tenants are clear on how they can make a service request
- Communication Campaign – as reported at the last meeting a comms campaign using the Council's comms channels has been running over winter, linking to the guidance on the Council's website and other resources that will help. This will be repeated every winter in subsequent years.
- Staff Training and Equipment – a review of staff training and equipment has been completed and found to be up to date.
- Data – a review of previous cases has been completed and will be used to evaluate the adoption of a risk-based approach to prioritising future service requests relating to damp mould and condensation cases following completion of a revised private sector housing condition survey in conjunction with the majority of the LCR authorities, a piece of work which has started.
- Registered Providers – discussions continue with Registered Providers operating in the borough about their own response to damp, mould and condensation in their own properties.
- Staff Guidance – guidance has been issued to all frontline staff who go into people's homes on damp, mould and condensation, including information that can be passed onto tenants of affected properties on positive action they can take to minimise the issue and where to seek help if necessary.

Housing Strategy (2022 – 2027)

Following approval of Sefton's new Housing Strategy by Cabinet on 3rd November 2022 an Action Plan has been developed by the Housing Team in consultation with officers from other teams to document the actions and initiatives to deliver against the objectives outlined in the strategy. The Action Plan also includes clear owners of each initiative, and timescales for delivery.

The Action Plan will be published on the Council's website so that the community expectations from the Housing Service are clear. I will monitor progress against the plan in my regular briefings with officers.

Extra Care Housing

As colleagues are aware the Council has a target to deliver 1306 new Extra Housing units before 2036.

I am happy to report that work has commenced on a new Extra Care scheme in Bootle by provider Housing 21 and Sefton officers are actively involved with their commissioning and construction project team. Estimated completion of this scheme is Jan 2025.

Officers have also met representatives from Safe Regeneration about their revised proposals for the Coffee House Bridge site in Bootle, which includes a large Extra Care scheme. The Council will continue to work with Safe Regeneration to help bring forward their exciting proposals for the site.

In the north of the borough the Sandbrook Road Extra Care scheme in Ainsdale which will include the development of a Short Term Assessment unit (STAU) is progressing with design and costing of the STAU expected to be finalised in March with a view to the final scheme proposals being considered by Cabinet in the spring.

To support the provision of extra care housing Sefton's first Extra Care Nominations Policy, process and system has now been drafted and has been approved at Public Consultation and Engagement board in November. Public consultation on the new policy commenced on the 10th February and will run for 6 weeks. Responses will then inform a final draft that will be presented to Cabinet for approval summer 2023 with a view to being implemented from October 2023.

Private Sector Housing

Enforcement and Licencing

As committee will be aware on 6th October 2022 Cabinet approved the re-designation of both the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes for a further 5 years until end Feb 2028. The current schemes that came to an end in Feb 2023, have proved successful.

Almost 3,900 licences have been issued under the current schemes. 3000 were estimated to require a licence at the start of schemes almost 5 years ago. The team continue to enforce against those landlords that have still failed to apply for a licence and against landlords that are in breach of licence conditions. Since 22nd October 2022 they have served 21 Intention to serve Notices for failure to licence or breach of a licence condition. Following this 10 Final Civil Penalty Notices, for these same offences have been served, which have resulted in financial penalty fines. This income is re-invested into the enforcement work of the Housing Standards Team.

There have been 80 requests for service relating to poor housing standards received since 22nd October 2022. The team have taken enforcement action in an increasing number of cases. 48 Statutory Notices have been served since 22nd Oct 2022, including 7 Emergency Prohibition Orders of properties, and 2 Prohibition Orders. These have had to be served due to the serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of the occupiers. 18 statutory notices have had to be served in relation to lack of Smoke or Carbon Monoxide detection, a further 18 in relation to potential dangerous electrical installations and 12 for failing to meet the minimum Energy Efficiency Rating for a privately rented property.

Work to reduce the number of long-term vacant homes has continued, with a further 2 properties being identified for Enforced Sales and one Enforced Sale completed since the previous report.

Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues, and improvement works identified on a recent condition report are currently being undertaken. Since the previous report there have been 3 unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampments, which totals 22 since April 2022.

Rough Sleepers & Homeless services

The average daily presentations (Mon-Fri) for January 2023 was 11.1. This is a 40% increase from a 6.7 daily average in January 2022. January 2023 has been the busiest month for presentations. August 2022 was the first time that presentations went above 200 in one month. In the past 6 months presentations have reached 200 or more per month on 4 occasions as shown below.

Human Trafficking or Slavery

All Council Chief Executives were recently written to in order to inform them that from 31 January 2023, Home Office legislation changes the immigration leave type that will apply to include a new eligible class for confirmed victims of Human Trafficking or Slavery.

All confirmed victims of Human Trafficking or Slavery must be granted limited leave to remain in certain circumstances. The Temporary Permission to Stay (TPS), establishes a route for a person who is a confirmed victim of Human Trafficking or Slavery, who is in the UK without leave, to be considered for leave. It will replace the current Discretionary Leave (DL) for victims of Modern Slavery and making them eligible for homeless services. This additional burden on homeless services will be closely monitored and reported to me at my briefings.

Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme

The Government announced the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) £200m programme in late 2022. The objective of SHAP is to increase the supply of accommodation with accompanying support to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision. However, I am sorry to have to report that in the Liverpool City Region only Liverpool and Wirral are eligible to bid towards this fund direct due to their high numbers of rough sleepers and people in temporary accommodation.

Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Programme

In 2022, Riverside Housing Association were commissioned to deliver a dispersed model of temporary accommodation with support for families which Sefton's Housing Options would have usually struggled to rehouse. Since September 2022, six families have been placed into accommodation either in Bootle or Litherland. A 4-bedroom, 3-bedroom and two 2-bedroom have been identified for use on this project. The work

has become even more critical because of the cost of living crisis as shown by the following case study from one of the support works, one of many similar case studies that officers have shared with me:

XX and her 2 children moved in to their new property on the 16/01/23. The family were evicted from their private rented accommodation due to the landlord selling the property. So far, I have supported with setting up utility bills and finding a suitable school for her son. XX works part time and has a non-dependant son who works, she is aware there may be a deduction in housing benefit. I will be visiting weekly for the first 6 weeks and monitoring her budgeting.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	February 2023

GREEN SEFTON

Overview

Overall, the service continues to perform well under the pressures of expectation on service delivery, within the resources made available, and in the context of the ongoing pandemic legacy situation still affecting staffing levels availability/ the ripple effect on works/ projects etc.

It is clear that several areas of the service are struggling to meet expectations / basic standards within resources available and efforts are being made to address this. This has resulted in further increase in complaints, and negative press coverage for several areas of the service in 2022/23.

To start to address this, an increase in revenue budget was approved by Full Council as part of the budget setting process for an additional £200k into the management of play areas / facilities from 2022/23 onwards (increasing the budget from £45k per year), and for several of the actions from the Coast Visitor Action Plan for the delivery of those actions on a permanent basis with a further £300k annual uplift – to include additional daytime and evening ranger staff, a full time Community Ranger for the Coast, increased litter management at key gateways, ongoing provision of temporary toilets at beach entrances, and a communications plan to encourage appropriate visitor behaviour.

In addition, to develop the service / and undertake improvements, external grants and other funding are being sought such as;

- the 500k Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier funding for conservation works over the next 5 years along the coast was accepted in February 2022

- a major bid for Botanic Gardens is in early development, with a Task Group set up (chaired by Cabinet Member, and with ward councillors and community reps), and approval to consult publicly given at the Consultation and Engagement Panel in March 2022. Further, a successful pre-development bid to the HLF has provided resource and capacity to lead and deliver this consultation in Winter 2022/ Spring 2023, and to undertake the required surveys and analysis etc, all in order to be able to make a bid some time afterwards (whenever match funding has been secured). In the last quarter, a consultant has been appointed to give capacity and expertise to launching this consultation in November, and further efforts are taking place on the pre-development work to understand the scale and scope of the project also.

Agenda Item 7

- consultation has been completed for the allocation of 'legacy' monies left for Hesketh Park in a residents will, and cost estimate / details for priority projects have been developed and a contract is being drafted with the trustees to formalise this suite of projects to be developed and delivered
- Cabinet gave formal approval to seek tenders for the future investment in Southport Golf Links in March 2022. Tenders for both the While House Café building, and the course itself remain in development
- the FCERM team continue to work with the Environment Agency and other partner agencies on seeking capital monies to reduce flood risk.

Further areas of the service will also need resource consideration in the coming times – both in terms of ongoing revenue, and other capital schemes too.

What is performing well

The 2022 Annual Review was presented to an Informal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny (regeneration and skills) committee in October, and with a formal presentation at the November meeting. This was well received, and outlined some of the successes for the service in the last year, and also explained some of the challenges. A narrated version of the presentation has been uploaded on the website here: www.sefton.gov.uk/greensefton

This will be promoted via a newsletter which was shared in the community, with all ward councillors, with our 'Friends of' and other volunteer groups, sports clubs and leagues, other landowners and partner agencies including statutory and government bodies as part of launching the Service Vision refresh early in 2023.

Highlights from the last quarter include:

- The service continues to work in partnership with many other organisations, partner agencies, and of course fundamentally our communities – supporting around 40 'Friends of', In Bloom and other volunteer groups, together with 300+ sports clubs and leagues that utilise our facilities;
- The service co-ordinated the In Bloom competition again this year, with 37 awards being received, and Southport winning Gold, and its category for Large Coastal resort
- The development of a Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO was a new item added to the services work programme this year – approved at Full Council in July, this will enable better management of visitor behaviour, and address anti social behaviours in the designated locations. Officers are now in discussion with other land owners and the emergency services to ensure a 'one coast/ one sefton' approach to rolling this out, incl engagement and enforcement. This work was also nominated in the MJ Journal awards, the results of which will be announced later in 2023.
- Bootle Driving Range is now operational and exceeding initial expectations, albeit with some operational challenges that the service are learning from (including an international shortage of range balls)
- The suite of short term improvement works to Ainsdale Gateway continue to progress; a project management consultant has been engaged to deliver a full refurbishment of the toilet block (including the reintroduction of shower and

Agenda Item 7

drinking water facilities, together with the creation of a Changing Places unit within the improved building. The off beach car park has been delayed, in order to allow more time to undertake the ecological surveys and assessments required to gain Planning Permission.

- The Visitor Action Plan for 2022 has been reviewed. The Multi Agency Group with other landowners and emergency services etc. continue to meet and are now planning for the upcoming 2023 season, which will again include a pre, mid, and post season briefing will all coastal ward councillors.

What requires improvement and what action is being taken

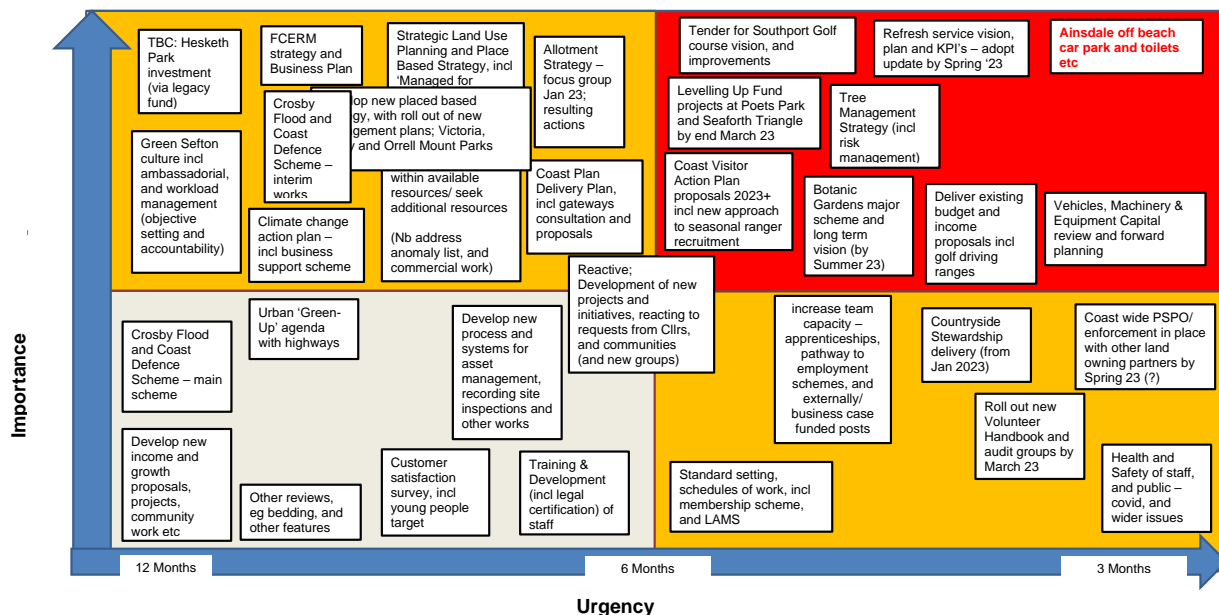
Overall work programming

The Annual report highlighted the tracking of the services overall performance against the actions contained within the Service Plan which has been RAG rated over the last two years. This clearly shows that many actions have slowed down or stalled since the pandemic started due to a reduced staffing capacity to deal with developmental issues, and new operational demands being placed upon services as the 'staycation' phenomena resulted in massive increases in visitor numbers and other pressures on our sites.

The action taken to address this has been to develop a more sophisticated work programming approach for the service, with an 'urgency / importance' matrix developed, as below. This was presented to O&S Committee within the Annual Review, but has also led to each sub-team within Green Sefton creating their own version, with updates being discussed at team meetings, and individual monthly 1:1's. The overall team matrices now also form part of regular updates.

GREEN SEFTON STRATEGIC WORKLOAD MATRIX – as presented to O+S Oct/ Nov 22, and updated 25.11.22, and 10.2.23

(to be reported to Cabinet Member on a regular basis, and updated through the year)



Working with Volunteers

Agenda Item 7

A specific challenge in recent times has been ongoing issues arising with some of our volunteer groups. Probably symptomatic that the service no longer undertakes land management and maintenance to the standards previously seen, and that there is less officer capacity available to respond to complaints, nurture groups, and pro-actively keep them aligned – several groups have become dissatisfied with the Council and / or have suffered from internal issues leading to corporate complaints being raised.

The action taken to address this is to refresh the Volunteer Handbook – this guiding document introduces volunteers to setting up a group, however it also now goes much further in terms of setting out expectations to be placed on volunteers about their Policies and Procedures expected of a group, including Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding, and overall Code of Conduct – both in terms of the way volunteers treat each other, and also about how they deal and interact with Council officers.

The first draft of this refresh was discussed with Cabinet Member at the April 2022 meeting, and following comments received (including those from CVS, legal and personnel colleagues), the final version was approved by Cabinet Member in September. This has now been shared with all volunteer groups, with a request that they sign up to the updated document, and expectations contained therein.

Defining Standards

As part of addressing some of the frustrations from the community referred to above, we have also instigated a piece of work to define our maintenance service standards that we are currently resourced to provide. This is initially being prioritised on the inland parks and greenspaces maintenance aspects of the service, but team leaders are working up thoughts on defining standards across wider areas too. The first draft of this new document was shared with Cabinet Member at the April 2022 meeting, and final amendments are being made before releasing this in the coming months.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	March 2023

Port Access

- The new double track section of the rail line at the Port entrance has been operational since September 2021. Improvements to signalling at Earlestown West are included in the works associated with transferring the control of signals from Warrington to Manchester, which is not due to happen until 2029.
- There is little change in the progress of the Port of Liverpool Access scheme. National Highways have confirmed that they are concentrating on updating their traffic modelling to take account of the impact of changes in traffic patterns resulting from Covid. They have confirmed in their latest update, from July 22, that ‘this detailed and important work is likely to take approximately 12 months to complete’ and therefore they will not be in a position to publish an updated project timeline, including when they intend to formally consult the local community and the wider general public their proposals, until this traffic modelling work is completed. The statutory public consultation needs to be undertaken in advance of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. This is unlikely to take place until late 2023 at the earliest.

LTP and Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with the LCR Combined Authority/Merseytravel and the other local authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme. The Council is currently on target to achieve the agreed spend in Year 1 of the programme despite the challenges the increased settlement has created. Recruitment for new staff to help deliver the programme is ongoing.
- Consideration has been given to a programme for 23-24 and beyond to ensure there are no delays in delivery. This programme will be agreed by the LCRCA in March 2023 after which a formal Capital Programme Report will be presented to Cabinet Member for approval.
- **Low Carbon Strategy:** In response to the Council’s climate emergency declaration and an increased focus on active travel measures, work is continuing on the development of Low Carbon Transport Strategy for the borough. Some initial baselining work has been completed and a report completed. This, and proposals for future engagement, will be shared initially with Members in advance of Full Council in April. The consultants are also identifying the next steps, which will include an engagement exercise. Progress is also being made on the development of an Active Travel and E-mobility Strategies for the Borough.

Agenda Item 7

- In order to identify potential improvement to the Councils walking and cycling network a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan is being developed. Proposals for stakeholder engagement were presented to the Consultation and Engagement Panel in early November. A number of engagement sessions were held with specific interest groups and some initial plans developed for helping inform the engagement process. Detailed plans for further engagement are being developed.
- **Southport Eastern Access and Maritime Corridor Business Cases:** The detailed design work is now progressing on both schemes and the final drawings will be included within the Full Business Case submission as requested by the LCRCA. Part of the Maritime Corridor scheme is likely to be funded from the Levelling Up Fund, following the success of the transport bid. There is some pressure to have the scheme delivered as soon as the FBC is approved, and therefore procurement options are being examined. It is expected that LUF projects will be delivered by March 25. Some further engagement to ensure that local Members, businesses and residents are sighted on the proposals and have an ability to shape them is planned for May and June 2023. Ward Members will receive a briefing on both schemes shortly.
- **A59 Junctions:** Design work is continuing on improvements at the junctions of Kenyon's Lane and at Hall Lane on the A59 Northway, these will be developed in the context of a wider improvement of the cycle route between Switch Island and Robins Island. A package of funding including Government grant funding for improvements to traffic signals, developer contributions and Sefton transport capital programme will be used to deliver these improvements. ATE are supportive of the project and are encouraging the Council to consider the link to the wider communities and the potential for improvement east and west on the A59. Discussions will have been undertaken with local Ward Members and Maghull Town Council on the details of both schemes and further consultation with the wider public is programmed.
- **Scarisbrick Avenue:** In Southport, improvements to Scarisbrick Avenue in conjunction with the Townscape Heritage Initiative have been completed, including the installation of lighting. Some defect works are planned for completion in January February 2023.
- **Southport Town Deal:** Preliminary Design work on the first phase of public realm project identified within the Southport Town Deal (*Les Transformation de Southport*) has largely been completed. Materials have been proposed and will shortly be signed off, with the detailed design phase started. Targeted consultation with local businesses has been completed and comments have been incorporated within the detailed design. Works has commenced on the review of further phases and some consideration has been given to potential changes to traffic movements to ensure greater pedestrian connectivity.
- **Crosby Town Centre:** Works has commenced on the detailed design of the highway works which will support the development proposed for the Green Car Park. The works are aimed at reducing severance and improving access to the town centre. Discussions are ongoing with relevant authorities over the phasing of the works.
- **Bootle Town Centre:** - Initial work has also been commissioned to review access to the Strand in Bootle, in order to help shape initial work associated with the re-imagining of the centre. A Transport Framework is being established, some detailed work is programmed to look at the servicing of the Strand and some Master planning work will be completed looking at parking and bus waiting facilities.

Local Transport Schemes

- An updated version of the Transportation Capital Programme for 2022/23 will be submitted to Cabinet Member for approval in February.

Sustainable Transport

- **Crosby Coastal Park:** The proposals for a new pedestrian and cycle route through Crosby Coastal Park were not approved by the Council's Planning Department despite the public consultation indicating overall support and safety concerns being addressed by officers. The funding allocated to the scheme will not now be spent. The concern remains over the lack of lighting for people walking to the Lake House at night. Measures will be examined with a view to addressing this.
- **Formby By-pass:** The Department for Transport had previously confirmed that the funding secured through tranche 2 of the Active Travel Fund can be used for proposals to improve the cycle and walking facilities on part of the Formby Bypass. Work commenced on 13 February. Completion is due in early summer 2023.
- **Revenue funding** received from the Active Travel Fund for the development of projects capable to improving cycling and walking throughout the borough. Works is currently progressing the A59 cycleway, the remainder of the A565 corridor to complement the improvement to the links identified above, junction on the A565, including Woodvale and the development of a Local Walking and Infrastructure Plan to compliment the City Region Strategic Plan. Further revenue money has been bid for to continue this work.
- **School Streets:** Consultation work has been undertaken on three School Street Pilot schemes in Southport. The proposals have been reported and a decision is awaited. Funding has been secured to develop other school streets initiatives throughout the borough and a dedicated officer, seconded from Sustrans, has recently commenced the selection and engagement work. A priority list of 10 schools has been chosen for further engagement.
- **Green Bus Corridor:** The LCRCA have commissioned consultants to commence works on the Green Bus Corridor, which includes the consideration of proposals for Bus Priority and active travel on the No 53 bus corridor which includes Stanley Road. Initial proposals have been identified and shared with officers. These plans are being reviewed.
- **Great Georges Road:** A finalisation to the previous cycle lane scheme along Great Georges Road has been agreed and the designs are being completed.
- **Ainsdale Car Park:** In conjunction with the Green Sefton team the design and procurement for a new car park has been completed and tenders will be sought when the various environmental concerns have been addressed. This is expected to be in Autumn in 2023.

Agenda Item 7

Highway Development Control

Planning Applications

- The team continue to process large numbers of planning applications despite ongoing challenges associated with the recent turnover in staffing resources, increased by the fact that no suitable applications were received for the vacant senior highway development engineer post. The applications include sites identified in the Local Plan and continue to involve close liaison with case officers from the planning department. A total of 117 applications have been responded to in December and January 2022/23.

Section 38 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements

- Submissions for s38 agreements have continued requiring the subsequent processing of these at times, lengthy and complex applications, particularly following the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites.
- The report is as follows: -
 - No of live s38 and current developments subject to a s38 application – 45
 - No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) – 2 where the developer appears to have ceased trading
 - Number of development sites adopted within the last 3 months - 0
 - No of submissions awaiting technical approval – 22
 - Number of new and recent submissions awaiting administrative set up – 1

Section 278 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements

- The numbers of this type of application also remains high, including the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites. The team are currently managing 69 live s278 HA 1980 highway works schemes in various stages of development on behalf of the Council. The successful delivery of these schemes is dependent on close liaison with the Legal, Finance and Planning Departments.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

- England Coast Path/Coastal Access - the delivery of the establishment works are continuing but as a result of delays with stretches of the route within Lancashire County Council, alterations to the contract rates add additional works required by Natural England, completion of the works has been delayed until the summer.

Strategic Highways Development and Future Planning

- The team is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department to provide a strategic approach to development to ensure that the necessary new transport infrastructure is in place to support new developments coming forward in future years.
- The team continues to request construction traffic management plans for new developments so that we can manage the highway network efficiently and effectively

with minimum disruption to users of the highway and with the important benefit of highway safety. Once plans have been agreed, the team is collaborating closely with colleagues in network management and planning to ensure that the plans are being adhered to.

Highway Asset Management

Winter Maintenance

- As of 23rd February, we have gritted the carriageways on 47 occasions and the footways 27 times.
- We have had further deliveries of salt in the last week, which ensures that we have now have enough capacity for the remainder of the season.
- Regular financial updates are still being provided to monitor expenditure against the designated budgets.

Street Lighting LED retro fit scheme

- We are now concentrating on replacing the high wattage lamps, in order to maximise energy savings earlier in the programme.
- Orders have been raised and the contractor is expected to begin this phase of works in the next few weeks.

Traffic signals LED retro fit scheme

- The contract has now been signed and an order has been raised for the traffic signals LED scheme.
- We are currently waiting on a detailed programme from the contractor, but we are anticipating that work will commence this financial year.
- The Traffic signals LED scheme will also reduce our energy consumption and provide carbon savings, as well as reducing on-going maintenance costs.

Highway Maintenance

- This year's maintenance resurfacing programme will be completed by the end of March, as forecast.
- Officers are currently working through the maintenance budgets to try and identify savings for the next financial year.

Operational In-House Services

Catering & Building Cleaning Services

Agenda Item 7

Building Cleaning:

Many schools are in the process of reviewing and setting their budgets for 2023/24.

With schools finding their funding stretched more than ever before, in order to balance their budgets, some schools are reviewing their options regarding cleaning provision.

For 2023/24 labour costs will rise by an estimated 14.5% compared to what was charged to schools in 2022/2023. The 2022/23 pay award afforded cleaning staff an increase of over 10%, and we have been advised to build in an estimated 7.5% increase in to costs for 2023/24. Typically, labour costs account for over 90% of the cost of a cleaning contract. Therefore, it is inevitable that with rising labour costs, costs to schools will increase sharply.

In recent years, more schools have moved towards a term time only service with a summer clean, in order to reduce costs. It is anticipated that this trend will continue in 2023/24.

Officers are working with our partners in schools to creatively address the problems they are facing but also supporting staff through what can be an unsettling time. Recruitment of staff remains very difficult in certain parts of the Borough with some posts receiving no applications, causing operational difficulties. It is hoped that the pay award will make such roles more attractive to potential applicants.

Catering:

The service faces the same financial issues as the Building Cleaning Service as regards increasing labour costs at a time when school budgets are so tight.

We are in discussions with several schools regarding the cost of their service for 2023/24, with schools raising significant concerns about being able to afford to remain with our service.

In addition to increased labour costs, food costs remain a significant concern. Price increases from suppliers have already been absorbed and there is every likelihood that further increases will follow in 2023/24

As a member of the TUCO purchasing framework, we are as well placed as we can be to ensure that any future increases are not only justified but also fairly reflect the increases that food producers and distributors are having to bear.

We are also working closely with our operational staff to ensure that they are taking all the necessary steps to reduce food waste.

The current provider of fresh fruit and vegetables to the service has informed us that from March 2023, they will no longer be providing a service to the education sector.

Using the TUCO framework agreement, an alternative supplier has been sourced at no additional cost to the service.

The service is planning to procure an Electronic Communication, Payment and Kitchen Management System, which would enable it to operate in a more efficient manner.

The service has manual systems in place for many of its functions such as menu planning, providing allergen information, the recording of food safety data, providing financial information to schools, the production of management information & the ordering of food.

School kitchens do not currently have access to any electronic communication systems such as email or MS Teams. All communication with the management team and other kitchens is via the telephone and/or site visits. The service was badly exposed during the Covid-19 outbreak when the required speedy and regular communication with kitchen staff was not possible.

The lack of Electronic Communication, Payment and Kitchen Management System results in officers spending excessive time on relatively straight forward tasks.

An Electronic Communication, Payment and Kitchen Management System would benefit all key stakeholders, schools, parents, pupils and catering staff and options for this technology to be procured are now being explored.

The catering section are continuing to support The Council's Obesity strategy. The Service Manager chairs the Live Well subgroup, which is charged with reviewing and refreshing the Council's work to ensure compliance with Food Active's Healthy Weight Declaration accreditation.

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance

The service has recently received a visit by the HSE. It was an unannounced visit to inspect the garage area and workshop.

The Inspector also checked the LOLER inspection regime of equipment and confirmed we are compliant in our processes. They also took the opportunity to speak to a number of Union Officials on site to ensure there were open and accessible lines of communication with Management on site to inform or highlight any H&S concerns.

The Inspector was fully satisfied with the current lines of communication and the open and transparent relationship between both parties on site.

School Crossing Service

The service has recruited 3 new Patrols so far this year. These staff will replace 2 leavers from January and fill 1 of the 11 vacancies currently within the service. Recruitment, whilst difficult, is ongoing.

During January and February, a number of schools have participated in the 'Community Helpers Scheme'. This is an activity in primary schools concentrating on individuals within the local community who provide help and assistance to others.

The School Crossing Patrol staff play a vital role within the community and as such are always asked to attend schools to provide guidance and information for classes and small groups. They also perform activities for the children to engage in. These include role play with a full children's SCP uniform. The children always enjoy the event and it helps to promote the serious message of safety when crossing the road and the importance of using the Patrol.

Burials and Cremations

Agenda Item 7

The service continues to perform well and the staff restructure of 2022 is well embedded.

The service continue to work with Green Sefton to seek improvements to the grounds maintenance provision at all sites and this will be given the relevant focus throughout the grass maintenance season commencing April.

Alternative options for memorial provision are being explored to ensure that there is an affordable offer for all.

Sefton ARC & Careline

The Service has recently benefited from significant ICT improvements which is an on-going project in conjunction with the Council's ICT provider.

Careline: The service continues to work with Adult Social Care to review the service offer that is currently in place and ensure it continues to be fit for purpose and aligned to the technology enabled care agenda.

Specialist Transport Unit

School routes have increased over this past year and there are now up to 16 routes, transporting a total of 114 SEND children to and from school.

The service was provided to Adult Social Care throughout the Christmas 4 day shutdown period to all ASC Day Centres, also providing Bank Holiday transport for service users who were attending Choices Day Centre, who cater for people who have dementia providing continuity and a well-deserved respite for their partners/carers.

Waste Management

The service is continuing to move in the right direction and has recently undertaken a recruitment drive with numerous vacancies on the collection teams filled. This has created resilience within the service and has allowed the resolution of the long standing issues that had previously been faced around capacity to accommodate staff annual leave.

The Christmas period was hugely successful, the collection teams all worked together and maintained collections right throughout the Christmas period with minimal impact to residents and their collections.

Strategically, the Assistant Director continues to attend the LCR Strategic Waste Partnership for future planning regarding the implementation of the waste related aspects of the Environment Act 2021 which is gathering pace.

Street Cleansing

The weed control programme completed it's last spray in October 2022 and will commence the first spray in early Spring 2023. An inspection process was formed to ensure evidence of 'die back' of weeds approximately 10-14 days following scheduled spray. This proved successful in many aspects however, the service will continue to monitor the situation

Agenda Item 7

stringently and will be working closely with the contactor to improve weed control Boroughwide.

The service has introduced new zonal working arrangements for the rear entry teams. Each team have been allocated a zone and they work exclusively within that zone taking ownership and ensuring its continuous maintenance. Feedback received since implementation of zonal arrangements has been positive.

The service is currently undergoing a recruitment drive which will see a number of vacancies filled over the coming weeks and will add much needed capacity to the current operation.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning and Building Control	February 2023

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
 - Enforcement
 - Building Control
 - Local Plans
 - Heritage and Conservation
 - Trees

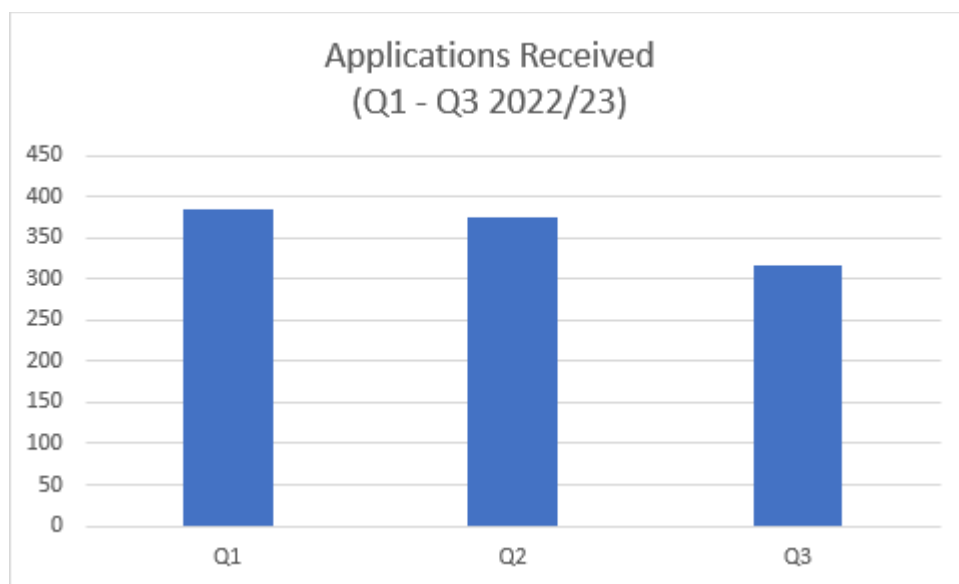
These are supported by the Technical Support team.

- 1.3 A key focus as we have worked from home has been looking after staff wellbeing. We have carried out two surveys and devised an action plan. These have been received positively and sickness absence is at its lowest level ever.
- 1.4 We recognise the importance of customer satisfaction and the need to understand how our customers feel about the service they receive. We have addressed this with a survey of agents who submit planning applications to us and the overall response is they consider us to be the most efficient planning authority in the Liverpool City Region.
- 1.5 We also know how importance it is to look after staff given most are still working from home most of the time and this is likely to continue. The Management Team have completed Mental Health First Aid training over the past quarter. We have organised various events to promote staff wellbeing including two walks during the summer and regular opportunities for staff to come together for a chat on Teams called 'Time to Talk'. We held a staff away morning in November 2022 when we reviewed the core values of Planning Services. There was a consensus that we should add a further value which reflects the contribution our staff make.

2. Development Management

- 2.1 The graph below shows the number of planning applications received during the three quarters of this year so far. Application numbers have settled back to a similar level to pre-Covid.
- 2.2 Over the course of the past three quarters there has been a slight decline in the number of applications (Figure 2.1 below) – this is a seasonal trend. No doubt assisted by this, the percentage of those approved in agreed time periods has risen over the course of the year so far (see Figure 2.2). However, performance through this year so far well exceeds national targets and also our own more demanding local targets.

Figure 2.1 Applications received: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022



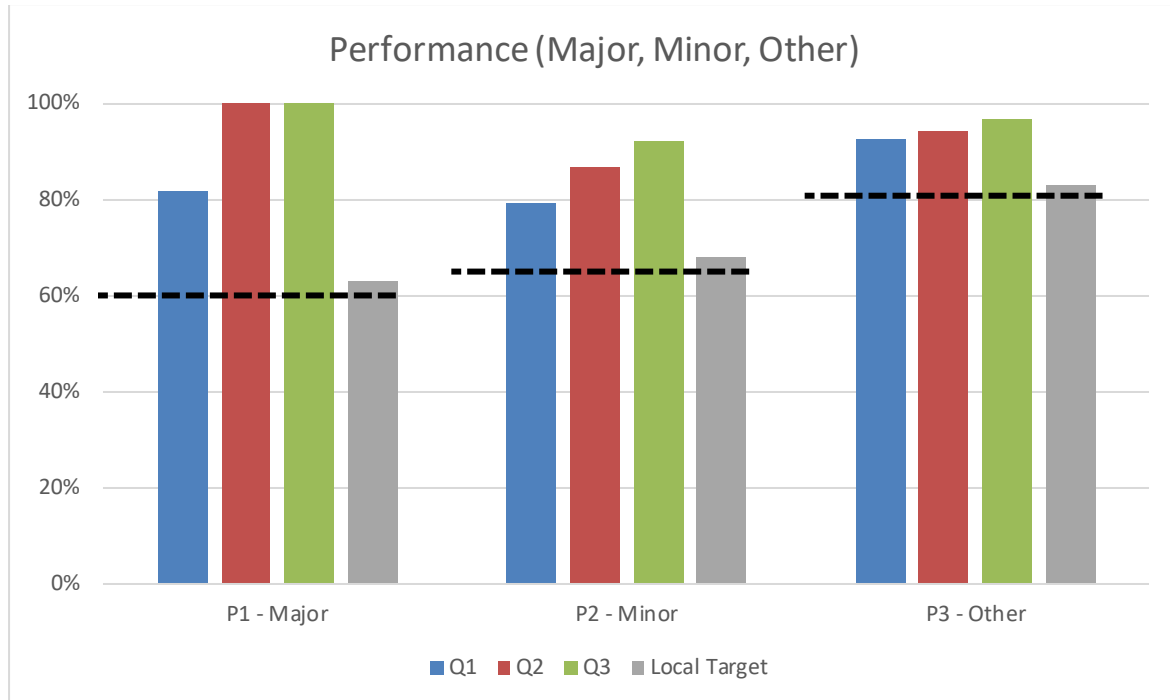
- 2.3 During Quarter 3 we introduced a new approach to agreeing ‘Extensions of Time’ within which we consider applications and keep within Government targets. This reflects good practice. This approach will enable us to respond to any delays in applications more transparently and provide a more efficient service.
- 2.4 The speed in dealing with pre-applications has remained very high and consistently surpasses our target of 80% response rate within 21 days (Figure 2.3). The Service has significantly exceeded targets in relation to the number of applications allowed at appeal (Figure 2.4). We have dipped slightly below our target of approving 95% of all applications over the last two quarters (Figure 2.5). We will review the reasons for this and will report back in the next quarter.
- 2.5 The capacity of the Service has been stretched over the past two quarters as one of our two Team Leaders resigned at the end of May and his successor started in mid-November. We expect to increasingly feel the benefit of the new Team Leader over the next quarter, and we plan to review and improve our procedures in a number of key areas. It is a significant team effort across

Agenda Item 7

the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.

Figure 2.2

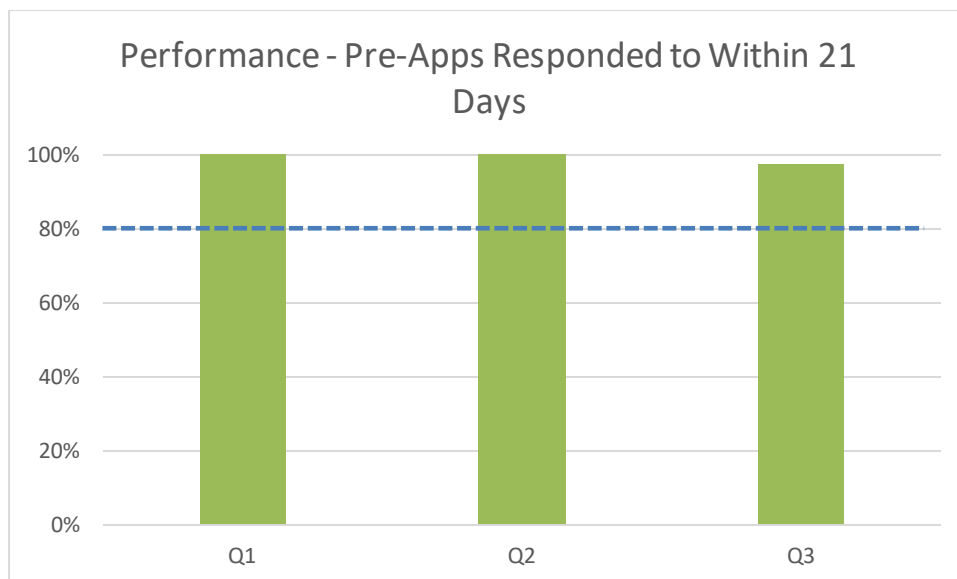
Key performance against national targets for speed and quality of decision making: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December*) 2022



--- National Target

**Up to 22nd December*

Figure 2.3 Pre-application inquiries received: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022



----- Local Target

Agenda Item 7

Figure 2.4

Percentage of decisions made on appeal: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022

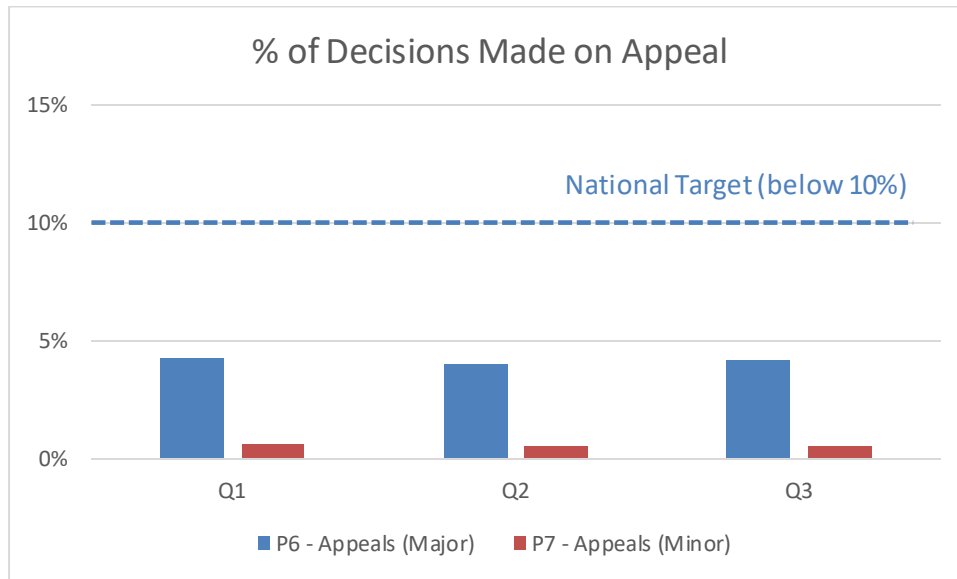


Figure 2.5

Percentage of planning applications approved: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022



Enforcement

- 2.6 As we emerge from Covid the number of complaints received in the first three quarters of 2022-23 is less than in the previous two years during Covid and lockdown. The rise in complaints during lockdown might have been 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. Similarly, the reduction in complaints might be due to people returning to places of work and not spending as much time at home. The cost-of-living crisis could also have impacted on people's ability to carry out developments to their homes.

3. Building Control

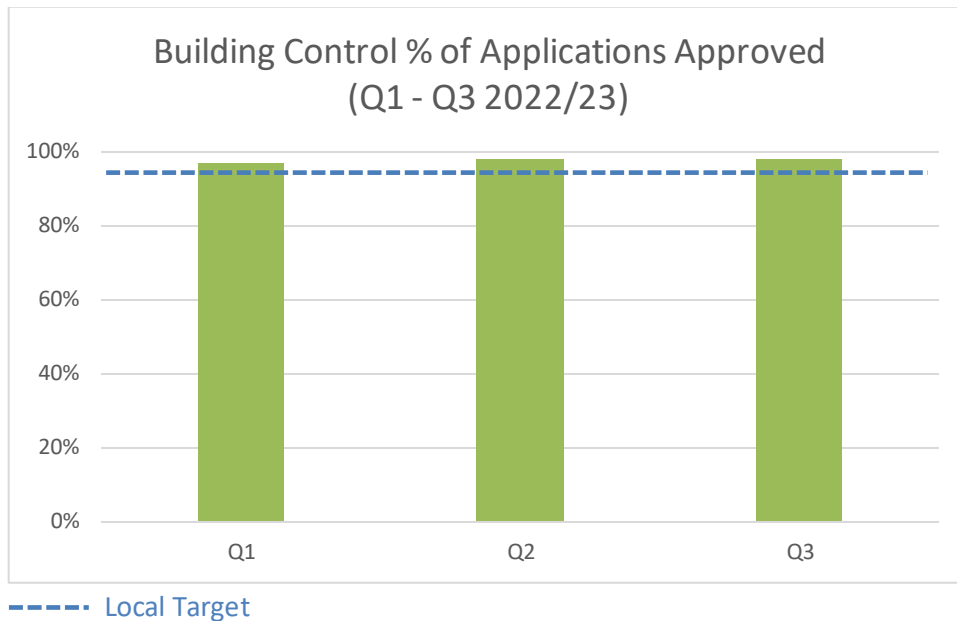
Performance targets

- 3.1 This section focuses on the Building Control Team's performance in the third quarter of 2022/23.
- 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. In terms of the percentage of Building Regulation applications given full or conditional approval, figures for the first 3 quarters show this to be at 98% - compared to the locally set target of 95% (see Figure 3.1 below).
- 3.3 Results from the first three quarters of 2022/23, indicate that the Team's market share has reduced slightly from that of the previous financial year, although it remains higher than the national average for local authority building control teams. This is mainly due to the loss of some key members of staff to private sector Building Control, who will have taken some key clients with them. The Team's performance in respect of timely decision-making on deposited applications shows that all statutory targets are being met. All locally set performance targets are also being met – except for the target to check plans within 3 weeks of deposit. Performance in this area is only marginally below target and an improvement plan has been put in place to address this issue.

Agenda Item 7

Figure 3.1

Percentage of building regulation applications approved: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022



Income and financial performance

3.4 Building Regulation income for 2021/22 covered the Section's costs in terms of its fee-earning work element and figures for income derived from Building Control fees/charges for the first three quarters of 2022/23 appear to show a similar trend, with the deposit of several applications relating to volume housing developments and some larger commercial schemes.

Safety at sports grounds

3.5 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections to check the grandstands are properly maintained. Plans and details relating to the temporary structures proposed for the 2023 Grand National meeting are currently being assessed.

Staffing

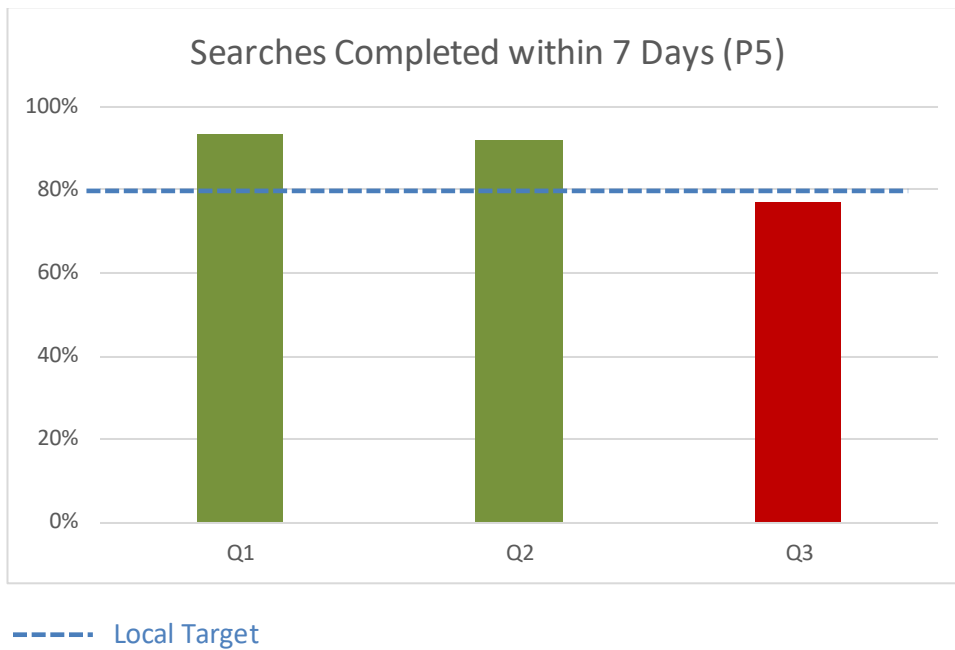
3.6 Over the last 6 months there have been a series of vacancies within the Building Control Team, the majority of which have been filled. The only current vacancy within the Team is for a Trainee Building Control Officer post.

4. Technical Support

4.1 Figure 4.1 below shows our performance over quarters one, two and three of 2022/23 in respect of the completion of local land charge searches.

Figure 4.1

Searches completed within 7 days: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022

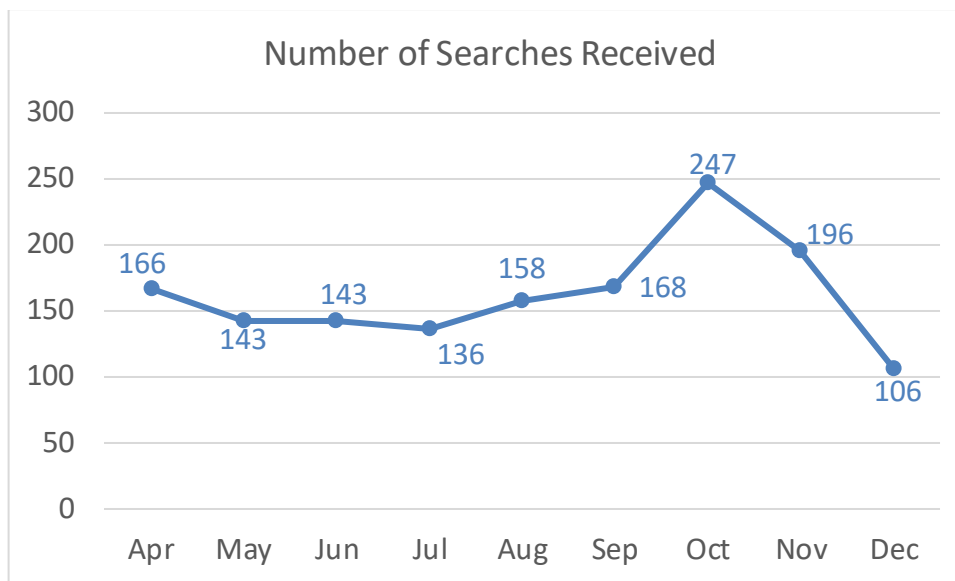


4.2 The performance is slightly below target for Q3. The reason for this is threefold; search requests were higher than usual (as shown in the chart below), our local land charges officer was on long term sickness absence, and other staff within the team were seconded to ensure the project of migration of local land charges data to HM Land Registry was completed on time. This led to small delays in the completion of land charge searches.

Agenda Item 7

Figure 4.2

Number of searches received: Quarters 1, 2 and 3 (April – December) 2022



- 4.3 The local land charges migration project has been in progress for some time but is now nearing completion. HM Land Registry served notice on Sefton Council on 19 December stating they would be assuming responsibility for the land charges register from 16 January 2023. At this time Sefton will no longer provide searches of the register (LLC1) or personal searches of the register but will retain the larger part of the local land charge search service (the CON29). Sefton will still need to maintain the local land charges register and ensure updates are made to the HM Land Registry system.

5. Local Planning

The Sefton Local Plan

- 5.1 We have committed to undertake a high-level review to determine whether the Local Plan remains up to date or whether it needs to be updated wholly or in part. The Local Plan review will be carried out through winter of 2022-23 and will be reported in the Spring.

Major legislative change is heralded in the Levelling Up and Planning Bill. Further detail on reform to the planning system and on a new style Local Plan was announced at the end of Quarter 3 and the implications of this will be considered carefully.

- 5.2 Planning applications continue to be submitted on Local Plan allocated housing sites. As of 19 December 2022, planning approval has been granted for 74.5% of the total indicative site capacity on Local Plan housing allocations, up from 66% last year. There has now been a total of 1,145 new dwellings completed on Local Plan allocated housing sites (as at 31 March 2022), an increase of 223 during 2021/2022.

This equates to 15.76% of total Local Plan allocated capacity. This shows there is still a large supply of housing land 10 years into the 18-year period of the Local Plan (2012-30¹).

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents

- 5.3 The Planning Policy Team are currently consulting on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents and an Information Note to support the Local Plan. These include:
- Affordable Housing
 - Conversions to Flats and HMOs
 - New Housing
 - House Extensions
 - Contributions towards primary education from development
- 5.4 These were available for public comment until Friday 2nd December 2022. Work is also being progressed on a Social Value (Employment and Skills) Supplementary Planning Document and this will be available for consultation in early 2023.

Liverpool City Region work

- 5.5 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 likely to be delayed until summer of 2023 and the Council will fully engage with this, and the supporting evidence.

Bootle Area Action Plan

- 5.6 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. 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.

¹ Whilst the Local Plan was adopted in April 2017, it was subsequently updated in April 2012.

Agenda Item 7

- 5.7 The first draft of the Bootle AAP was approved and consultation on the Bootle AAP Issues and Options paper was undertaken. The Council are currently considering all the comments made.
- 5.8 Work is now progressing on the Preferred Options stage of the Bootle Area Action Plan. A series of discussions are taking place with both the Member Steering Group and the Officer Working Group on what the priorities for the Bootle AAP should be and the policies that will help deliver those. It is now expected that the Preferred Options document will be published Summer 2023.

Other work

- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 Following recent applications and appeal hearings for traveller accommodation sites, it was decided that the Council's evidence base for gypsy and traveller accommodation needed to be updated. The Council is in receipt of a draft and will complete the reporting of this hopefully in February.
- 5.11 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. This is a complicated and multidisciplinary piece of work and will be managed and led by the Local Planning team. An initial draft has been received and the Local Plans Team is coordinating a response.
- 5.12 To inform both the Local Plan review and Bootle AAP (see above) the Council will undertake an Employment Land and Premises Supply assessment. This will look at all of Sefton's allocated and designated employment land, including Bootle Office Quarter.
- 5.13 The Local Plan team have recently completed its first Movers' Survey. This looks at where people moved to newly built homes in Sefton and why. It also looks at what services and facilities they have had to switch because of their move. This will be undertaken every year. The initial results can be found at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/5703/movers-survey-report-2022-first-edition.pdf>

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.

- 6.3 In order to help prevent major repairs to historic homes and to help in the cost of living crisis the Heritage team have started formulating helpful guidance for homeowners in the maintenance of their property, providing useful bespoke guidance for these important buildings will help prevent deterioration and buildings failing into costly disrepair.

Regeneration

- 6.4 The capital build part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project is progressing, and discussions continue with owners of targeted buildings. The first grant application is nearing competition - this is for 509-515 Lord Street, a grade 2 Listed Building on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. Other schemes have now received Board approval and are slowly progressing. The team is speaking to owners of other target property with architects having offered advice and prices on some of these possible schemes.

- 6.5 The learning and skills part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project has made significant progress in developing complementary training and education initiatives. This includes performances of Southport's Victorians to various schools at the Atkinson. Excerpts of the script have been filmed and have been uploaded to Youtube. A successful and comprehensive week of Heritage Open Days have been undertaken and the exhibition held at the Atkinson called "Built on Sand – 200 Years of Southport's Changing Street Scene". This interactive, exhibition was hugely successful. We are also working closely with the CVS, Southport Civic Society and other local organisations.

- 6.6 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.

Agenda Item 7

- 6.7 The heritage team was successful in December 2022 in attracting £30k funding to build on a project to help unlock the potential in vacant upper floors in historic buildings and gap sites which are having a negative impact on the Lord Street and Promenade Conservation Areas.

Advice to Development Management team

- 6.8 The number of consultation responses sent in Quarter 4 (October – December 22) is 81. This decrease from last year is due to removing the buffer zones for consultations so it means that requests for consultation are being targeted more effectively.
- 6.9 In addition, this part of the Service continues to assist in various appeals, on-site monitoring and enforcement cases.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Appropriate technology has been put in place to support staff who mainly work from home, 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 and we continue to hold regular staff away sessions to bring .
- 7.2 The service has risen to recent challenges 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 more or less at pre-Covid levels which is maintaining inward investment into the Borough. This positive approach continues to assist the economic recovery of the Borough.
- 7.3 The Service continues to respond to the unsettled context in which we are currently operating. We are prepared to adapt to further changes on the horizon, in particular the major legislative change heralded in the Levelling Up and Planning Bill.
- 7.4 Despite all the challenges we have faced over the past two years, we believe we provide a quality service and feedback from agents is that our service is the best in the region.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Marion Atkinson	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills	March 2023

INVESTSEFTON UPDATE

- Whilst InvestSefton remains focussed on business growth and sustainability, economic recovery still remains very much central to this as businesses continue to face increasing economic pressures, including cost of living, materials, supply chain and energy costs across a range of sectors. The team is working with other city region support organisations such as the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Growth Platform and Enterprise Hub (start-ups), New Markets (accessing new business sales markets) and a range of other providers to support Sefton businesses.
- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Business Growth Programme is in its final phase of delivery with concerns over its replacement, United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), not providing anywhere near enough financial resource for the city region. However, the LCR Combined Authority has indicated that it is looking to directly commission Local Authorities for continued support although this needs to be firmed up. The LCR Combined Authority is also leading a review of business support on which InvestSefton is closely engaged.

Business Engagement

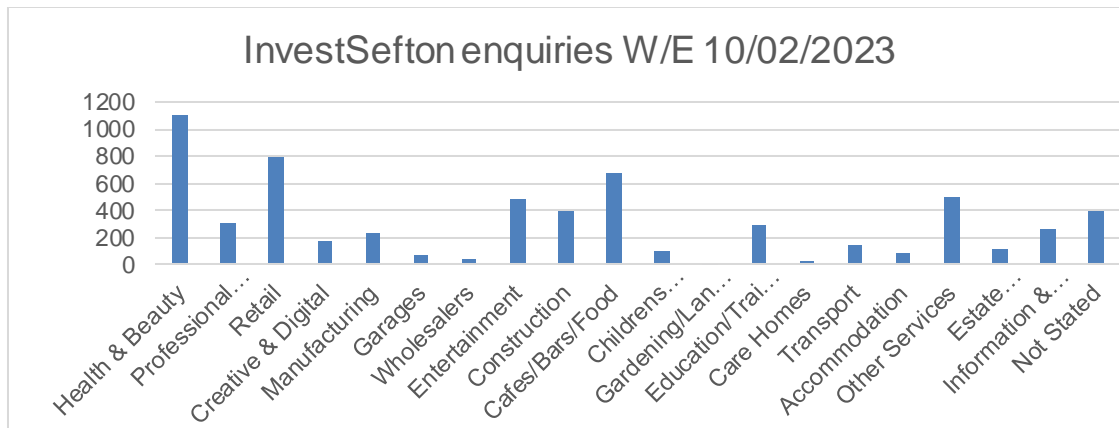
www.investsefton.com is updated regularly with the latest guidance and news from Government, Growth Platform, Sefton Council, and other sources of help for businesses. Below are some key statistics on site usage:

- From Friday 3rd to Thursday 9th Feb 2023, the website had 136 unique sessions.
- The most visits this week were on Thursday between 9am and 4pm.
- Since the new website went live on Monday 30th March 2020 until Thursday 26th Jan 2023, the site has had a total of **65,034** unique sessions.
- InvestSefton twitter page now has 1,581 followers.
- Average time on the website has doubled to over 2 minutes per session.

Business Enquiries

- Since March 2020 InvestSefton has handled **6,238** enquiries from a wide range of businesses. Breakdown by type of business is provided below as of 10th February 2023:

Agenda Item 7



Case Studies

The team continues to engage with businesses as part of its 1:1 delivery support. Recent case studies below (Names have been anonymised for confidentiality):

- An owner managed security company based in Bootle. The Company offers CCTV and security alarm installation and monitoring services, and solar powered systems for customers looking to reduce energy and carbon output. They also offer guarding personnel for sites etc and special protection operatives for dignitaries and VIP's. The business is also looking at opportunities for installing EV charging posts and bollards. The business is looking to grow and increase its market share. InvestSefton assisted the business with the preparation of a marketing letter to engage agents and developers as well as showing the business how to identify opportunities on LCR planning portals, intelligence on agents and developers.
- Restaurant based in Crosby Village. The business is now looking to expand and open two new units, again in Crosby but offering a "small plates" type of menu and Coffee shop. The business is looking for funding to support its planned growth. InvestSefton supported the business with the Preparation of a business plan to complement accountant prepared projections to ensure they were investment ready.
- Property management and lettings company based in Southport. They manage both commercial and residential lettings as well as a portfolio of properties for a landlord in Southport. They are growth orientated and are also sourcing properties for overseas investors in Hong Kong, who are looking to buy in the UK. InvestSefton assisted the business with planning and online/offline marketing strategy including Eco Energy schemes as well as providing them Networking opportunities at events and workshops.
- **IKEA opened a Plan & Order Point in Aintree**, Liverpool in December. The Plan & Order Point is a smaller store dedicated to kitchen and bedroom planning, where customers can visit for home furnishing advice and expertise to help design their ideal space. The opening comes as part of the retailer's ongoing transformation to become more accessible and sustainable for customers shopping with IKEA in the Northwest of England.

Networking Group for Digital, Creative and Tech Businesses

- The development of a networking group for digital, creative and tech businesses has commenced – these networking groups will be held three times per year. In the first instance the team intends to host the networking meetings at the

Atkinson in Southport. The aim is that hosting it in Southport will benefit the Enterprise Arcade development and the LCR connectivity project. However, the team will review this and consider whether to vary the location or consider additional resource to set up additional networking groups in other areas of the borough.

Network Dates

- 23rd February 2023 – 11-1pm
- 8th June 2023 – 11-1pm
- 2nd November 2023 – 11-1pm
- 1st February 2024 – 11-1pm

REGENERATION, GROWTH & INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

- The Regeneration Service is providing both a lead and supporting role across the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme delivery on a number of key Council priority projects and external partner projects.

Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2

- Sefton Council submitted two levelling up funding bids in August 2022 for Bootle and Crosby. Totalling £30.3 million, the two bids were not within the approved list of Round 2 projects announced by DLUHC for the remaining LUF funding pot.
- Sefton is aware that there is likely to be a third round (LUF Round 3), however, timescales and criteria for submission have yet to be announced and members yet to decide whether to progress with any future bidding round processes. Notwithstanding the LUF announcement, work is continuing to explore other options for delivery of these two key projects.

BOOTLE

Bootle Town Centre

- The Council is progressing plans for a repurposed Strand Shopping Centre and further work and development of Bootle Canalside:

Salt 'n' Tar Made in Bootle

- Final elements of work to the rebranded 'Salt 'n' Tar site next to Bootle canal to enable the site to be used as an attractive entertainment complex with covered areas, bars, food outlets and canal-side access nearing completion for opening in Spring 2023 for a range of events. (see press release link: [Bootle Canalside events area to be branded 'Salt and Tar' - My Sefton News Channel](#))

Strand Transformation Programme

- Following January's Cabinet consideration of the Strand Business Plan which sets out how re-purposing The Strand will create an enhanced and more diversified town centre, support the growth of a night-time economy and deliver new amenities needed by local people and businesses, work is progressing to explore options for the next phase of work.

Agenda Item 7

SOUTHPORT

Southport Town Deal

- Work continues on the delivery of Southport Town Deal. This year has seen the approval of the business cases for funding the projects in accordance with the Town Deal bid submission requirements including the Marine Lake Events Centre and Water and Light show which was approved in December 2022.
- Work is now progressing with delivery including construction contract tendering and appointment to ensure delivery by the Towns Fund end date of 31st March 2026.

The Enterprise Arcade, Southport

- Refurbishment of Crown Buildings in Southport's town centre for a new business hub is a key Town Deal project. This will be the first ever purpose-built workspaces for start-up creative and digital businesses in Southport, and forms part of the Southport Town Deal.
- Design work is continuing for the project and the process of appointing contractors to carry out the works will be completed early in 2023 with works starting on site later in 2023.

Les Transformation de Southport

- The first phase of transportation improvements, focussing on the area around Southport Market – Kings Street, Market Street, East Bank Street – is progressing detailed design work with the main programme of work commencing in the autumn after the summer season to avoid disruption.

Building a Better Customer Experience

- Following approval of the business case for this training project in 2022 by the Council and Town Deal Board, training providers are now underway to support the hospitality sector in Southport at a crucial time. Training provision through Sefton Adult and Community Learning and Southport College started this February 2023.

CROSBY

Crosby Town Centre Regeneration

- Sefton Council is assessing the next steps for this key project including options for delivery following the Crosby LUF bid not being supported.
- Work is continuing to prepare a planning application for highway and parking works linked to support access and accessibility in Crosby.

Crosby Lakeside

- Practical completion for Crosby Lakehouse has been achieved with final checks being undertaken. Work to finalise the Bunkbarn aims to complete in August 2023.
- SHOL continue to offer improved hospitality offer for the site.

AINSDALE ON SEA

Ainsdale Coastal Gateway

Former Sands Public House, Shore Road, Ainsdale.

- Sefton Council have gone out to the market for the former Sands Public House in Ainsdale (Opposite Pontins) earlier this year, following soft market testing that indicated a sufficient level of interest to encourage a formal marketing of the site.
- Sefton is assessing responses and undertaking due diligence. Marketing will continue.
- Brochure can be seen via following link: [Former Sands PH Marketing Brochure](#)
- Marketing Website link: [Former Sands Public House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Ainsdale, PR8 2QD | Property to rent | Savills](#); and [Shore Road, Ainsdale, PR8 | Fitton Estates](#)

Ainsdale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandbrook Way

- In February Cabinet agreed the next stage of work to bring it into full Council ownership including ongoing negotiations with outstanding owners.
- Cabinet agreed to progress appointing agents to explore the market in the site in order to support the Council's ambitions for change.

EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING UPDATE

FUNDING UPDATES

Ways to Work Continuation Funding

- Sefton@work has recently been in consultation on this issue with the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) Investment fund team from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR-CA). The funding for the continuation phase (i.e., Sept 23 – March 24) has been approved and a paper will go through to the next LCR - CA Board on 3rd March for formal confirmation of this. However, some questions remain about the allocation of the SIF funding per area, but we are working on the basis that the full amount requested by Sefton will be made available.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Employment and Skills

- UKSPF funding for Employment and Skills will only be available from the year 2024/25. The amount ringfenced for the LAs to undertake a successor to Ways to Work, referencing the UKSPF requirements, is £7.5m. Further consultation will be ongoing on the composition, objectives, focus and culture of the required service. The LCR-CA team has stated they do not wish to impose a model of delivery upon the LA's and officers will be fully involved in project design.

SEFTON@WORK UPDATE

Sefton@work General Performance Data for January 2023

Data Description	Range	Figures	
Total Clients accessing service	Since 01/01/2016	5,388 (figure reduced due to GDPR compliance)	
New Clients accessing service	January 2023	177	
New clients registering by age	January 2023	16-24	44
		25-49	106
		50+	23
		Unknown	4

Agenda Item 7

W2W contracts Male	Since 01/01/16 January 2023	58.0% 61.0%
W2W contracts Female	Since 01/01/16 January 2023	41.9% 39.0%
W2W contracts Other	Since 01/01/16 January 2023	0.1% 0.0%
Positive Inclusions Male	Since 01/01/21 January 2023	67.6% 20.0%
Positive Inclusions Female	Since 01/01/21 January 2023	31.9% 80.0%
Positive Inclusions Other	Since 01/01/21 January 2023	0.5% 0.0%
ESF clients with Disabilities/Health Conditions	Since 01/01/2016 January 2023	32.5% 20.3%
ESF clients without basic skills	Since 01/01/2016 January 2023	30.6% 26.5%
Supporting Families (new project replacing Turnaround)	Current Active Total	22
People leaving the programme (into jobs/self-emp/training)	Since 01/01/2016	W2W & PI + 200 from other programmes Total 2,155
Ways to Work Starts	Since 01/01/2016 January 2023	4682 59
Positive Inclusions Starts	Since 01/01/2021 January 2023	207 5

Closedown of ESF Positive Inclusions Project

- This project is due to conclude operations from April 2023 and has previously received an Impact Report on this project highlighting how it has supported a wide range of cross-Council objectives connected with vulnerable young people, including those with care experience.
- Arrangements have already been put in place to manage this closedown, in particular the closure of the remaining Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) placements. ILM participants have been given additional support with job search and others are moving into full time further education.
- Staff assigned to this project will be migrated across to Ways to Work funding until the end of that programme and their costs will be picked up within the SIF continuation monies described above.

Final performance outputs for Positive Inclusions at this stage are:

- Under the funding stream for young persons, we have already achieved all targeted starts and the programme is now closed for new referrals. 13 Jobs/training outcomes are awaiting evidence to justify in a final claim before contract end, but we are confident this will be met.

- Under the funding stream for older persons including 50 plus, we have achieved all forecasted starts, and this is also now closed for new referrals. Evidence for 18 Jobs/training outcomes remain outstanding before contract ends but we are confident this will be also met.

Mental Health Support

- In response to the rising number of clients who are presenting to the Service with depression, anxiety and low mood conditions, Sefton@Work will be offering its popular Think Differently, Cope Differently sessions at Sefton Adult Community Learning (SACL) Cambridge Road centre from Wednesday 1st March. This will be the first time following COVID-19 we have been able to offer these opportunities and we expect the take-up to be positive. The course is made up of the 5 ways to wellbeing and is aimed at those with poor mental health, lack of confidence, motivation and mindset. Learners will be encouraged to enrol for courses with SACL as part of their ongoing health and wellbeing and progression from these sessions.

Outreach in the Community

Sefton@Work is increasing its presence in community venues and now have weekly outreach in the following areas/venues:

- SACL to have a visible twice weekly presence in the Cambridge Road foyer but also with staff dropping into classes to promote support available, employment and to ensure learners are fully aware of their progression options.
- Adviser based in Light for Life in Southport 2 days a week to promote Sefton@Work support and engage with clients onto the ESF programmes.
- Outreach in JCP weekly and staff attend Bootle, Crosby and Southport JCP once per week to build relations with the work coaches who make referrals.
- Attending Netherton Family Wellbeing weekly to promote support available and benefits of employment to service users.
- Outreach surgery at Talbot Street Family Wellbeing (Southport) weekly to promote support available and benefits of employment to service users.
- Outreach surgery Litherland Family Wellbeing weekly to promote support available and benefits of employment to service users.

Aspiring Instructors 2023

- Staff from Sefton@work and Sefton Adult Community Learning (SACL) have worked with colleagues in Active Sefton to help them promote the Aspiring Instructors 2023 project. Two recruitment and engagement days were held in the Cambridge Road centre to promote this during January. The project has now commenced, but with only one activity routeway as a watersports routeway is not available this year. 7 people have joined the programme. The age profile of these participants is much older than on previous years on the programme.

Relocation Project into the Bootle Strand Centre

- A License to occupy has now been signed off by the Head of Economic Growth and Housing. This guarantees a generous rent-free period, and it is our intention to undertake refurbishment of the Unit during this rent-free period.

Agenda Item 7

- Sefton@work staff have been engaging with Procurement colleagues to engage a qualified organisation through a public sector framework to act as QS, scheme designer and employer's agent with contractors. Plans are in production at present for the detailed works. Once received, we will immediately move to procure a contractor capable of undertaking the shopfitting works in line with Procurement regulations.

Supporting Eurovision Promotions 2023 and Recruitment Pop Up Shop

- Sefton@Work has opened a pop-up shop in partnership with JCP in The Strand from 15 February. The shop will be open two days a week (Wednesday and Thursday 10am-2pm) until early April. Our team will be promoting all available learning and employment opportunities during the Eurovision Festival. Radio Merseyside will run free adverts to promote the pop-up shop concept. Sefton@Work is offering a "Barista Routeway" to our clients with a pilot course starting 15 February for two days, and again 22 February for two days, including practical experience in the cafe at The Big Onion in The Strand. All 12 Clients pre-booked on are guaranteed interviews with employers for hospitality roles. This will also link in with the Eurovision festival as it is expected that the industry will need more staff to cope with the visitors to the city. Adult Community Learning is working alongside this offer to provide more courses of interest to those entering employment in this sector and the expectations that learners will register for a wide range of opportunities as a result of Eurovision promotions.

Sefton@work Case study – Employer Advocacy in a Struggling Sector

- The Client was referred to Sefton@Work from JobcentrePlus having been unemployed for more than 3 years. Her unemployment had partly been due to having ongoing health problems with her knee. The client was eager to return to a childcare role as this was a sector she had previously trained in and something she really enjoyed. However, she initially felt that her mobility restrictions would be a major barrier and finding a sympathetic employer with a role suitable for her mobility issues would be a major barrier.
- Sefton@work has over the past few months been engaged in discussions with a number of childcare employers and has been assisting colleagues from Early Years in preliminary investigations connected with workforce sufficiency in childcare and its impacts.
- Using sector contacts, Sefton @Work identified a suitable role for the client as an After School Practitioner, the role was part time 17.5 hours per week and was within reasonable travelling distance from the client's home. After support with rebuilding her CV and confidence building about interview techniques and after several visits with her adviser, she was offered an interview. The client was successful at interview and was delighted to start her new role.
- However, some weeks into the post, the client began to experience increased pain and relayed this to her Sefton@work adviser. Her main worry at this stage was that she was reluctant to ask for further help from an employer who had already been very amenable, but she worried she would be forced to give up the job and the potential impact this might have on her benefits if she did so. She asked Sefton@Work to support her in raising her concerns with the employer and an advocacy plan was drawn up. Sefton@Work approached the employer on the client's behalf and explained the issues she was having with her mobility alongside the fact she wanted to continue her employment.

Agenda Item 7

- Taking this on board the employer made changes to the client's working duties so she would not have to climb stairs on a regular basis. They were supported to access a government scheme to provide her with adapted workplace equipment to assist with her mobility problems as they were very keen for the client to remain in the role. From their perspective, our client had flourished as a new employee, they were delighted with her progress, and she had created a great relationship with the children she was working with. The employer was also very aware of the challenges they faced filling places with suitable applicants such as our client.
- Without the support from Sefton@Work the client felt she would have been unable to stay in the role and is delighted to be working with children again. The in-work aftercare support provided a lifeline for her and the employer.

Caring Business Charter Project

- Initial visits have been conducted with most of the signatory employers and their offers are now being worked up in more detail to allow colleagues across Children's Services, virtual school and others to make referrals and ensure take-up is achieved.
- A Summary of the offers received to date is included here:


Business Offer	Number of Offers
Apprenticeships (will be bespoke for an individual following placement or taster)	10
Traineeships	3
Full time/part time jobs	10
Work Experience	16
Mentoring	11
Taster days	16
Work Placements	8
Presentations to small groups/classes	9
Training courses	2
Site Visits	11
Volunteering	1
Mock Interviews	6

- This is very much a Cross - Council initiative and our role within Sefton@work focuses on the generation and clarification of the employer offers and the ongoing advocacy and communication with the employers. Staff have been circulating the offers in the form of a newsletter which has been called the Beacon, which has been circulated as an appendix.
- Project staff are also working with central comms team to produce an overall Communications plan which will be available shortly.
- The recently adopted Council Motion related to people with Care Experience will inform the backdrop and context of this provision.

SEFTON ADULT LEARNING SERVICE UPDATE

Agenda Item 7

Service Performance – to January 2023

 This image cannot currently be displayed.

- From the 1st of August the Service has enrolled **996** new learners (to the end of January 23) who have enrolled onto 1,427 learning aims. The above data shows that the number of learner aims continues to grow and surpass the same period compared with last year. However, take-up from learners has still not yet returned to pre covid levels.
- Community Learning provision continues to make up the majority of learning activities across the year to date. Further work is needed to increase the number of new learners accessing the service and community learning learners progressing onto qualification bearing classes.
- A marketing strategy review is currently underway investigating alternative methods to improve the reach to potential new learners across the borough including increased social media presence and refreshing the website.
- The Service is working closely with DWP, Sefton@Work and Active Sefton to deliver joint events, all of which have focused on increasing learner numbers.
- Over 50s jobs fair event held at Cambridge Road on 27 January - 16 providers onsite engaging with 20 DWP clients booked in every 15 mins.
- DWP Huddles – throughout January the service continues to attend and engage with DWP clients located at various JobcentrePlus centres. Of those engaged, 17 have been referred for Initial Assessments for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and 1 for English.
- Following a slight delay, the Aspiring instructors programme has now started. We have 7 learners who are currently taking part in a fully funded training programme in the leisure and fitness industry.

Multiply – Government Adult Numeracy Initiative

- Work has progressed to secure contracts for the VCS element of Multiply to agree arrangements with suitable organisations capable of delivering engagement activities to promote numeracy and lead to registrations of new learners for the service. The short procurement exercise was concluded, and four contractors have now been engaged. As a result of ongoing delays in government, this element of activity had been identified for the full year's duration but needed to be telescoped down to three months. Contract management of the

Multiply organisations is being conducted directly through the Employment and Learning contracts team.

- Since mid-January, 4 of the Multiply Providers have delivered 7 numeracy related sessions and have supported 30 new learners to access this provision. Sessions have been delivered in Cambridge Road, The Big Onion in Bootle Strand, Waterloo Centre, Crosby Library, Sean's Place and Phoenix Community Youth Project in Southport. These are as follows:
- **Transform Lives Company – 1 engagement with 4 learners**
Activity Content focused on reducing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis including home budgets, allowing learners to understand that they do have more control over their spending. As learners are in receipt of benefits, they are feeling the cost-of-living crisis more than others. By showing them how to properly understand their expenditure pattern (prioritising bills/borrowing/household etc) it gives them a deeper understanding of where they can make changes. Over the next couple of sessions, the focus will be on home energy use and cooking on a budget.
- **Expanding Horizons (The Big Onion) – 1 engagement with 5 learners**
Feedback has been positive. A new session will be delivered on 21st February and 7 learners have already signed up. Sessions are spread over 3 days and are around various aspects of money management: personal, business and in work. They are flexible and meet the needs of the learner. Four additional sessions have been scheduled for end of Feb and throughout March, 2 of these will be in the Strand and two will take place in Southport Town Hall.
- **Phoenix Community & Youth Project – 2 engagements with 6 learners**
Sessions are held around Southport area and are aimed at supporting learners to manage household budgets, balancing weekly/monthly income and expenditure, opening bank accounts and financial literacy. Additional courses will run during Feb/March.
- **Rotunda – 3 engagements with 15 learners**
Rotunda have delivered a Money Maths short engagement across 3 community venues, i.e. Waterloo Centre, Crosby Library and Sean's Place in Bootle. Learners have been able to apply their new skills to help manage their household budgets, understand their utility bills especially around unit price comparisons. Rotunda have received a significant amount of interest through word of mouth and have registered new learners for courses to be run end of February and throughout March, an additional 15 learners will be expected to participate in a further two programmes.

Children's University

- The Cambridge Road centre has been verified by the Children's University as a Public Learning Destination for Family Learning Programmes – The Children's University is a school led project that rewards children for their extracurricular learning and for it to count, they can only get their Passport to Learning stamped at a valid Learning Destination, of which we are now recognised as one. We hope the success of this will attract families into the service.

Quality Assurance Improvement Visit

- The Service took part in a Quality Assurance Improvement Visit commissioned by LCR-CA, spanning 2 days. This involved a team of 2 active OFSTED inspectors who met with senior managers, governors, stakeholder, tutors, and

Agenda Item 7

learners. Classroom lessons were observed to carry out joint scrutiny with managers and tutors; documents were reviewed and discussed including aspects of leadership and management, quality of education, personal development and behaviour and attitudes with learners and managers. A visit report has been received and overall, with action points raised for future consideration but no major quality concerns raised.

- Some of the findings from the report include:
 - *“The curriculum that is offered is well planned, and most courses meet learners’ needs. These courses are flexible and delivered at time to fit in with learners’ commitments. For example, a mentoring lesson has been rearranged to another day to fit in with childcare commitments of learners.*
 - *Tutors are experienced and knowledgeable and manage the learning of a wide range of learners’ abilities in each class and support them in making progress. Learners improve their confidence and communication skills and enjoy meeting new people at the centre.*
 - *Learners have access to high quality resources and additional online resources to support, consolidate or extend their learning in their own time. These resources help learners to catch up if they have missed a session.*
 - *As part of the service quality improvement plan, actions are currently underway to further improve the quality of the service.”*

Adult Learning Feedback, Case studies and Comments

- **Feedback from Awarding Body:**

Ascentis Annual Quality Assurance review informal feedback highlighted how well the service’s quality assurances processes are managed, including a recognition that the documentation reviewed at the visit was excellent and some of the best seen by the Inspector.

- **Case Study: Dan’s story...**

“I studied Food Safety and Spanish at Sefton Community Learning Service. Due to covid I had been unemployed for 2 years. Whilst visiting the Community Pantry I noticed there was a jobs fair in the main hall recruiting for The Lake House at Crosby Marina. The services Community Engagement Officer persuaded me to complete an application form and I was offered an interview. Pleased to say I got the job! A part time post working in the tapas container in Ainsdale and also at the Lake House. After the summer season had come to an end, I started preparing working in the main kitchen. I had only been working there for a couple of months when I received my first promotion to Chef de Partie and now I’m working full time.

- **Comments from Learners**

- *“Great course brilliant location. Such a great teacher, Feel I have learned so much” – Spanish for Beginners.*
- *“It has helped me to think about the interview, C.V., and body language that I never thought of before. So, I would recommend this course” – Preparation for Employment.*
- *“After losing my husband a couple of years ago, I joined the course with my sister-in-law. I would never have joined anything like this without my husband giving me the confidence to do so. The course has changed my life so much” – iPads for Beginners.*

New Information Advice and Guidance Strategy

- The Service is in process of producing a strategy for Information, advice and guidance and an Action plan. The focus will be to ensure that learners have access to good quality advice and information they can use to plan their learning and their future goals including progression learning and moving into employment or other personal goals. The strategy recognizes the good practice already within the Service including the Matric accreditation and will provide a platform to progress and further improve these arrangements with employer encounters and input for our learners to feature as we move forward.

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) REDUCTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE UPDATE

Service Performance

(As the January 23 figures were not available at time of writing, the figures below are for December 2022).

Area	NEET	Not Known	Combined
Sefton	2.80%	0.40%	3.20%
Wirral	3.50%	1.10%	4.60%
Halton	4.40%	0.50%	4.80%
St Helens	4.20%	0.90%	5.10%
NORTHWEST	3.40%	2.40%	5.80%
ENGLAND	2.70%	3.30%	6.00%
Knowsley	5.00%	1.60%	6.50%
Liverpool	4.60%	5.60%	10.20%

- Sefton had the lowest NEET, Not Known, and Combined rates across the LCR area.
- We are currently performing better than the Northwest and England combined averages (-2.6% NW and -2.8% England).
- At 0.4%, our Not Known rate has been reducing by an average of 0.2% year on year.
- In December 2022, the total cohort of 16- and 17-year-olds was 5,703.

Age	Cohort	NEET	NK
16	2902	63 (2.17%)	6 (0.12%)
17	2801	98 (3.50%)	15 (0.54%)

- 36% (66 out of 182) of the 16-17 Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) and Not Known cohort are in one or more of our vulnerable groups.
- Sefton are currently the best performing LA within the LCR for SEN 16/17 and 16/24 in learning.
- Although we have seen a slight increase in our NEET figures in comparison to December 2021 (21 young people – 0.34%), this is primarily due to our SEN figures increasing and our teen mums. This increase has also been recorded nationally and is due to the impact of Covid, long term disengagement and an

Agenda Item 7

increase in isolation which is preventing some of our young people moving into positive outcomes.

National Apprenticeship Week (6-12th Feb)

- Career Connect attended events at Southport and Hugh Baird Colleges and targeted 92 Children in Care and Care Experienced young people both NEET and EET, this also included evening calls and follow ups.
- On Thursday 16th February, an event was also held at Cambridge Road, with the LA Apprenticeship Team and Sefton@work will also be in attendance. CV workshops and employability sessions were, and 10 young people registered to attend.

NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service Re-contracting

- In accordance with the Council's contract Procedures, an invitation to tender has now been uploaded on to the Chest Procurement portal. Completed returns from bidders need to be back with the Council by mid- March and thereafter scoring and evaluations of bids will be undertaken.

TOURISM UPDATE

Destination Marketing

- **Design & Campaign Management Agency** – The tender for our 2023 agency was awarded to Gingerhead via The Chest. This will be the fourth year we have worked with them. They are currently in the process of reviewing all 2022 activity and are preparing the campaign plan for 2023.
- **PR** – The contract with our current agency finished December 2022. We went out to a number of agencies for proposals for 2023 and the contract was awarded to Social PR. Early face-to-face and Teams meeting have been held and work is underway on the initial news releases and journalist invitations.
- **Visitor Guide** – the 2023 guide has been completed and delivered to national, regional and local distribution points.
- **Southport Restaurateurs Association** – The 2023 guide has been delivered and is in the process of being distributed locally, with the visitor guide.
- **E-newsletter** - Database stands at circa 50,000 with the addition of 2022 data and regular newsletters are sent to this audience.
- **Travel Trade** – advertising continues to be placed in key travel trade publications. Editorial has been refreshed in January and space has been secured alongside all ads to date. We have joined The Association of Group Travel Organisers and Coach Tourism Association to increase our communication with Tour Operators and coach companies. A Southport Showcase (mini exhibition) is being held on 24 April year. Invitations have gone out to local Marketing Southport members to exhibit at the event. We will be attending British Tourism and Travel Show at the NEC in March having a stand directly opposite Liverpool.
- **Golf** – We have recently held a meeting between England's Golf Coast, Southport Golf Tours and tourism to ensure better co-ordination between the three partners and a golf activity plan is being produced. Initial figures (advance bookings) for 2023 indicate it could be busiest year ever for EGC. After some

discussion and thought the EGC website will be refreshed this year but continue to stand alone rather than as a microsite within the new Visitsouthport site.

- **Marketing Southport** – membership currently stands at 104 (106 this time last year). The next Marketing Southport board meeting is to be held in March. An annual report is being finalised and will be circulated to all Marketing Southport members this month (February).
- **Eurovision** – We are plugged into LCR planning and activity around Eurovision. Detail continues to flow through from Liverpool. We are engaging with local businesses to ensure we maximise available opportunities.

Events

- The dates for 2023 Southport Events have been announced as follows: -
 - Food & Drink Festival - 2nd – 4th June.
 - Air Show - 9th & 10th September.
 - The British Musical Fireworks Championship - 22nd – 23rd September.
 - Procurement of infrastructure and event planning has started.
- A new 2023 events programme is being devised for Bootle at Salt and Tar, this will include:
 - The Salt and Tar Comedy Weekender will take place from Friday 26th May until Sunday 28th May.
 - **Friday 26th May** - Big Comedy Presents Chris McCausland, Nina Gilligan and Patrick Monahan with Host Brendan Riley.
 - **Saturday 27th May** – An afternoon of entertainment for the whole family with Comedy Bingo and one of the best children’s entertainers in the country Martin Bigpig Mor’s.
 - **Saturday 27th May – Evening** Bingo Nights Presents Disco Bingo Eyes Down for a fabulous night of fundraising for a local charity/community group (TBC) with this truly interactive event. Disco Bingo is exactly what it says on the tin, A full night of traditional style Disco and Bingo but with a modern twist!
 - **Sunday 28th May – Afternoon** An afternoon of entertainment for all the family with Comedy Bingo and star of Britain’s Got Talent Steve Royle.
 - **Sunday 28th May – Evening** Big Comedy Presents Jason Byrne, Jo Caulfield and Scot Bennett with Host Brendan Riley
- A marquee will be installed on the events site, capable of holding 500 people, it is anticipated the food and drink part of the site will be open to the public for the weekend. Tickets to go on sale week commencing 20th February.
- Work continues with Sound City and Live Nation on a Bootle Music Festival taking place on the 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th July, the first act Red Rum Club has been confirmed and is sold out with 3,000 ticket sales.
- We are working in partnership with NCASS on several large-scale food and drink events, the first of these will be in the summer and initial naming/branding work has commenced. One of the first events will be themed around a food and drink social.

Marine Lake Events Centre (MLEC)

Agenda Item 7

- The procurement of the build contractor is complete, the appointment will be announced in the coming weeks, the contractor will first of all carry out demolition and enabling works subject to planning permission.
- The Contractor will then work with us on Stage 4 looking at appointment of main works in October 2023.
- Full planning application submitted and will be taken to The April planning committee.
- Social value forms an important part of the MLEC project, activity has already commended.

Social Value Activities to Date

- In November 2022 Sefton, and consultants from the MLEC project team including G&T, AFL, AECOM, CBRE and IPW, hosted an engagement session with students from Southport College and two local high schools (Stanley School and Meols Cop). There were circa 30 pupils in total at the afternoon event. The session involved a presentation from the team on the importance of the construction industry, an overview of the MLEC project, the consultants involved and their roles. The students were then split into groups for a 'break-out activity' to look at local sites and discuss their ideas for projects, what consultants they would need, what local interferences there might be etc. This was followed by a short Q&A session and pupils from Stanley School and Meols Cop were invited to have a tour of the Southport College facilities.
- The wider MLEC attended Meols Cop School to conduct mock interviews for Year 11 students. Each team member interviewed up to 7 students for circa 20/30 mins each over the day – circa 4 hours interviewing overall.
- Alongside roughly 30 other local professionals and employees, the volunteering exercise was to enabling year 11 students to have a mock job interview where we discussed their work experience, their education and grades, their hobbies / interests / skills and future aspirations. Each student was paired with someone who was based in the industry that they were keen to pursue a career in. In total, the group interviewed the whole Yr 11 year group which was roughly 170 - 180 people.
- A number of the MLEC team will repeat the exercise at Hugh Baird and Bootle Schools in the coming months