

Overview
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Wednesday 28th September, 2022

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor
Councillor Dowd (Chair)
Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Corcoran
Councillor Hansen
Councillor Chris Maher
Councillor Myers
Councillor Page
Councillor Sathiy
Councillor Sir Ron Watson
Councillor Webster

Substitute

Councillor
Councillor Killen
Councillor O'Brien
Councillor Burns
Councillor Grace
Councillor Anne Thompson
Councillor Waterfield
Councillor Thomas
Councillor Dodd
Councillor Prendergast
Councillor 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.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 10)

Minutes of the meeting held 28 June 2022

4. Domestic Abuse Update (Pages 11 - 22)

Report of the Assistant Director of People (Communities)

5. Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan (Pages 23 - 30)

Report of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)

6. United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund Update (Pages 31 - 46)

Report of the Executive Director - Place

7. Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations (Pages 47 - 52)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|
| 8. | Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations | (Pages 53 - 62) |
| | Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer | |
| 9. | Work Programme 2022/23, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan | (Pages 63 - 86) |
| | Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer | |
| 10. | Cabinet Member Reports - June 2022 - September 2022 | (Pages 87 - 140) |
| | Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer | |

This page is intentionally left blank



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Atkinson and Hardy

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Dowd, welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Committee in the 2022/23 municipal year; and extended her thanks, on behalf of the Committee, for the work of those Members in 2021/22 who were not reappointed to the Committee, namely Councillors Cluskey, D'Albuquerque, Robinson and John Sayers and former Councillor Blackburne.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hansen, Myers (and his substitute Member Councillor Waterfield) and Webster.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. RIVERSIDE DISPERSED ACCOMMODATION PILOT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that provided an overview of the Riverside Dispersed Accommodation pilot (the Pilot).

The report indicated that one of the actions within Sefton's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-23 was to undertake a strategic review of temporary accommodation in Sefton to ensure that the provision was suitable; that at present Sefton's temporary accommodation for families was based in one location but that this was now considered out of date, with many councils attempting to provide dispersed supported temporary

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

accommodation models as well as or instead of hostel provision; that in July 2019 the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing approved the delivery of a service to provide dispersed temporary accommodation and support services for vulnerable households, particularly for those who struggled to access tenancies; that in June 2021, the Cabinet Member approved the extension of the Pilot so that Riverside could extend the pilot by a further six months and, to also extend the provision of properties that Riverside provided by an additional 10 properties, bringing the total number of properties to 30.

The report also indicated that an evaluation of the pilot was carried out by an independent company, Impact Limited, to assess the impact of the Pilot and the final Evaluation Report was attached to the report as Appendix A. The evaluation report concluded that the return on investment for every £1 which Sefton Council spent was £3.36 which represented potential public spending cost savings associated with homeless families of £24,394 per family.

The report also provided details of future service provision; that the Pilot had recently been shortlisted for the 2022 Northern Housing Awards within the category for Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness; and Housing Strategy and Commissioning outcomes.

The report concluded that Homeless services had been improved and recommissioned over the last four years, which had seen Sefton's rough sleeper numbers reduced to zero and a shift in approach that would focus on residents' strengths rather than their deficits; and that the learning gained from commissioning the Pilot with a model of dispersed supported accommodation had been a valuable lesson as Sefton looked to find better ways of assisting the most vulnerable families approaching its Housing Options Team for assistance.

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

- The report and outcomes contained in the report were very good and the Council should be proud of the achievements
- The potential for elected Members to report incidences of homelessness to officers or other agencies
- How funding issues for the continuation of the scheme would be addressed in order to mainstream the service, using Flexible Homeless Support Grant
- The report indicated that there were no revenue costs associated with the proposal but could the Council be certain of this if funding streams ceased; and that this could therefore have implications for the Council's base budget
- Clear timescales were sought on the receipt of external funding
- Reference was made to the evaluation which concluded that the return on investment for every £1 which Sefton Council spent was

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

£3.36; and that this represented potential public spending costs savings associated with homeless families of £24,394 per family

- The operation of the Payment by Results model
- The link between the Riverside Dispersed Accommodation pilot and the Empty Homes Plan
- The Sefton Families Service Evaluation Final Report contained extensive customer feedback via exit surveys but there was little mention of feedback from communities in which the Riverside properties associated with the pilot were located. Could this information be obtained?

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report providing an overview of the Riverside Dispersed Accommodation pilot be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Economic Growth and Housing request Riverside Housing to compile feedback from communities in which their properties associated with the pilot were located for circulation to Members of the Committee.

6. 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 Members on the draft Work Programme for 2022/23; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; updated Members on the progress of items that had previously been considered by the Committee; and updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S).

Councillor Dowd, Chair of the Committee suggested 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 Working Groups as short reviews of services could be undertaken by all Members at informal meetings.

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

Accordingly, if approved by the Committee, the Work Programme attached to the report would need to be amended to reflect the above changes.

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

- Arranging informal meetings would provide all Members of the Committee with the opportunity to take part in short, sharp scrutiny of portfolios rather than a limited number of Members who served on Working Groups
- Scrutiny undertaken at the informal meetings could lead to the submission of reports to formal meetings of the Committee or the generation of additional items for consideration
- The potential for the provision of statistics associated with Locality Services to be provided on a ward-by-ward basis
- Reference was made to the Chair of the LCRCOA&S not being a Member of the majority group on the Committee; the selection of Chairs to serve on House of Commons Select Committees; and a suggestion that this was best practice and should be adopted in Sefton

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be amended as referred to above and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be authorised to arrange two additional informal meetings in October 2022 and February 2023; and that the informal meetings commence at 6.30 p.m. and be held in Bootle and Southport Town Halls respectively; and
- (2) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

7. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - FEBRUARY 2022 - JUNE 2022

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; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills presented her report and particularly referenced:

- The positive results detailed in the latest data from Career Connect associated with NEET Reduction and Early Intervention
- The engagement with local businesses and case studies undertaken
- Business visits undertaken to Print Room UK Ltd. and Character Mailing, Aintree

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following aspects of Councillor Atkinson's report:

- In respect of the Southport Food and Drink Festival a comment was made that the entrance fee to the event was too high; a complaint was made that attendees were not allowed to bring their own food and drink into the event; it was alleged that the costs for a certain product at the event was very high; and a question was asked whether the Council had control over conditions attached to the event
- In respect of the European Social Fund (ESF) concern was expressed at the cessation of funding at the end of 2023; and that without replacement funding, Ways to Work in Sefton and the Positive Inclusions Project were under threat. Clarification was sought on the scale of the problem; and whether this issue was included on the Council's corporate risk register

Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing presented her report and particularly referenced:

- Major infrastructure work begins on the People's Network
- Improvement works to Meadows Library
- The breakdown of funding secured through the Rough Sleeper Initiative over the next 3 years

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following aspects of Councillor Hardy's report:

- In respect of equalities issues, the low response of staff getting in touch in relation to the disability staff group and LGBT staff group
- In respect of Neighbourhoods and Partnerships, were elected Members automatically invited to attend events in their wards

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

- Work underway to move the Careline onto a Cloud-based platform (the migration of older physical systems to a brand-new Cloud service) that would significantly improve the operation of the service
- The potential to purchase or lease specialist equipment to remove gum from pavements
- How volunteer groups are alerted to the availability of funding, via ward funds, for small value capital issues

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted; and

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 28TH JUNE, 2022

- (2) Councillors Atkinson and Hardy be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 6 September 2022
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills)		Wednesday 28 September 2022
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding)		Tuesday 27 September 2022
Subject:	Domestic Abuse Update		
Report of:	Assistant Director of People (Communities)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities & Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update Overview & Scrutiny Members on the Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse, including an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act and work of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to date.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Members note the content of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

It is essential that elected members understand the work of the Domestic Abuse Board and how we are responded to the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act locally. This will provide assurance as well as provide information to enable sufficient challenge.

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

There are no alternative options as Sefton's Domestic Abuse response and the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are a statutory requirement.

Agenda Item 4

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The Council received £607,271 in New Burdens funding in 2022/23 to provide support to victims/survivors living in safe accommodation.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
None at this time	
Legal Implications:	
The work of the board and commissioning of Domestic Abuse services is a statutory responsibility of the Council	
Equality Implications:	
The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated	
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

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Domestic Abuse survivors/victims and their children are some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The work of the board will strive to ensure they have adequate support.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: We want to create communities where Domestic Abuse is abhorrent and that residents have confidence in Domestic Abuse support services.
Commission, broker and provide core services: It is the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to give effect to the Domestic Abuse Strategy by commissioning and decommissioning services for victims/survivors and their children.
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener; Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6913/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5113/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

In producing the Domestic Abuse Strategic Needs Assessment the commissioners interviewed a wide range of victims/survivors to gain an insight into their experience of using Domestic Abuse services in Sefton.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Steven Martlew
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	steven.martlew@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Domestic abuse does not fall under any one service, department or agency; it is a safeguarding responsibility that cuts across all areas of society and as such it is everyone's' business to help tackle. The strategic responsibility for tackling domestic abuse in Sefton Council sits with the Communities department and falls within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities. However, it is important the agenda of domestic abuse is also prioritised and acknowledged across other portfolio areas in recognition of the breadth of impact it has on our residents, communities and workplaces in relation to a wide range of our services.

2. Overview of the Act

Agenda Item 4

2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act was signed into law on 29 April 2021. The Act is designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and provide a range of further protections for victims of domestic abuse as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.

The act will:

- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse.
- establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers.
- provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order (*currently known as Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)*).
- place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims.
- extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the "revenge porn" offence) to cover threats to disclose such material.
- create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.
- clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death.
- extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences.
- provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.

- enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody.
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing.
- Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance.
- ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy.
- prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes.

2.2 There will be a statutory guidance framework to support the implementation of the act. The consultation on the draft version of this guidance closed on the 14 September 2021 and is currently being reviewed by the Home Office. The guidance will be issued under section 84 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and has been formulated to set standards and promote best practice. The guidance is therefore aimed at statutory and non-statutory bodies working with victims, perpetrators and commissioning services, including the police, local authorities, and the NHS to increase awareness and inform their response to domestic abuse. It is also aimed at support organisations working with victims. Once the final guidance has been published, further information will be provided to the Board.

3. Local authority statutory duties within the Act

3.1 Part 4 of the Act places a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. The Government has provided a statutory framework which outlines how local authorities are expected to meet the needs of this duty. This includes:

1. Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult with as it performs certain specified functions.
2. Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
3. Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.

Agenda Item 4

4. Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).
5. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
6. Report back to central government.
7. Require tier two councils (district or borough councils, and London Boroughs) to co-operate with the lead local authority, so far as is reasonably practicable.
8. Require the Secretary of State to produce statutory guidance, having consulted the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, local authorities and such as other persons as considered appropriate.
9. Require local authorities to have regard to the statutory guidance in exercising their functions.
10. Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards will be expected to report the Domestic Abuse Commissioner on their progress and performance.

4. Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

4.1 Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was established in September 2021 and took over the responsibilities of the previous Sefton Domestic Abuse steering group. There is a legal requirement to have the following representatives included on the Board:

- Local authority
- Representative of victims of domestic abuse
- Representative of children of victims of domestic abuse
- Other VCF organisations working with domestic abuse victims
- Health representative
- Criminal justice representative.

4.2 However, to ensure a wider range of agency involvement and to continue the good partnership work started by the previous domestic abuse steering group, the membership of the Board includes a number of other representatives as outlined in the Board's Terms of Reference (see Appendix A).

4.3 The roles and responsibilities of the Board are also outlined in the Terms of Reference. Whilst there is a statutory requirement for the Board around meeting needs for safe accommodation, its has been agreed its functions will be wider than this and will provide the leadership for overseeing and coordinating domestic abuse related work across Sefton ensuring links with other local Boards are maintained. The Board is a strategic partnership and as such it is expected that agency membership and attendance is at a senior level. As the Board develops, consideration will be given to the development of sub/thematic groups that will be able to take forward Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy action plan at a more operational level.

4.4 One of the key requirements that the Board must fulfil is the undertaking of a domestic abuse needs assessment and the publishing of a Domestic Abuse

Strategy. Following an open procurement process last year, a team of consultants were commissioned to undertake Sefton's needs assessment and this work has been underway over the past 6 months. The needs assessment will be used over the coming months to review Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy and key priorities for action.

5. Links to other national/statutory guidance

5.1 Alongside guidance associated specifically with the Domestic Abuse Act, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are also cognisant of other relevant guidance and legislation and will ensure these are taken into account with the Domestic Abuse Strategy refresh and action planning. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Specific housing related Government guidance issued on improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse, Allocation of Accommodation guidance for local authorities Housing legislation changes and national consultation exercises relating to housing victims of domestic abuse
- The November 2021 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report on learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims

6. Cross partnership collaboration

6.1 As outlined in the introduction, the impact of domestic abuse cuts across all agency services. To tackle it successfully we need to work in collaboration across departments, agencies and strategic Partnership Boards. To ensure this happens a range of activities will be needed alongside the work of Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. These include:

- Building on the links established between Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Safer Sefton Together Partnership, Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure joint work is collaboratively supported and duplication is avoided. In particular, this will include sharing domestic abuse related learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to improve services, practice delivery and training.
- Continued participation and contribution to Liverpool city region partnerships such as the Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence & Abuse Group, the Merseyside Strategic Sexual Violence Group, Community Safety Leads meetings around suicide prevention, DHR learning, domestic abuse perpetrator work. Information and activities will be fed into the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Updates to Cabinet Members and relevant Overview and Scrutiny meetings to report on progress.

Agenda Item 4

Appendix A

Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board Terms of Reference

Purpose

Following the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Bill on 30 April 2021, Local Authority areas have a duty to establish a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is a partnership group responsible for supporting Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in meeting its duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act.

The Board will work together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to ensure survivors of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support within safe accommodation services.

The Board will work together to improve outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within safe accommodation services.

Meeting Frequency

The Board will meet on a bi monthly basis in the first year. This will be reviewed to ensure appropriate frequency, but as a minimum the Board will meet on a quarterly basis.

Administrative support will be provided by the Communities department of Sefton Council.

Membership

The Board is made up of the following including those that by law must be represented.

Position	Organisation	Representing
Cabinet Member Housing and Communities	Sefton Council	Tier One Local Authority
Localities Service Manager	Sefton Council, Communities	Tier One Local Authority
Consultant in Public Health	Sefton Council, Public Health	Tier One Local Authority
Director of Adults Social Care	Sefton Council, Adult Social Care/Safeguarding	Tier One Local Authority
Service Manager	Sefton Council, Children's Social Care	Tier One Local Authority / voice of children
Service Manager	Sefton Council, Housing & Investment Services	Tier One Local Authority/ housing services
Chief Executive	Sefton Women's and	Survivors of domestic

Agenda Item 4

	Children's Aid (SWACA)	abuse, adults and children
Operations and Partnerships Lead	Venus	Survivors of domestic abuse
Operations Manager	RASA	survivors of domestic abuse
Designated Safeguarding Manager	Southport and Formby and South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups	Health care services
Safeguarding Adults Specialist Nurse	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	Health care services
Safeguarding	Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Health care services
Head of Safeguarding	MerseyCare	Health care services
Independent Living Manager	One Vision Housing	Housing services
D/Inspector Protecting Vulnerable People Unit	Merseyside Police	Criminal services
Head of Sefton PDU	Probation Service	Criminal services
Deputy Chief Executive	Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	Voluntary and faith sector
Community Engagement	Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner Merseyside	
	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	

The Board is chaired by Cllr Trish Hardy, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.

The Vice Chair of the Board is Neil Frackelton, Chief Executive of Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA).

Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring they report back and feed into the Board on behalf of their represented group / body.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board will:

- provide strategic oversight of the issue of domestic abuse in Sefton by the commissioning, monitoring and evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy for the borough.
- provide advice and data to support Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake a robust local needs assessment to identify and understand the needs of domestic

Agenda Item 4

abuse survivors and their children within their area, including those that require highly specialist and cross-authority support.

- ensure the preparation and publication of the future Domestic Abuse Strategy setting out the steps required to meet the needs of all survivors and their children.
- hold agencies to account for the delivery of the actions within the Strategy by requesting regular updates on the agreed Action Plan within the Strategy.
- consider the commissioning and decommissioning decisions in relation to domestic abuse services funded and provided in the borough.
- support Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to effectively engage with domestic abuse survivors and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs and to ensure their voice is clearly heard.
- ensure that learning actions and recommendations from Sefton Domestic Homicide Reviews are taken forward and provide oversight to implementing multi agency practice and system change.
- provide advice about the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support.
- provide support in ensuring join up across other related areas such as housing, health, early years and childhood support, social services and police and crime services.
- oversee the development and submission of an Annual Report outlining activity and progress made against the requirements in the Act. This will be shared with other local partnership Boards to ensure cross partnership working.
- receive regular reports on the compliance of organisations against the requirements of the Act and its statutory guidance.
- consider best practice, policy development and future opportunities for service improvement in this sector.
- escalate issues to the relevant representative / body.

Collaborative Working

The Partnership Board will engage with other Partnership Boards from neighbouring areas and across the City Region. The Board will also engage with the existing Strategic Domestic Violence Action Group (SDVAG) led by Merseyside Police. The Board will also receive regular updates on the effectiveness of the MARAC from the MARAC Steering Group.

In recognition that domestic abuse is a cross cutting theme that does not just sit within the responsibility of one area, the Board will develop and maintain close links with other multi agency forums such as:

- Safer Sefton Community Partnership

- Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board

This will be done through the sharing of actions/learning/tasks by members sitting on both the Board and other partnership forums.

Absence

Where members are unable to attend a meeting, they are responsible for informing the Board ahead of the meeting and, as far as possible, should ensure a representative is present on behalf of the organisation / body.

Accountability

The Board will provide strategic oversight on the issue of Domestic Abuse in Sefton. The Board will be accountable for its actions to its individual member organisations. Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring they report back and feed into the Board on behalf of their represented group(s) / body(ies)

Board members will be accountable through their own organisations' decision-making processes for the decisions they take. It is expected that Members of the Board will have delegated authority from their organisations to take decisions within the terms of reference and constitution of the Board.

The Board will support Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council in reporting back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on delivering the duty in line with statutory guidance and the standardised reporting form.

For clarity, in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews, the notification, decision making and final reporting of completed reviews will remain with Sefton Safer Communities Partnership. The oversight for ensuring the recommendations and learning action plans are implemented and considered within future commissioning will be the responsibility of Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership.

The Terms of Reference for the Board will be reviewed on an annual basis by officers in the Communities department of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.

Date Prepared: V1 July 2021, V2 November 2021
Date Agreed: 18 November 2021
Date to be Reviewed: November 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 28 September 2022
Subject:	Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan		
Report of:	Assistant Director (Highways and Public Protection)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Locality Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To consider the revised policy document for 2022/23

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) be requested to consider the Policy and Operational Plan and advise Cabinet Member – Locality Services of any issues or recommendations.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve a revised policy, following consultation with Elected Members during the summer of 2022.

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

The Council could choose to retain the existing policy. Winter Service is a statutory function and not following the latest guidance will lead to an increased litigation risk to the authority.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The service is funded from the Transport and Highway Infrastructure revenue budget.

Agenda Item 5

(B) Capital Costs

None.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
None.	
Legal Implications:	
Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980 places a statutory duty on Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, as follows:- 'In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice'.	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There is a slight reduction in the routes from the previous 2 years, which has a positive impact.	
A number of enhancements were made when the initial contract was awarded in 2018, including a brand-new gritting fleet. The current vehicles are the latest models, which are more fuel efficient, and environmentally friendly, than the previous vehicles.	
The gritting fleet is due a refresh next year, in accordance with the contract conditions. Officers will work with the contractor, before the current vehicles are replaced, to determine if the fleet market has changed and consider the options for newer, greener, vehicles.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: This is a universal service for the benefit of all.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This is a universal service for the benefit of all. The Winter Service Policy helps to

ensure that safe passage is maintained for our communities along the identified routes
Commission, broker and provide core services: The Council has a statutory duty to provide a winter service function.
Place – leadership and influencer: Providing sustainable services to support our communities and businesses.
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Providing sustainable services to support our communities and businesses. The Winter Service Policy helps to ensure that safe passage is maintained along the identified routes
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener Supports the latest technology to minimise the impact of the carbon economy.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6924/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5124/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Merseytravel.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

Contact Officer:	Gary Jordan
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4731
Email Address:	gary.jordan@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Annex A – Consultation letter to Elected Members.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

Agenda Item 5

- 1.1 The Department provides a Highway Winter Service to the Borough in accordance with the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan. Officers monitor the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enact the plan when weather conditions dictate.
- 1.2 The Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111) has inserted an additional section 41(1A) to the Highways Act 1980 which places a duty on the Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, and states 'In particular, a Highway Authority is under duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice'
- 1.3 In addition, The Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a Statutory Network Management Duty on all local traffic authorities in England. It requires authorities to do all that is reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving. In meeting the duty, authorities should establish contingency plans for dealing promptly and effectively with unplanned events, such as unforeseen weather conditions, as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.4 The Council operates a Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan which has been approved by the Council and is reviewed each summer to ensure that it remains 'fit for purpose'.
- 1.5 Cabinet, at its meeting on 13th October 2011, resolved to authorise the Director of Built Environment (now Assistant Director Highways and Public Protection) to make any further revisions to the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan in consultation with Cabinet Member Transportation (now Locality Services). There is, therefore, no requirement to take this revision back to Cabinet for further approval.

2.0. Consultation

- 2.1 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is subject to an annual review, reassessment, and consultation.
- 2.2 In accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member and a copy is attached as Annex A. The closing date for responses was 29th July 2022.
- 2.3 Merseytravel were also contacted and asked if there have been any revisions to their bus routes since last year.

3.0 Revisions to the Policy

- 3.1 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is based on guidance provided by the government in a document entitled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure'. Guidance relating to practical issues and delivery of the service is now contained within the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) Practical Guidance Documents.
- 3.2 A number of enhancements have previously been made to the winter service policy to ensure that we are compliant with this guidance. These include a new

Agenda Item 5

purpose-built salt storage facility, capable of holding 3500 tonnes of rocksalt and new gritting vehicles with the latest technology to allow for optimum spread rates.

- 3.3 Officers will review any revised and updated guidance, as and when it is released, to ensure that we are kept fully compliant with the latest recommendations.
- 3.4 There were no responses received to the annual consultation from Elected Members or Merseytravel.
- 3.5 In parallel with the consultation, the policy document has had a desk top review by our risk consultant at Gallagher Basset. We have utilised our free consultancy days for this exercise.
- 3.6 The feedback stated that the policy was one of the best that they had reviewed and was comprehensive and well organised. There were no recommendations for changes to the actual policy, however, there were areas highlighted for clarification and typographical errors.
- 3.7 Changes have been made to the clarify some of the policy information and to amend the typographical errors, in accordance with the recommendations.
- 3.8 In addition to these changes, the temporary routes which were added to grit the covid vaccination centres have now been removed and we have now reverted to the routes pre-pandemic.

Agenda Item 5

Annex A



Highways & Public Protection

Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle
Merseyside L20 3NJ

Councillors

Date:
Our Ref: NWMWM/GJ
Your Ref:
Please contact: Gary Jordan
Contact Number: 0151 934 4731
Fax No: 0151 934 4801
e-mail: network@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

Winter Service Review 2022

I am writing to you on behalf of my Cabinet Member, Councillor John Fairclough, regarding the above. Each year during the early summer, we review the winter service policy and operational plan from the previous season to ascertain if members have any comments they would like taken into account in the review.

During last season we gritted the carriageway routes on 34 occasions and the footway routes 9 times. Included in this were the covid sites that we were routinely gritted, in accordance with Government advice.

To give you a comparison, the gritting figures for previous years were- 50 Carriageway and 22 footway routes in 2021/21, 34 carriageway and 8 footway routes in 2019/20, 43 carriageway and 11 footway in 2018/19,

Alongside this consultation, we are currently having our policy independently reviewed by our liability insurer, Gallagher Bassett. We will provide feedback and recommendations on this as part of the review process.

With the above in mind, the winter service policy continues to serve the Council well and officers, who were on duty 24 hours per day over the whole season, were always able to provide the appropriate response to the prevailing conditions.

Whilst officers are confident that the policy remains fit for purpose, Councillor Fairclough has requested that all Elected Members be contacted to seek their views on the service during the winter of 2021/22, ensure that any issues can be addressed during the summer period and any further revisions considered before the commencement of the winter season 2022/23. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could advise me of any issues you would like to raise regarding the policy and the provision of the winter service. I would be grateful to hear from you by 29th July 2022 to allow sufficient time to revise and present the policy for approval.

The existing policy and operational plan is available to view by following this link:

[Gritting \(sefton.gov.uk\)](http://sefton.gov.uk)

Agenda Item 5

Following receipt of any issues raised by Elected Members, the policy will be revised as appropriate and presented to Cabinet Member for approval and adoption for the coming winter season. The finalised policy and operational plan will then be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills) on 20th September 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Marrin', written on a light-colored background.

Dave Marrin
Highway Management Manager

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	28 th September 2022
Subject:	United Kingdom shared Prosperity Fund update for members		
Report of:	Executive Director Place	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regeneration and Skills Communities and Housing		
Is this a Key Decision?	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report will provide an update on the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the potential implications of the introduction of this funding for Sefton and the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

Recommendation(s):

That Members:

(1) Note the contents of the report and provide feedback to officers engaging in consultation on the introduction of the funding arrangements

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

UKSPF is the new national initiative to support local economic growth introduced by the government as a successor to European Structural Funds (including European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund).

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

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Agenda Item 6

There are no direct revenue costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

There are no specific match funding requirements for the Council to access the UKSPF should grant applications be made to the fund.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

All resources required for the operation of projects accessing UKSPF will be supported through grant applications and a process of comprehensive project cost recovery will be prioritised in options pursued by Council services.

Legal Implications:

None arising from this report

Equality Implications:

The equality implications of the opportunities offered via UKSPF are positive, reflecting the objectives for local growth captured within Sefton's economic strategy. This is because the UKSPF funding will provide monies to support business development and support, community development, digital inclusion and employment and skills for residents who require assistance to enter the labour market and move away from dependency on welfare benefits.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a neutral impact	Yes
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

This introduction of UKSPF funding into Sefton will contribute to the wellbeing, skills development and economic engagement of various vulnerable groups including young people known to the justice system, looked after children and care leavers, young people with SEND, people with disabilities, non-traditional entrepreneurs, voluntary and community sector activists, and people with low or no skills who are economically inactive.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

One of the key pillars of UKSPF is the support for business growth and enterprise, which offers a strong foundation for economic growth and recovery across our communities. Skills development and employment support is also a key indicator in improving resilience within our communities, as people are empowered to be achieve their aspirations and become more self-reliant.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The majority of project activity emerging through Sefton's UKSPF projects will be delivered through in-house services and initiatives. However, there are some opportunities which will allow for onward procurement and commissioning to local grassroots organisations (eg through the Multiply numeracy strand)

Place – leadership and influencer:

Officers and Cabinet Members from Sefton have participated in wide ranging consultations on the content of the LCR Investment Plan to support the introduction of UKSPF.

Drivers of change and reform:

While UKSPF was conceived as a replacement for European Structural funding prompted by leaving the EU, the UKSPF will not provide “like for like” activity and approaches. The LCR Investment Plan for UKSPF reflects an awareness of the requirements to support economic growth and recovery as our economy emerges from the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

In Sefton we will seek to maximise the longer terms impacts of any funding we are able to attract into our area to achieve our goals of more inclusive and sustainable growth as reflected in our revised economic strategy.

Greater income for social investment:

All routes for delivering employment, business development, growth and social inclusion work via UKSPF will be optimised and wherever possible the options to undertake these activities with organisations and employers with a social investment agenda are maximised.

Cleaner Greener

We will prioritise local business development and employment in sectors which align with our environmental objectives and policies and support our unique environment within key areas of Sefton.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6948/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5148./22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Agenda Item 6

Officers from the Economic Growth and Housing Service have been engaged in a variety of consultation processes and structures including the Local Partnership Group, the LCR Growth Directors Forum and LCR Employment & Skills Officers Group. Members have been engaged through the Community Investment strand and via the Employment & Skills Board. Through these means there has been comprehensive engagement with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on promoting the best interest of Sefton and its communities.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Claire Maguire
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2684
Email Address:	Claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk

1. What is the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund? (UKSPF)

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which the UK continues to participate in until 2023. The ESIF programme was essential for local regeneration, employment and skills and has been routinely accessed in Sefton for many years to support a host of regeneration, community development and employment-based activities.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. This also means many more local authority areas will be given an allocation of UKSPF than were able to access EU funds based on economic and social need.

Fund timeline:

- UKSPF launched by government as part of Levelling UP: 13 April 2022
- Investment plan submissions window: 30 June 2022 to 1 August 2022
- First payments expected to lead local authorities (or Mayoral Authorities): from October 2022
- Funding period: April 2022 to March 2025

2. How Much UKSPF is Available?

UKSPF is allocated to Mayoral Combined Authorities where these are in place, as in our area. Across the Liverpool City Region, a total amount of **£52,775,501** is available, as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total*
Award including Multiply	£7,917,995	£13,693,498	£31,144,008	£52,755,501
Award excluding Multiply*	£5,385,960	£10,771,919	£28,222,428	£44,380,307

Agenda Item 6

Revenue*	90% (£4.85m)	87% (£9.37m)	80% (£22.6m)	83% (£36.82m)
Capital	10% (£0.54m)	13% (£1.40m)	20% (£5.6m)	17% (£7.54m)

*Multiply refers to the national numeracy initiative which provides funding for improving the nation's maths competency and is rolled together with UKSPF as part of Levelling Up.

2.1 Nominal allocations per Local Authority area

The allocation for the first tranche of UKSPF will flow through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). The following table indicates how the LCR total reflects the accumulated nominal allocations per Local authority area, with Sefton receiving 16.8% of the total.

UKSPF allocations by LA		
	Funding allocation	Proportion
Halton	£3,493,101	7.9%
Knowsley	£4,500,786	10.1%
Liverpool	£14,721,188	33.2%
Sefton	£7,451,277	16.8%
St Helens	£5,409,403	12.2%
Wirral	£8,804,552	19.8%
Total	£44,380,307	100.0%

3. What types of Activity will the UKSPF Support?

The UKSPF is composed of three Investment Priorities, reflected in the table below:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Communities and Place	£3.05m	£4.08m	£3.78m	£10.91m
Supporting Local Business	£2.03m	£6.31m	£8.84m	£17.18m
People and Skills	£0.00m	£1.45m	£13.05m	£14.5m
Total	£5.08m	£11.84m	£25.67m	£42.59m

4. How will the funding be allocated to the investment priorities?

The UKSPF will be distributed through a combination of commissions and project calls and this will be determined as part of the process for submission of the LCR Investment Plan for UKSPF.

Agenda Item 6

Commissions include working with Local Authorities and local stakeholders to identify a lead body to deliver on projects with activity, expenditure and deliverables monitored at a Local Authority level: this will be underpinned by a contract and effectively managed.

Project Calls will include working with Local Authorities and the LCR Local Partnership Group, to agree a specification for the required projects and the LCRCA will operate a competitive process to identify the most suitable provider(s), with input on strategic fit on plans. Funding will therefore be through tendering and project sponsors will be required to with report on activity, expenditure and deliverables at a Local Authority level as well as city region level.

It is expected that some funding will be provided to each Council to create a post to act as the focal point for UK Shared Prosperity Fund activity and link to UKSPF management team located within the LCRCA. The remainder of management costs will enable the LCRCA to discharge its lead body responsibilities. A formal governance approach will be agreed with Local Authorities to underpin decision-making and performance management.

4.1 Proposed allocation for Communities and Place - £10.91m

	1. Green, resilient and safe communities	2. Local cultural, arts and heritage	3. Supporting the voluntary and community sector, including digital and financial inclusion
Allocation (£)	£3.825m	£2.4m	£4.685m
Allocation (%)	35%	22%	43%
Years	1, 2 and 3	1, 2 and 3	1, 2 and 3
Description	Support for investments to make town and district centres more resilient; greening of local communities and neighbourhoods, including direct involvement of residents	Utilising local culture, arts and heritage to help regeneration, including direct involvement of residents	Projects which support the CVS sector to thrive and become more resilient, including support for cost of living crises and digital inclusion
Route to delivery	Work with Local Authorities to identify projects which design out crime; develop call for social action to develop resilient local communities (green capital, food, youth engagement)	Work with LAs and the Cultural, arts and heritage sector to determine appropriate delivery routes	Work with CVS infrastructure organisations and LAs to agree appropriate delivery routes

4.2 Key Deliverables under Communities and Place

Communities & Place Indicative Outputs and Outcomes			
	UKSPF funding	Outputs	Outcomes
Green, resilient safe communities	£3,825,000	Neighbourhood improvements undertaken Rehabilitated Land Public realm created or improved Amount of green/blue space created or improved (m2) Trees planted Volunteering opportunities Projects supported	*Increased footfall (% increase) *Improved perception of facilities and amenities *Improved perception of safety (% increase) *Reduction in neighbourhood crime (% decrease) *Volunteering numbers as a result of support
Local cultural, arts and heritage	£2,400,000	*Rehabilitated premises *Facilities supported/created *Organisations received grants *Local events or activities supported *Volunteering opportunities *Projects supported	*Increased footfall (% increase) *Increased visitor numbers (% increase) *Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support *Volunteering numbers as a result of support
Supporting VCS, including digital and financial inclusion	£4,685,000	*Organisations receiving non-financial support *Organisations in receipt of grants *Households receiving support *Facilities supported/created	*Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support *Number of premises with improved digital connectivity

Agenda Item 6

4.3 Proposed allocation for Supporting Local Business - £17.18m

Supporting Local Business - Indicative Outputs and Outcomes			
	UKSPF funding	Outputs	Outcomes
Business Support	£11,800,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support *Number of businesses receiving grants *Number of events/participatory programmes *Number of businesses engaged in new markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jobs created *Number of new businesses created *Increased amount of investment *Number of businesses engaged in new markets *Number of businesses increasing their export capability
Town Centres	£1,500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of local markets supported *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jobs created *Number of new businesses created *Improved perceptions of markets (% increase) *Increased number of businesses supported
Innovation	£3,875,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of businesses receiving grants *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *businesses introducing new to firm products organisations engaged in new knowledge *transfer businesses adopting new to the firm tech/processes *new to market products *businesses with improved productivity R&D active businesses *businesses adopting new/improved products/services

4.4 Key Deliverables under Supporting Local Business

Supporting Local Business - Indicative Outputs and Outcomes			
	UKSPF funding	Outputs	Outcomes
Business Support	£11,800,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support *Number of businesses receiving grants *Number of events/participatory programmes *Number of businesses engaged in new markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jobs created *Number of new businesses created *Increased amount of investment *Number of businesses engaged in new markets *Number of businesses increasing their export capability
Town Centres	£1,500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of local markets supported *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jobs created *Number of new businesses created *Improved perceptions of markets (% increase) *Increased number of businesses supported
Innovation	£3,875,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of businesses receiving grants *Number of businesses receiving non-financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of: *businesses introducing new to firm products *organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer businesses adopting new to the firm tech/processes *new to market products *businesses with improved productivity R&D active businesses *businesses adopting new/improved products/services

Agenda Item 6

4.5 Proposed allocation for People and Skills - £14.5m

	Theme		
	CVS continuation funding	1. Employment Support	2. Skills support
Allocation (£)	£1.45m	£11.85m	£1.2m
Allocation (%)	10%	82%	8%
Years	2	3	3
Description	Providing funding to enable CVS organisation to continue services and capacity in the gap between ESF funding ending and UKSPF funding starting	Additional employment support to help economically inactive people into work, plus targeted employment support for people with protected characteristics in addition to capacity to support large scale recruitments and redundancies	Digital inclusion skills training; further targeted skills support in addition to existing £65m pa skills investment; and enhancing the careers offer locally with updated materials and events.
Route to delivery	Grant to relevant organisations	Commission elements of service delivery, including via Local Authorities and open call for additional provision	Commissioning of activity based upon existing delivery structures and calls for further activity

The former ESF funded projects identified for potential continuation funding under UKSPF are the following:

- Directions (The Women's Organisation)
- New Horizons (The Women's Organisation)
- Go Further (The Princes Trust)
- Include-IT Merseyside VOLA
- Merseyside Enterprising Young People
- LCR Talent Match (Merseyside Youth Association)
- Individualised Employment Support (The Salvation Army)

4.6 Key Deliverables under People and Skills

People and Skills - Indicative Outputs and Outcomes			
	UKSPF funding	Outputs	Outcomes
CVS Continuation Funding	£1,450,000	In line with Employment and/or Skills dependent on nature of existing project.	In line with Employment and/or Skills dependent on nature of existing project.
Employment	£11,850,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number of economically inactive engaging with keyworker support *Number receiving support to gain/sustain employment *Number supported to engage in job-search *Number supported to access basic skills *Number accessing mental & physical health support leading to employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number in employment, inc self employment following support *Number sustaining engagement with keyworker support/additional services *Number engaged in job-searching following support *Number with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)
Skills	£1,200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number supported to access basic skills *Number gaining a qualification or completing a course following support *Number receiving support to gain a vocational licence *Number supported to engage in job search *Number taking part in work experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Number gaining a qualification or completing a course following support *Number in employment, including self-employment, following support *Number in education/training *Number economically inactive engaged in mainstream education/training *Number engaged in job-search *Number familiarised with employer's expectations

Agenda Item 6

5. Key Issues Related to UKSPF

5.1 Lower Level of Funding under UKSPF

The following table indicates the comparable allocations received into the LCR under EU structural funds and the level expected under UKSPF. This indicate that on a per year basis, we can expect less than a third the value of funding we used to receive under ESF.

The services and projects most affected by the reduction in funding will be those which have been more reliant on the EU funds. In Sefton these have been business support projects operated by **Invest Sefton** and employment support projects through **Sefton@work**.

The following table gives an indication of the scale of the funding reduction under UKSPF:

	Funding period	Overall funding	Per year funding
Previous EU programmes			
2007-2013	2007-2015	£417m	£52m
2014-2020	2014-2023	£250m	£27.8m
UKSPF			
Including multiply	2022-2025	£52.7m	£17.6m
Excluding multiply	2022-2025	£44.4m	£14.8m

Political briefings have been held over recent months with the Leaders and Mayors Group on the insufficiency of the allocation for the Liverpool City Region and this continues to be fed back to government.

5.2 Risks for Voluntary and Community Sector ESF skills provision

While the removal of a requirement for match finance will be welcomed by many voluntary and stakeholder partners contemplating accessing the UKSPF, making an application to this Fund will not be without risk. The level of funding allocated for Community and Place is relatively generous in the context of the total amount, this investment priority will seek to deliver on a much wider agenda than many previous funding rounds. This may lead to increase competition for a smaller pot covering a wide and diverse range of activity.

5.3 Narrower Target Groups than EU funding

UKSPF People and Skills will need to target more specific groups of beneficiaries. This is particularly important in terms of the People and Skills priority. In Sefton, we have worked alongside our other Local Authorities to deliver the Ways to Work project since 2016. Well regarded and award -winning, Ways to Work eligibility has been broad and has enabled a wide cross-section of our community to receive professional advice and support. Under UKSPF, however, any new scheme will be required to work in tandem with DWP nationally procured provision to avoid duplication and would be necessary target people who are economically inactive and typically much further away from the labour market.

In Sefton we anticipate this could lead to Sefton@work becoming more targeted, potentially moving away from our well-established “open-door” policy for all our workless Sefton residents from age 16 up. The focus of UKSPF appears to be solely on vulnerable groups in certain categories including those disabilities and the economically inactive.

In Sefton we have been able to assist more than **4,436** workless residents under Ways to Work, **1,522** of whom have disabilities or ill health, with **1,983** of these progressing into jobs, vocational training or self-employment.

5.4 Funding “Gap” on People and Skills strand

The main themes under UKSPF People and Skills Priority cannot be drawn down until year 2 of the programme. In Sefton, our job brokerage service Sefton@work has relied on EU funding to operate the highly successful Ways to Work and Positive Inclusions projects, but these will end in September 2023, leaving a potential service gap of at least 6 months. Public Authorities are not allowed to access any funding brought forward to provide continuity under UKSPF as this is only available for the voluntary and community sectors.

Discussions have been held with the LCRCA and it is expected that at some point before the end of 2022 a funding request will be made to the LCRCA for Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) funding to allow the continuation of the Ways to Work service as this is seen as the foundational delivery for the City Region’s employment support plans going forward under UKSPF. If this SIF request is successful, it is hoped this will provide some stability for services and help retain skilled and qualified staff across all the Local Authorities job brokerage services, including Sefton @work.

5.5 Multiply and the Adult Education Budget

In Sefton we operate our Local Authority Adult Learning Service using a grant under the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) which flows through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. This covers a number of service elements and focuses on both non-award bearing community learning and easy access, first-step qualifications for adults aged over 19 prioritising English, Maths, digital skills, Employability and English as Second language (ESOL).

Multiply is the only element of UKSPF People and Skills support that will be drawn down in the first year of the programme and the levels of activity to be achieved in the first year

Agenda Item 6

are stretching. This may be exacerbated if delays are experienced in central government approving plans for UKSPF as a result in a change in leadership.

Interventions delivered with Multiply funding need to be additional and differentiated from that which is already fully funded through the AEB legal entitlement and should not displace that provision. Avoidance of this kind of duplication or confusion is proving challenging particularly as technical guidance for Multiply is not yet available. The dearth of available maths teachers to fulfil the Multiply adult numeracy objectives has been identified and some welcome provision will be put in place to promote adult maths teaching as a career, but this is a widely recognised skills shortage area which is likely to act as a brake on swift delivery.

Together with resource for additional maths provision under Multiply, Local Authorities will also be invited to operate a fund to support grassroots promotion of numeracy in voluntary and community organisations and referrals to adult learning providers. This commissioning would need to be clearly isolated from the substantive provision of adult learning so as to ensure smaller organisations are not in scope for potential inspection, as they will be unlikely to have all the relevant systems in place.

6. Supporting Local Business

The proposed annual breakdown of business support funding is as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Supporting Local Business	£2.149m	£5.436m	£10.304m	£17.890m

The routes to this funding will be a mix of:

- **Commission** – working with Local Authorities and local stakeholders, we will identify a lead body to deliver on projects with activity, expenditure and deliverables monitored at a Local Authority level: this will be underpinned by a contract and effectively managed; and
- **Call** – working with Local Authorities and Local Partnership Group, the LCRCA will agree a specification for the required projects and operate a competitive process to identify the most suitable provider(s), with input on strategic fit on plans: they will be required to with report activity, expenditure and deliverables at a Local Authority level as well as city region level.

Funding allocations have been designed bearing in mind the cessation of European and other Government funding in March and June 2023. Clearly, the amount of UKSPF available is significantly less than existing European Structural Investment Funding allocations and the LCRCA has prioritised support for the city-region's wider delivery infrastructure, town centres and innovation.

The wider business support delivery infrastructure includes local growth hubs in each of the six LA areas. Sefton's growth hub is delivered by InvestSefton and the LCRCA has

indicated that each LA will received (amount to be confirmed) direct grant funding to ensure a smooth transition when European funding ends in June 2023.

All commissions and calls will be overseen by Growth Directors and approved by LCR Chief Executives, Leaders, and Mayors. Additional support is provided by the LA Operational group who are working closely with the LCRCAs on several business support initiatives including:

- LCR Business Support and Inward Investment delivery review-This review is currently out to tender with a view to 1 September start. The City Region has a need to map, review and enhance the business support and inward investment infrastructure in the Liverpool City Region. The objective is to deliver workable proposals and solutions, based on current good practice, evidence base and the business support policy framework, rooted in business needs and demand.
- Sites and Premises review to support inward investment delivery-This will look at current supply, demand and commercial rents/costs to help understand what is required to develop new employment opportunities to attract investment.

7. Communities and Place Issues for Sefton

Identifying areas of land that provide ASB hotspots and areas where knives have been found following a knife sweep, can result in the area being tidied up, trees planted and lighting improved giving communities' greater confidence and subsequent resilience. Linking this with local community groups, artists and schools to commission the production of pieces of art (mosaics, sculptures etc) that reflect local heritage and history will reflect Sefton's approach on community development and place shaping. Alternatively, areas of land can also be identified as possible allotments or areas where Community Groups, volunteers can grow vegetables which can contribute to the local foodbank and food pantry network.

By designing out crime such as street lighting improvements and the CCTV infrastructure in key areas of the borough will improve our communities' confidence, resilience and reduce the fear of crime. This will also contribute to other strategic priorities such as reducing ASB, Serious Acquisitive Crime and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls.

The VCSF sector in Sefton is integral to all of this work and further support for their network of community buildings, either their current estate or bringing former buildings back into use to provide key community hubs, is key. Carrying out improvement works to the infrastructure so they can ensure each building can provide full wrap around support to households in their communities. It is essential that these buildings are future proofed with regards to digital connectivity to enable households to become less digitally excluded. Support for our key VCSF partners to submit quality, competitive bids to access UKSPF may need to be resourced.

Background Papers:

Members may find the Prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund of further interest. This is published by government and is available at the following site:

Agenda Item 6

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/UK_Shared_Prosperty_Fund_prospectus.pdf)

Agenda Item 7

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	28 September 2022
Subject:	Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations	Wards Affected:	All
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer		
Is this a Key Decision?	No	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	No
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

To update on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group that was approved by Council in November 2021.

Recommendations: That

- (1) The report updating on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group be noted; and
- (2) A further update report be submitted in six months.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with a Council resolution to update the Committee on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Working Group's final report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be updated on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Working Group's final report.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

(B) Capital Costs

Agenda Item 7

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. The implementation of recommendations that result in efficiency savings and any necessary financial investment will be the subject of separate reports.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial	
Legal: Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The aim of the Working Group was to review the topic of housing support services provided to vulnerable people by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies covered by the Communities and Housing portfolio. The Working Group focused on asylum seekers and refugees who are some of the most vulnerable people in Sefton's communities. A recommendation of the Working Group aims to ensure that any support services that are commissioned by the Council to support vulnerable households should be tailored to the target group with specialist provision and the ability to flex up and flex down as and when required</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: in order for elected Members to provide a local insight into the Postcode Check process, a recommendation of the Working Group is that appropriate Ward Councillors' views be sought as part of the Postcode Check consultation process. A further recommendation, to provide as much evidence base as possible as part of the Postcode Check process, is that all elected Members are contacted urging them to contact the Head of Communities as to which</p>

<p>areas within their wards maybe suffering issues that should be taken into account, such as instances of crime, including hate crime, anti-social behaviour and any community tensions, when considering future asylum accommodation procurement; and that in order that elected Members are aware of the strategic planning, location and distribution of Housing and Support Services for vulnerable households the Head of Communities be requested to provide 6-monthly updates to all Councillors</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: recommendations within the Final Report relate to when commissioning specific housing and support services for vulnerable groups, the Council should continue to adopt a strategic approach that is cognisant of other such services, the capacity of wider statutory, community and voluntary services and reflects; that any support services that are commissioned by the Council to support vulnerable households should be tailored to the target group with specialist provision and the ability to flex up and flex down as and when required. Local, Sefton based services, often run by the Community and Voluntary sector based in our communities should always be the preferred option wherever possible. The longer-term aim of self-reliance for the service user and longer-term sustainability of the project should always be the aim with a focus on reducing demand on demand-led services issues at a local community level within each ward as to the location of the housing element; and that where housing and support services that are not commissioned by the Council fail then officers should use the governance structures in place to escalate issues</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: Information as contained in “Facilitate confident and resilient communities” section above</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: None directly associated with this report</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly associated with this report</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: None directly associated with this report</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: None directly associated with this report</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6833/22) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5033/22) is the author of the report.

Head of Communities

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the meeting

Contact Officer: Paul Fraser
Tel: 0151 934 2068
Email: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

Introduction/Background

Agenda Item 7

At its meeting held on 5 November 2019 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) approved the establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People with the terms of reference and objectives set out below.

To review the topic of housing support services provided to vulnerable people by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies covered by the Communities and Housing portfolio. This is a wide-ranging topic and will include looking at accommodation and support services provided to Asylum Seekers, Syrian Refugees, those fleeing domestic violence and vulnerable homeless households. The terms of reference and objectives of the Working Group are:

- The collation of information on the scale and location in Sefton of supported accommodation for vulnerable people that fall under the remit of the Communities and Housing portfolio
- How do we ensure that such services provided to vulnerable people are regulated and are being delivered in accordance with contract specification.

Accordingly, the Working Group met on six occasions to undertake such review and its Final Report, together with associated recommendations can be accessed using the following link:

[Sefton Home](#)

Methods of enquiry undertaken by the Working Group included:

- Analysis of current Sefton practice
- Desktop research into practise elsewhere
- Witness interviews with officers, stakeholders, experts and other organisations
- Possible site visits / conference calls with experts and other organisations

The table below sets out the Working Group recommendations and progress on their implementation.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE WORKING GROUP

Recommendation	Update
<p>in order for elected Members to provide a local insight into the Postcode Check process, appropriate Ward Councillors views be sought as part of the Postcode Check consultation process.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been consumed within the next recommendation – rather than provide piecemeal feedback on an individual requests, members are asked to provide evidence to provide a more strategic approach to the procurement of additional asylum accommodation throughout the borough.</p>
<p>to provide as much evidence base as possible as part of the Postcode Check process the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to write to all elected Members urging them to contact the Head of Communities as to which areas within their wards maybe suffering issues that should be taken into account, such as instances of crime, including hate crime, anti-social behaviour and any community tensions, when considering future asylum accommodation procurement.</p>	<p>An email was sent to all Members of the Council on 29 November 2021 in accordance with this recommendation. A reminder email was sent to all Members on 1 June 2022 and this also extended the opportunity for newly elected Members to make submissions.</p> <p>Only 1 elected member provided feedback which was more of a comment on the unequal distribution of housing for asylum seekers and refugees throughout the borough.</p>
<p>in order that elected Members are aware of the strategic planning, location and distribution of Housing and Support Services for vulnerable households the Head of Communities be requested to provide 6-monthly updates to all Councillors.</p>	<p>An email was sent to all Members on 11 July 2022 that contained a breakdown of the numbers of Asylum & Refugee properties for each ward.</p>
<p>when commissioning specific housing and support services for vulnerable groups, the Council should continue to adopt a strategic approach that is cognisant of other such services, the capacity of wider statutory, community and voluntary services and reflects issues at a local community level within each ward as to the</p>	<p>No new housing and support services have been commissioned within the last 6 months. This will remain a key factor of any new commissions in the future.</p>

Page 51

<p>location of the housing element.</p>	
<p>any support services that are commissioned by the Council to support vulnerable households should be tailored to the target group with specialist provision and the ability to flex up and flex down as and when required. Local, Sefton based services, often run by the Community and Voluntary sector based in our communities should always be the preferred option wherever possible. The longer-term aim of self-reliance for the service user and longer-term sustainability of the project should always be the aim with a focus on reducing demand on demand-led services.</p>	<p>No new housing and support services have been commissioned within the last 6 months. This will remain a key factor of any new commissions in the future.</p>
<p>where housing and support services that are not commissioned by the Council fail then officers should use the governance structures in place to escalate issues.</p> <p>An example of this is where officers have used the Liverpool City Region Officers network and the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership so that issues can be escalated by elected members to the Lead Member for the Liverpool City Region group.</p>	<p>Any failures of existing housing and support services that are not commissioned by the Council have been escalated where necessary through the correct routes.</p>

Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	28 September 2022
Subject:	Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations	Wards Affected:	All
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer		
Is this a Key Decision?	No	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	No
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

To update on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group that was approved by Council on 18 November 2021.

Recommendations: That

- (1) The report updating on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group be noted; and
- (2) A further update report be submitted in six months.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with a Council resolution to update the Committee on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Working Group's final report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be updated on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Working Group's final report.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

One recommendation of the Working Group is that "a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers be established to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping"; and it was suggested that funding for this increase could come from part of the 2021/22 budget that identified an additional £500k to tackle street scene problems. This will have significant revenue implications and if approved would need to be the subject of a detailed report by the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) to Cabinet on the

Agenda Item 8

budgetary implications. A further recommendation of the Working Group is that “as part of the evidence base to support the additional enforcement regime investigations take place to detail the invest to save benefits associated with the reduced demand on Cleansing Services as enforcement activity is increased”. This may off-set some revenue costs.

(B) Capital Costs

As referred to above any capital costs associated with the implementation of recommendations would need to be the subject of a detailed report by the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) to Cabinet on the budgetary implications.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial: see Revenue Costs section above	
Legal: None	
Human Resources: None	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly associated with this report
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly associated with this report
Commission, broker and provide core services: The cleansing service operated by the Council is a core service. Recommendations contained in the Working Group's Final Report seek to increase the number of uniformed enforcement officers to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping; and for investigations to take

place to detail the invest to save benefits associated with the reduced demand on Cleansing Services as enforcement activity is increased. The aim is to improve service provision for Sefton's communities
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly associated with this report
Drivers of change and reform: None directly associated with this report
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly associated with this report
Greater income for social investment: None directly associated with this report
Cleaner Greener: The aim of the Working Group's recommendations are to reduce the amount of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping in the borough and thereby create a cleaner environment; and that in so doing improve the intangible benefits of the service in that people's well-being improved in a cleaner and safer environment.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6933/22) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5133/22) is the author of the report.

Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)
Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the meeting

Contact Officer: Paul Fraser
Tel: 0151 934 2068
Email: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 6 November 2018 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) approved the establishment of a Working Group to review the topic of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity.
- 1.2 The range of enforcement activity undertaken by the Council is very wide and the enforcement or regulatory activity itself generally falls within the scrutiny remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services). The Working Group therefore particularly focused on the potential and actual impact of the Council's enforcement activity on regeneration and skills within the borough.
- 1.3 In the context of the Council's activities, the purpose of enforcement activity is generally to secure compliance with specific requirements and standards considered necessary or desirable by society. These requirements and standards

Agenda Item 8

may impact on everyone (e.g. air quality, consumer protection, planning and building controls etc.) or specific groups (e.g. employers, employees, parents of school children etc).

1.4 Enforcement is only one of the tools available for securing compliance, and in determining effectiveness of enforcement activity the Working Group considered how well other tools are or could be applied, including: Education (promoting and encouraging compliance through an understanding of the benefits and consequences of compliance/non-compliance, e.g. road safety campaigns); and Engineering (designing the environment or processes to make compliance the default option and/or make non-compliance more difficult, e.g. highway speed bumps).

1.5 It was therefore necessary for the Working Group to explore:

- The range of enforcement activity the Council is responsible for;
 - The purposes of the enforcement activity;
 - The nature of any potential and actual impact (positive or negative), from the enforcement activity, on regeneration and skills;
 - How effectively the impact is or can be managed, to either minimise and/or mitigate any negative impact or maximise positive impact on regeneration and skills; and
- to review the topic of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity, considering:
- Current Sefton enforcement policies and practise
 - Areas of good practise within the Council
 - Good practise within other local authorities or similar organisations
 - Areas for improvement within the Council's policies and practise
 - Recommendations for improving the Council's policies and practise

2.0 Review of the Scoping Document

2.1 At its meeting held on 28 January 2021 the Working Group agreed to narrow the focus of the Scoping Document to concentrate on littering, fly-tipping and dumping in rear entries. A copy of the revised Scoping Document can be viewed [here](#)

2.2 To support this focus Members detailed their experiences and the views of their constituents as detailed below:

- It was accepted that the issue of littering and fly-tipping/rear entry dumping was a problem in Sefton and particularly in the south of the borough, despite the great efforts of Cleansing Services staff. This could be evidenced by a recent meeting held with Derby Ward Councillors, Peter Dowd MP and local residents to discuss littering and rubbish dumping in the area. Reference was also made to littering in Maghull parks even though there was ample provision of litter bins. There was clearly an attitudinal problem with some people in this regard
- Littering and fly-tipping produced an unappealing environmental situation

Agenda Item 8

and could have a negative impact on residents' quality of life, created a poor perception of the borough to visitors and tourists and could hinder economic investment and regeneration

- [Enforcement statistics](#) relating to littering offences were referred to and a query was raised about the discrepancies of fixed penalty notices (FPN) issued in differing parts of the borough, for example Dukess Ward (938) to Linacre Ward (275). It was explained that the number of FPN's issued will be influenced by several factors. These include the number offences, but also the number and nature of the patrols, footfall, and differing characteristics of areas. Patrols police a number of offences, including littering, dog fouling and parking offences, and the time spent on patrols is divided across areas where these offences are anticipated. In some patrol areas officers may be more likely to observe more than one type of offence than in others (e.g. when patrolling for parking in high footfall areas, officers may be more likely to also see littering) and this will influence numbers issued.
- Examples of positive community activity were detailed whereby local residents removed fly-tipped rubbish from their areas and cleared weeds from rear entries. This improved amenity spaces and created community pride in the area
- Cleansing teams and enforcement staff needed to be more visible in local communities; and efforts should be made to generate partnership working between the Council and residents
- Comment was made that robust enforcement of small disorders such as littering offences could lead to improvements in other, bigger areas; and a trial operation a number of years ago was referred to in the Knowsley/Peel area involving the police and other agencies. Reference was also made to a visit by elected Members to Wirral to look at the operation of the borough's civil enforcement contract. It was found that the contractor concentrated enforcement efforts on low level offences and the message spread that the Council was serious about taking action where necessary
- Difficulties however were acknowledged in relation to the Council's enforcement activity. For example, only two enforcement officers were employed by the Council to deal with cleansing issues; and evidence had to be obtained of offences to secure a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. Regarding enforcement officer numbers it was suggested that it may be beneficial to increase levels or to look at alternative external provision. For example, procuring the services of PCSO's to undertake enforcement activity in a short, sharp campaign. An investigation of cost benefit analysis or opportunity costs could show that increased expenditure in one area could be set against reduced expenditure in others
- It would be helpful to receive the views of NSL staff and hear of their experiences undertaking enforcement action in the borough
- Information was sought on the terms of the Council's NSL civil enforcement contract and whether parking enforcement staff could enforce littering and fly-tipping offences. It was explained that littering offences could be enforced but not fly-tipping
- Problems were referred to whereby residents placed their refuse sacks out for collection immediately after refuse collectors had collected from the street; resulting in sacks being left in the street for a week and split open

Agenda Item 8

by animals. It would be helpful if NSL staff could speak to perpetrators to advise them of the detrimental impact of their actions. It was explained that a further roll out of wheeled bins and communal bins would be shortly introduced and that it was hoped that this would alleviate issues with black sacks being put out at the wrong times. However, an elected Member indicated that there was a reluctance in large areas of his ward to the introduction of such new bins; and that it was essential that adequate consultation was undertaken to ensure residents' wishes were reflected in any roll out. It was explained that any problems could be reviewed on an area by area basis

- CCTV could be used as an important enforcement tool, particularly if targeted at known hot spots. A suggestion was made that devolved Ward Budgets could be used to purchase additional CCTV equipment for such use

3.0 Working Group Activity

- 3.1 Accordingly, the Working Group met on eight occasions to undertake such review and its Final Report, together with associated recommendations can be accessed using the following link:

<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2917&ID=2917&RPID=34287636>

4.0 Methods of Enquiry

- 4.1 Methods of enquiry undertaken by the Working Group included:

- Analysis of current Sefton practice
- Desktop research into practise elsewhere
- Witness interviews with officers, stakeholders, experts and other organisations

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The table below sets out the Working Group recommendations and progress on their implementation.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP

Recommendation	Update
a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers be established to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping	There is currently no budgetary provision for a significant increase in enforcement officers. Officers will continue to work with Members to identify how this might be delivered.
a high-profile publicity campaign be introduced to highlight the increased enforcement activity to be undertaken	There is currently no dedicated budgetary provision for publicity campaigns. Publicity messages and campaigns are currently run via digital media.
as part of the evidence base to understand the options for an additional enforcement regime, an evaluation should take place to detail the investment to save opportunities that may exist that could reduce demand on Cleansing Services as enforcement activity is increased with the requirement for the proposal to be cost neutral on the Council's budget	A detailed evaluation has not yet been undertaken, but initial analysis, knowledge of the pressures on the Cleansing Service, and the need for a long-term sustained approach to change behaviour, indicate that there is insufficient scope for savings from demand reduction for the additional enforcement regime to be cost neutral on the Council's budget.
Investigations take place to see whether sanctions could be imposed on private landlords, via the Selective Licensing Scheme, for the anti-social actions of their tenants in littering and dumping rubbish in rear entries	<p>All Selective licences have conditions that the licence holder must meet.</p> <p>Some of these conditions relate to the provision of adequate storage for refuse, presenting refuse for collection and the prevention of anti-social behaviour. The relevant conditions are listed below:</p> <p>The licence holder must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable and adequate provision is made for storage of refuse generated in the property and that occupants use

receptacles provided by Sefton Council for storage prior to collection. (wheeled bins or refuse sacks)

- The tenants are adequately informed of their duty with regards to refuse collection particularly that the wheeled bins or plastic refuse sacks (if wheeled bins are not provided) must not be presented for collection for a period of more than 12 hours prior to collection.
- Any new occupant of the building is notified of the date of collection for the wheeled bins/refuse sacks

The licence holder must:

- Take reasonable and practical steps to reduce or prevent anti-social behaviour by persons occupying or visiting the house.
- Effectively address all problems of anti-social behaviour resulting from the conduct on the part of a tenant, occupiers, or visitors to the premises by complying with the "ASB information for Landlords" pack or an equivalent process.
- Provide on demand a written action plan to Sefton Council outlining procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour. This must be reviewed periodically and submitted to the Council on demand
- Co-operate with Sefton Council,

	<p>Merseyside Police and other agencies in resolving complaints of anti-social behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an investigation of any complaints of anti-social behaviour regarding their tenants. Written records of these will be required excluding any information which the licence holder reasonably believes to have been provided to him in confidence by a third party. <p>If the Council has evidence that the licence holder is not complying with any condition, we would firstly work informally with the licence holder to ensure compliance. (We have done this with some licence holders and the issues have been resolved).The next step would be to take enforcement action against the licence holder in the form of a prosecution or the issue of Civil Penalty Fine, for failure to comply with a licence condition.</p>
<p>All registered social landlords operating in Sefton be contacted and urged to consider taking action against those tenants who act irresponsibly and fly-tip or dump rubbish in rear entries</p>	<p>All Registered Social Landlords operating in Sefton have been contacted and asked to take action against tenants who act irresponsibly and fly-tip or dump rubbish in rear entries.</p> <p>In addition, the Housing Service has been liaising with a number of key Registered Providers (RPs) who own and manage stock in the Peel Road area of Bootle to address a number of issues, including fly-tipping and</p>

	<p>dumping in rear entries. In this area the RP's and the council are working together in a coordinated way, including through regular multi-agency inspections, to address this issue.</p>
--	---

Agenda Item 9

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	28 September 2022
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; and to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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; and
- (3) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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.

Agenda Item 9

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)

(B) External Consultations

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

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:

- 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

Agenda Item 9

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

- 2.3 Accordingly, it is recommended that no new Working Groups be established pending the operation of the new arrangements referred to in 2.2 above.

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 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.

Agenda Item 9

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 Waterfield 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 At a meeting of the LCRCAO&S held on 13 July 2022 the Committee considered the following items:

- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022/23
- Verbal update from Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram
- Appointments of Scrutiny Members to the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23
- LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022-23
- Apprenticeship Task and Finish Group - Final Report 2021/22
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Corporate Plan 2021-24 - Q4 Performance Report 2021-22
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
- The Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy Engagement Proposals

4.10 At a meeting of the LCRCAO&S held on 7 September 2022 the Committee considered the following items:

Agenda Item 9

- Portfolio Holder Update - Business Support
- Race Equality Programme
- Recommendations of the Improving Disability Employment Opportunities in the Liverpool City Region Task and Finish Group
- Work Programme Update

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

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

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

Date of Meeting	28 JUNE 2022	20 SEPTEMBER 2022 - RE- ARRANGED TO 28 SEPTEMBER 2022	20 OCTOBER 2022 INFORMAL MEETING	8 NOVEMBER 2022	17 JANUARY 2023	W/C 6 FEBRUARY 2023 INFORMAL MEETING	7 MARCH 2023
Cabinet Member Update Report Paul Fraser	X	X		X	X		X
Work Programme Update Paul Fraser	X	X		X	X		X
Service Operational Reports:							
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report Michelle Williams				X			
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan Michelle Williams				X			
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2020/21 Michelle Williams (Liaising with MRWA)					X		
Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth Stuart Barnes					X		
Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy Andrea Watts					X		
Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services Michelle Williams			X				
Leasehold House Sales Stuart Barnes						X	

APPENDIX 1

Green Sefton 2021/22 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2022/23 Michelle Williams			X				
Update on Operation of Sandway Homes Stephan Van Arendsen						X	
Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Pilot Stuart Barnes/Graham Parry	X						
Domestic Abuse Report Simon Burnett/Janette Maxwell		X					
Southport Market Update Stephen Watson/Stuart Barnes/Mark Catherall		X					
Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:							
Digital Inclusion Working Group Update on Recommendations Paul Fraser				X			
Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Final Report – Update on Recommendations Paul Fraser		X					
Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Final Report - Update on Recommendations Paul Fraser		X					



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2022 - 31 JANUARY 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 9

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
Extension of Parking & Environmental Enforcement Contract	Dave Marrin dave.marrin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4295
Enterprise Arcade	Keith Molloy
Housing Strategy 2022 -2027	Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk
Sefton Economic Strategy 2022/23	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442
Re-designation of Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes	Clare Taylor clare.taylor@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2273
Bootle Regeneration Strategy	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619
Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk
Article 4 Direction E to C3	David Robinson david.robinson@sefton.gov.uk
Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Extension of Parking & Environmental Enforcement Contract To seek permission to extend the current parking and environmental enforcement contract for a period of six months			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Oct 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and discussions			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Extension of Parking Enforcement Contract			
Contact Officer(s) details	Dave Marrin dave.marrin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4295			

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 Oct 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
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			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Housing Strategy 2022 -2027 Seek approval for refreshed Housing Strategy for Sefton			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Oct 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 01/09/2022 to 06/10/2022. Reason: to facilitate the extended period of consultation regarding the strategy development			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Housing Strategy Consultees include all members of the public and residents of Sefton with an interest in housing and the provision of housing services. Other key stakeholders will be those external organisations who will be working in partnership with the Council to deliver, own and manage new or existing housing as well as providing housing services. Specific consultees include: Cabinet Member -Communities and Housing, Adult Social Care, Public Health Assets and Property, Planning Policy, Regeneration and all Registered Providers of Affordable Housing (Housing Associations) operating in Sefton.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails, direct meetings and briefings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Housing Strategy 2022 -2027			
Contact Officer(s) details	Alistair Malpas alistair.malpas@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Sefton Economic Strategy 2022/23 To seek approval for the final Sefton Economic Strategy 2022 and it's public launch			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Oct 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 01/09/2022 to 06/10/2022. Reason: the consultation period has not yet expired and work is ongoing on the Strategy			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Senior Leadership Board/ Head of Economic Growth & Housing/Cabinet Member Regeneration & Skills/Businesses/investors/developers/residents/community groups/Voluntary sector/LCR Combined Authority/LEP/LCR local authorities/ Business networks and associations/Southport BID			
Method(s) of Consultation	Consultation 15 July-12th August following 15th July Public Engagement panel presentation			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Economic Strategy 2022/23			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Re-designation of Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes Selective Licensing requires all private sector landlords to apply for a licence to let out their property in designated area/s. Additional (HMO) licensing scheme would cover a broader range and types of Houses in Multiple Occupation than covered by existing mandatory licensing, again in designated areas of the borough.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Oct 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Cambridge; Church; Derby; Dukes; Kew; Linacre; Litherland; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	All members of the public.			
Method(s) of Consultation	A full formal consultation has taken place between 9th May - 31st July, in accordance with the Council's consultation guidelines and Housing Act 2004.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Re-designation of Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes			
Contact Officer(s) details	Clare Taylor clare.taylor@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2273			

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	6 Oct 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Derby; Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	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			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project To seek approval of the Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project business case.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	3 Nov 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 06/10/2022 to 03/11/2022. Reason: Work on the business case is continuing			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Cambridge; Church; Derby; Dukes; Kew; Linacre; Litherland; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Council Officers			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Emergency Temporary Accommodation Project			
Contact Officer(s) details	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Article 4 Direction E to C3 To seek approval to introduce an article 4 direction to restrict changes of use from use class E (commercial) to C3 (residential) within the Bootle Area Action Plan Area.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	3 Nov 2022			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Church; Derby; Ford; Linacre; Litherland; Netherton and Orrell; St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Public and Relevant interests.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Formal Consultation process			
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			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 2

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton To present the Business Case for the provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	3 Nov 2022 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/04/2022 to 03/11/2022. Reason: work is ongoing on the business case for Council housing			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Paragraph 3)			
Wards Affected	St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing, Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, Finance			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails and Meetings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Provision of Council Housing at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk			

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	28 September 2022
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – June 2022 – September 2022		
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 June 2022 to September 2022.

Recommendation:

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

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

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

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

Agenda Item 10

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

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

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Agenda Item 10

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 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)		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	September 2022

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Community Skip programme is underway again, and local area clean up days are planned with the MP's office.

There continue to be many reports of weeds and grass cutting and the Team are working with Cleansing, highways, and green spaces teams to work out a solution. There has been a concerted effort to ensure routes to Schools are clear.

STRAND schools' celebration event took place in the Chamber at Bootle Town Hall. Officers worked with all primary schools in South Sefton. The students had chosen the to explore issues around "Staying safe in your community", as a project for this year. The individual school councils chose a specific issue or concern for their school to explore. These issues ranged from, litter, dog fouling, internet security and cyber bullying. Members of each school council attended the celebration event to discuss their project and their findings. MP Dowd, The Mayor of Sefton, and the CEO of Sefton Council helped to host the event and discuss the issues the children had raised with them, The Mayor of Sefton has invited the schools back to raise a motion in the Chamber and debate the issue of their choice with the elected members. This is something we will be taking forward with the STRAND partnership when the return to school in September.

A memorial plaque has been erected in memory of Arthur Snellgrove who sadly passed away earlier this year. Arthur who served as a Sefton Council school crossing patrol, spent 23 years safely crossing generations of Netherton children to and from their schools in the area. The memorial plaque which was supplied by Canal & River Trust in partnership with the Elected Members for St Oswalds was unveiled on Monday 11th July. Arthurs close family attended the unveil along with Councillor Cluskey, Sefton Council Officers, Officers from CRT and the Head Teacher of St Benedicts Primary School.

The Community Payback national risk assessment has been approved and the team have returned to normal operation. If colleagues have any areas of work that they feel the community Payback team could support, please contact John Keogh (john.keogh@sefton.gov.uk)

Welfare Reform

Food bank

1st April 2022 – 1st August 2022	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	2038	718
Adults Fed	2588	973
Children Fed	1478	560
Total Fed	4066	1533
Crisis Type	Low income – 1458 vouchers presented 2912 people fed	Low income – 376 vouchers presented 780 people fed
Family Type	Single 1186 vouchers presented 19%	Single 349 vouchers presented 48.61%
Age group	25-64: 2279	25 – 64: 848

Agenda Item 10

Holiday Activity and Food

Initial feedback from the HAF team is that the delivery of sessions was great and were well attended. The New HAF coordinator and Support officer visited most providers to carry out quality assurance checks and get to know the organisations. A full report will be provided when all the sessions have been completed.

Hate Crime

The Council flew flags at Bootle and Southport Town Halls during the period leading up to Srebrenica Memorial Day on July 11th. There were also displays in the foyer at Bootle Town Hall and at Crosby Library and The Atkinson. The mayor will be marking the memorial during their speech to the Council meeting on the 14th of July and there will be a display at Southport Town Hall. Sefton Council Comms team sent out messages and press releases.

Equalities

The reassessment for the NAVAHO LGBTQIA+ accreditation has taken place and the Council was successful in retaining the award for a further 2 years.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The new Public Space Protection Order for the Coast and Town Centres has been approved and is in force. Along with a range of guidelines for acceptable behaviour it will also give officers the authority to confiscate Alcohol if individuals are behaving in an antisocial manner.

Youth Service

The team have been supporting Park nights activities across the borough and have been attending hotspot areas where young people are congregating, responding to partners and residents reports.

THE ATKINSON

Theatre Programme

Dinosaur World Live: the Atkinson's theatre welcomed Dinosaur fans of all ages to six sold-out shows featuring 'live' animatronic models. The interactive production enabled our younger brave explorers to 'meet and greet' their prehistoric friends on stage.

Unfortunately, the Studio suffered a technical failure during the 12th August performance of popular Merseyside band China Crisis. The audience and band were very understanding, and it was agreed that the show should be re-scheduled. Repairs have been made to the lighting infrastructure and a new date has been set with the show being transferred into the larger theatre auditorium.

September's theatre programme will feature a variety of performances, including classical music, heritage talks, Country Superstars and a Horrid History of Terrible Tudors. An unusual highlight on 8th September will see BBC TV antiques expert David Harper take a 'Romp with the Georgians' as he reveals the colourful history of life in the Britain between 1714- 1830.

Museum Programme

Make It! Art and Craft sessions have been running throughout the Summer holidays. These are free drop in activities where families can get creative and be inspired by our exhibitions. They have been highly attended with between 150 and 200 at each session. Run by art facilitator Lisa Langan, who has been supported by our wonderful Atkinson volunteers.

Young Curator Summer Sessions, funded by the Hope Street project with lunch included for all attendees, has been a chance to introduce 13-18 year olds to what it means to be a

curator. Fourteen Young Curators from all over Sefton have visited the collection stores, learnt how to handle and condition check real museum objects, planned their own exhibition and created a display for the Museum Landing via learning how to screen print on fabric with art facilitator Dot Rogers.

Three teams of volunteers have been assisting The Atkinson's staff with the management of the collections. The volunteers have been helping with the cleaning of natural history specimens, digitising record cards and carrying out research to address the legacy of the slave trade in museum collections.

Exhibitions Programme

Sefton Young Artist of The Year Winners and Commended artworks have been on display in The Atkinson foyer during August. The exhibition was launched with a celebration prizegiving where the young artists received their certificates and prizes, sponsored by The Art Society Southport, with cake and refreshments. Many of the teachers and families of the Young Artists have messaged to say thank you and how great the event was in making the Young Artists feel appreciated and more confident in themselves. Visitors have enjoyed the exhibition and commented on the high standard of young talent in the borough.

Southport Library

Summer Reading Challenge - a successful return to the summer favourite, very busy with over 600 children joining in our library alone. This beats the number who joined in 2019, before the pandemic. Visiting primary schools to raise awareness was hugely worthwhile.

Summer activities - Fizzpop (science) and Debutots (storytelling) successful free activities with full attendance at each session.

Sefton Fostering - Information stand each Monday morning for three weeks, very positive engagements resulting in one sign up. The team would like to return for more sessions, including Saturdays.

New Starters - The library team is now fully staffed, welcoming three new starters. This meant we could return to our normal working hours, closing at 5pm Monday to Friday.

Apprentice Success - our library apprentice was successful in her application for a permanent library position.

A thank you – one grateful borrower left a thank you card in the library, expressing how the team 'do a great job, introducing people to new things and ideas'.

Other news

Great Little Place café: a combination of the hot weather and large audiences has placed a high demand for the centre's utilities. This has led to issues with low water pressure, which in turn has caused the temporary suspension of the Great Little Place café service on several days during the summer. Assessments of the utilities system are taking place to improve flow of water around the building.

Communications

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

NPO funding bid submitted

Following approval, a funding bid to Arts Council England has been submitted to turn the Human Libraries project into an accredited National Portfolio Organisation. The bid is for £200,000 funding each year for a minimum of 3 years and if successful funding would start in April 2023. This round of funding has seen a huge increase in funding applications and ACE have received over 1700 applications, so competition is fierce. However, ACE have already looked through our application and asked for a clarification, which is a positive sign. Should this funding bid prove unsuccessful, this would leave funding for our ground breaking Human Libraries Project at an end. As a back up, a follow up bid to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund is being considered.

Language Exchange Project - Colour Of Pomegranates

As part of the new At The Library programme and to support our Library of Sanctuary Status. Sefton Libraries are working with Venus and the Red Cross to offer sanctuary seeking women a space to practice their English speaking and listening skills with native speakers, through creative activity and conversation.

We are bringing together those learning English for the first time, and local fluent speakers who would like to learn about different cultures and languages and offer friendship and support to women who may be newly-arrived in the UK.

This programme follows the Xenia model of holding a space for exchange between women, and therefore is a women-only session to allow women from all cultural backgrounds to participate. The first session has now taken place at Bootle Library where participants practiced their language skills by exchanging recipes with native Bootleians.

Anti-social behaviour in libraries

It is regrettable to report that there have been 2 recent instances of anti-social behaviour requiring police incident reports to be lodged. At Crosby Library, a library member with known mental health issues was asked to leave by staff following a tirade of abuse to another library member. The person in question stormed out hurling abuse at staff and as she left pulled over a self-service machine causing £1500 worth of damage to the machine. The incident was captured on CCTV and police have requested a copy to pursue the matter further.

A second incident took place at Formby Library where a group of 15 teenagers rode their bicycles into the library doing wheelies, pulling over books and swearing at customers and staff. The group then loitered outside the main library doors shouting into the library in an attempt at intimidating behaviour. They dispersed when the police were called. Unfortunately, Formby Library currently doesn't have CCTV and none of the group were known to staff. The lack of CCTV is now being reviewed following this incident.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge officially launched on Saturday 9th July, and there is already over 1000 children already signed up to take part in the first week. This is a promising figure, but we would expect treble that number to be taking part in a normal year, so we still have some work to do. Librarians have visited schools across the borough inviting children to take up the challenge of reading 6 books in the Summer Holidays, and informing them about the range of summer activities they can access in our library spaces. One of the new activities this year is called Phizz Pop which is a series of fun science activities, and these sessions are already fully booked. So, a promising start to this year's challenge

Improvement works to Meadows Library

Working with the Leisure Centre, the library layout is undergoing a significant change, to co-inside with works reported on in the last b

For operational reasons, the Leisure Centre need to relocate it's main reception desk and office. This change is an opportunity to review the layout of the library and address some of the issues restricting multi-function use of the spaces. The reception desk is due to be moved in early September and the change in library layout will follow soon after.

As reported in the last briefing, the Library Service is working with the Hornby Society to deliver a unique look and feel to the library in Maghull. Following approval, a bid has now been submitted to the Heritage Fund to deliver some cosmetic changes to the library, develop cultural activities in Maghull and create a model railway in the centre garden. No funding bid is guaranteed success, but if this one does meet with approval from the Heritage Fund, the changes could lead to a significant improvement in library usage.

Communications

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

HOUSING

HOUSING

Housing Strategy (2022 – 2027)

Consultation on the new Housing Strategy has now concluded. Officers have reported that there has been a good response from a diverse range of stakeholders, including; local developers, RPs, Voluntary groups alongside members of the general public.

A significant majority of responses received throughout this consultation have been favourable, especially regarding the strategic housing priorities outlined.

Officers are collating and analysing the responses to the consultation and will publish a short report on Housing Service's response to these consultation inputs before the final version of the housing strategy is considered.

The final version of the Housing Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in October 2022.

Extra Care Housing

As previously reported several Extra Care Schemes are being worked up to enable us to meet our target of 1306 units across the borough by 2036. I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on this and that market engagement over the past 6 months is positive. The RAG rated table below provides detail of schemes that are at various stages of their predevelopment journey

SCHEME	DEVELOPER/ RP	STATUS	START ON SITE	COMPLETION	NOTES
Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale (90-unit Extra Care, 40 Affordable Rent and an 8-unit Short-term assessment scheme)	Riverside Housing Association	Planning app in anticipated committee/delegated report Q3 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q3 24/25	Heads of Terms are now agreed and the Development Agreement has been drafted. The Bat Survey of the existing building on the site revealed the presence of bats which need to be moved under licence before the building can be demolished.
Damfield Lane, Maghull, L31 3FA (107-unit Extra care mixed tenure 51 Affordable Rent and 56 Shared Ownership)	Torus Housing and Priory Asset Management	Section 73 submitted June 22	Q3 22/23	Q4 24/25	Land acquisition completed start on site anticipated Sep 22.
Town Lane Kew, Southport, PR8 4HQ (116 Extra Care, 18 apartments and 5 Mew style properties)	Torus Housing and Priory Asset Management	Section 73 submitted May 22	Q3 22/23	Q4 24/25	Land acquisition completed start on site anticipated Aug 22.
Hawthorne Road, Bootle, L20 6BY (91-unit Extra Care and 67 AR)	Housing 21 and Onward Homes	Planning approved	Q4 22/23	Q1 25/26	The Combined Authority has now approved the final Brownfield Land Fund allocation for this scheme.
Park House, Haigh House, Waterloo, L22 3XL (106-unit Extra Care)	Anwyl Developers	New planning application expected	TBC	TBC	Anwyl currently in discussions with various Housing providers in anticipation of new application being submitted. The scheme has been put forward for the next round of Brownfield Land Funding.
Coffee House Bridge, Bootle, L20 4AH (80-unit Extra Care and 107 AR)	SAFE Regeneration	Planning appeal lodged	TBC	TBC	Planning appeal hearing anticipated July 2022.

If the above 6 sites were all to progress this would deliver a total of 690 extra care units (45%).

Private Sector Housing

Enforcement and Licencing

The Landlord Licencing scheme is now in the final year, and consultation on renewing this has now concluded with comments being collated with a view to a final report going to Cabinet in October. Licences continue to be issued and 25 properties have been identified as potentially requiring a licence, but no application has been received so final warning letters sent to these owners and will follow up with enforcement action if required

In addition, 10 x Final Civil Penalty fine notices have been served & 17 x Intention to Serve Civil Penalty Notices have been served for failure to licence properties. In total 71 properties have been licenced since June 15th. There have been 34 requests for service relating to poor housing standards issues and all have been addressed informal except one of these cases where an Emergency Prohibition Order was issued.

With regards to vacant properties the team has started 'enforced sale' action on another long-term vacant property.

Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues, and officers have attended 8 Unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampments. A Condition Survey has also been completed on the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site and work to address the issues that were highlighted by this can now be programmed.

Rough Sleepers & Homeless services

The number of families accessing temporary accommodation is continuing to increase slightly due to evictions. Several larger families are being accommodation.

In addition to B&B, there are 21 other households placed in 'Air BnB' style accommodation used by Housing Options Team, an increase of 6 since July.

Sefton Housing Options continue to not place anyone without a priority need into emergency accommodation and are using the night shelter (Sit-Up rooms/Pods) to accommodate anyone presenting to the Council. Light for Life Rough Sleeper Service continue to inform the Council that this move has not had an impact on rough sleeping figures

Council Housing

The preparation of a Business Plan for the programme is underway and is being supported by ARK consulting who are currently producing an outline Business Plan for approval before commencing work on the full document.

Buckley Hill Lane

Updated valuations have now been received but Sandway still discussing contract sum with Barnfield Construction, therefore, the Council is not presently in a position to agree the final acquisition costs and progress the Homes England grant application. Handover of the first properties is expected in early 2024.

Freeths, (our commissioned external legal consultants) are currently working on the contract for the Managing Agent procurement and the Development Agreement contract with Sandway. The specification for the Managing Agent is being finalised with a view to procurement starting in September 2022.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	September 2022

Strategic Transport

Port Access

- The new double track section of the rail line at the Port entrance has been operational since September 2021. Improvements to signals 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.
- The Port of Liverpool Access scheme being proposed by National Highways remains significantly delayed. 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 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. Following the Government announcement of £710m over the next 5 years for the Liverpool City Region from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, the programme for 2022/23 which was approved by the CA is in delivery. The settlement provides a significant uplift in funding for transport infrastructure, particularly for highway maintenance, with a resulting pressure on staff resources. Recruitment for new staff to help deliver the programme is ongoing.
- Consideration has been given to a programme for 23-24 to ensure there are no delays in delivery. This programme will be agreed with Cabinet Member and the LCRCA in the Autumn.

Agenda Item 10

- 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 undertaken and a consultation exercise regarding the strategy is being developed. Progress is also being made on the development of an Active Travel and E-mobility Strategies for the Borough.
- In order to identify potential improvement to the Councils walking and cycling network a local cycling and
- The preliminary design of the schemes to be included in the Full Business Cases for the Southport Eastern Access and the Maritime Corridor has been completed and discussed with Active Travel England. The detailed design process will now be completed for each scheme 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.
- Design work is continuing on improvements the junctions at 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 shortly be undertaken with local Ward Members and Maghull Town Council on the details of both schemes
- In Southport, improvements to Scarisbrick Avenue in conjunction with the Townscape Heritage Initiative have been substantially completed although the Contractor will return to site in September to complete some lighting works, some paving and remedials.
- The business case for the movement, access and public realm project within the Southport Town Deal (*Les Transformation de Southport*) was approved . Consultation on the proposals has been completed and results appraised. The design work and scheme development work is being programmed.
- Works has commenced on the detailed design of the highway works which will support the development proposed for the Green Car Park which is subject the Levelling Up Fund. The works are aimed at reducing severance and improving access to the 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.

Local Transport Schemes

- The Transportation Capital Programme for 2022/23 has been approved.

Sustainable Transport

- The proposals for a new pedestrian and cycle route through Crosby Coastal Park were submitted to Planning but not approved despite the public consultation indicating overall support. The perceived safety issue which was cited as the reason for refusal has been further examined and a number of alternative options examined. As the LCRCA have indicated that there may be a possible extension to the funding window, then it is likely that a modified scheme will be submitted to Planning. A procurement exercise has previously been completed and may have to be repeated prior to works will commence if and when approval is granted. Habitat improvement works will also be delivered as part of the scheme should approval be granted,
- The Department for Transport has confirmed that the funding secured from tranche 2 of the Active Travel Fund can be used for proposals to improve the cycle and walking facilities on part of the Formby By Pass. The design has been agreed with Active Travel England, the new government body to support cycling and walking schemes, the design completed and view sought from the MPs and Ward Members. The works are likely to commence in late 2022 and completed by March 2023.
- Revenue funding has been received from the Active Travel Fund for the development of projects capable to improving cycling and walking throughout the borough. Works I 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. Initial discussions have been held with interest groups as part of the e\ryly engagement.
- Consultation work has been undertaken on three School Street Pilot schemes in Southport. Funding has been secured to develop other school streets initiatives throughout the borough.
- 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.

Highway Development and Design

Highway Development and Design

Planning Applications

Agenda Item 10

- The team continue to process large numbers of planning applications despite ongoing challenges associated with the recent turnover in staffing resources. These include applications for sites identified in the Local Plan and continues to involve close liaison with case officers from the planning department. A total of 150 applications have been responded to in June and July 2022.

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 – 38
 - No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) – 1 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 – 12
 - 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 61 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 through the Term Maintenance contracts have begun on site with a planned completion by October 2022.

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 working closely with colleagues in network management and planning to ensure that the plans are being adhered to.

Highway Design

- The team has continued to provide the design and delivery of strategic transport investment schemes, including active travels and to provide assistance in the planning and development of future strategic schemes led by the STPI team, with a number of schemes at various stages of delivery. Currently the Scarisbrick Avenue Public Realm works are substantially completed, tenders have been received and appraised for the Crosby Coastal Park whilst designs are progressing on a number of other projects including junction improvement schemes on the A59, Ainsdale Car Park, Crosby Town Centre, Great Georges Road phase 2 and Birkdale Village.
- In addition, the team continues to support the Development Control function undertaking Transport Assessments and Technical Approvals for the Highways Act S38 and S278 submissions and the design and delivery of some Highways Act S278, including the Lydiate Lane roundabout and minor works schemes.
- The team also has responsibility for the revenue and capital bridge maintenance programme and is managing the maintenance schemes on Hightown station footbridge and Hillside station bridge as well as a number of minor bridge maintenance schemes. Further funding has been secured to enable an assessment to be undertaken of the strategically important Miller's Bridge over the railway.

Operational In-House Services

Catering & Building Cleaning Services

The Catering Service have prepared and supplied a total of 9,314 packed lunches during the summer food programme to support Sefton families in need of this service. This is an increase of over 3,000 on the provision supplied last year and demonstrates the scale of uptake.

The programme is managed and co-ordinated by the Catering Service Managers and the lunches produced by our own school meals kitchen staff who are mainly 'term-time only' employees. Each year we have been delighted by the number of staff who make themselves available to work during their holiday period and the level of commitment shown.

The demand has been high this year but collectively the team have ensured that our freshly made lunches are ready and distributed to multiple sites across Sefton in time for collection by the families in the designated centres.

The team have received many compliments about the quality and efficiency of the service which is excellent feedback.

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance

Agenda Item 10

Over the previous 12 months, the service has successfully renewed many of the fleet vehicles for both Waste Management and Green Sefton, replacing older euro IV & V vehicles with the latest euro VI engines, helping to reduce carbon emissions boroughwide.

The service is currently trialling alternative fuel vehicles in some service areas to review options that would further reduce emissions in the future and contribute towards the Council's net-zero carbon target.

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance have successfully undergone an internal audit of all processes ensuring continued compliance with the Operators' Licence, essential to delivering services with fleet vehicles in excess of 7.5 tonnes. We have continued to maintain our Operator Compliance Risk Score at the highest level, due to our high level of maintenance and administration.

The service has enrolled two apprentices, one based with the workshop and one within the transport administration office.

The MOT testing facility continues to be successful, currently operating 20% above the national average for testing.

School Crossing Service

The School Crossing Service is currently preparing for start of the new school year.

The service currently has:

84 School Crossing Sites across the Borough. It provides cover for children and adults who require assistance crossing the road.

Historically School Crossing Patrol Services across the Country have issues with recruitment. It is an ongoing issue due to the demographics of the role, term time, part time in most cases, 1.5 hours per day. There are also issues with working outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather conditions.

For the second quarter of this year the service has provided approximately 96% of cover across all locations, which is exceptional given the recruitment issues. This amounts to 5,566 kerb hours of cover for both children and adults across the Borough.

Requests for new sites are processed within 1 week. Schools are informed of any vacancies in advance to ensure continuation of cover. Patrols undergo a retraining programme every 2 years. Sites are risk assessed annually and a robust supervisory schedule is in operation, allowing staff to keep in touch with Management and discuss any concerns or requests.

Patrol staff undergo medicals at the start of their employment and annually for those aged 65 and over. This is due to potential sensory ability deterioration in this group of adults. This measure was agreed together with the Joint Trade Unions to protect and support staff within this demographic. The measure has proven to be a vital tool in identifying health issues for staff both personally and work related. The annual medicals for those aged 65 and over have returned to face-to-face, which is far more beneficial for this cohort of staff, after being held remotely for the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The service is taking part in a pilot scheme working with colleagues in Strategic Support and Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) which is an independent registered charity with a borough-wide brief to assist and support voluntary community and faith sector activity across Sefton. They have developed a community insight tool to identify and capture what our communities are saying and what issues are important to them in their area. As

valued members of the community School Crossing Patrols are very much in tune with local people and what their views are about where they live. These will be anything from street lighting, vandalism, litter, dog fouling to how safe they feel at night in their community etc. Whether it be adults, children, or anyone in the community. Patrols are asked to report any issues they are made aware of to Management. The issues are input into the community insight tool. Following this, the information will be reviewed to identify any themes occurring within the community and what could be done to make improvements for everyone's Health & Wellbeing.

The School Crossing Service will imminently undergo a review of its current structure to ensure it is meeting objectives and providing the support necessary to all staff.

Burials and Cremations

The service restructure is complete and fully implemented. A realignment of vacant posts has provided a moderate saving on salary budgets enabling the service to employ a business support apprentice which supports the local economy of Sefton.

Thornton Crematorium has recently seen an uplift in bookings, primarily due to a cremator fire at Liverpool Council's Anfield Crematorium which reduced their operating ability. The service has coped well with the increased demand placed upon them.

Sefton ARC & Careline

The Service has recently taken delivery of three new patrol vehicles to replace outdated fleet. The mobile guarding service has recently recruited an additional 6 patrol staff which were core funded vacancies and reduces the reliance upon agency operatives.

Refurbishment work at the ARC building for 2 ground floor offices and toilets is due to commence shortly which is a much-needed improvement to a dated location. Recruitment to the vacant post of Sefton ARC Service Manager is in process.

Careline:

Careline continues to meet call response times and is preparing for an imminent move onto a Cloud-based platform which will significantly improve the operation of the Careline. It is anticipated that the move should take no more than 12 weeks and once in place, it will allow the team to become more streamlined, improving efficiency and enabling us to move forward and drive further improvements.

The service has recently began a series of meeting with Adult Social Care to review the service offer that is currently in place and ensure it continues to be fit for purpose.

Specialist Transport Unit

A review of fleet continues, options being reviewed which will be financially viable and the inclusion of electric vehicles will also be considered however, infrastructure for recharging across the Borough needs to be a factor.

Waste Management

The service has recovered well from operational issues experienced earlier in the year.

Staff representatives participated in a working group to review current rounds and devised some re-balancing options which have proved beneficial. There continues to be on-going work for further route optimisation, always with the aim of having the least impact on

Agenda Item 10

residents. None of the changes implemented so far have required a collection day change and have therefore been seamless to residents.

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.

Street Cleansing

The weed control programme commenced its fourth annual spray in early August. An inspection process is underway to ensure evidence of 'die back' of weeds approximately 10-14 days following scheduled spray. The prevalence of weeds continues to be a challenge boroughwide

The service has begun to deliver a more comprehensive rear entry clearance programme which has included full vegetation removal in addition to fly tipping clearance. This is resource intensive and incurs increased costs but provides a much more comprehensive outcome.

Sadly, in some locations, residents have not valued the excellent outcome and have continued to fly tip within days of the work being undertaken. The cycle of fly tipping and removal with such swift repetition is very difficult for the service to sustain within current resource levels. Many residents view it almost as a 'service' and a significant 'step change' in terms of education, behavioural change and appropriate enforcement action where necessary, will be the future direction required to effect change.

Green Sefton

The service continues to work in partnership with many other organisations, partner agencies, and of course fundamentally our communities – supporting around 40 'Friends of' groups, In Bloom and other volunteer groups, together with 300+ sports clubs and leagues that utilise our facilities.

The service has undertaken significant formal consultations recently including an overall customer satisfaction survey for the service, and site / project specific consultations such as for Ainsdale Beach gateway, Hesketh Park and the proposed Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO.

The development of a Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO was a new item added to the services work programme this quarter – following the formal approval at Full Council, this will enable better management of visitor behaviour, and address anti-social behaviours in the designated locations.

Bootle Driving Range is now operational and exceeding initial expectations.

A new Visitor Action Plan for 2022 is being enacted. The Multi Agency Group with other landowners and emergency services etc. also resumed in March.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) – 20 September 2022		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning	20 September 2022

Introduction

1.1 The Planning Service is set up to operate the Council’s regulatory functions in relation to the development and use of land.

1.2 It comprises the following functions:

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

These are supported by the Technical Support team.

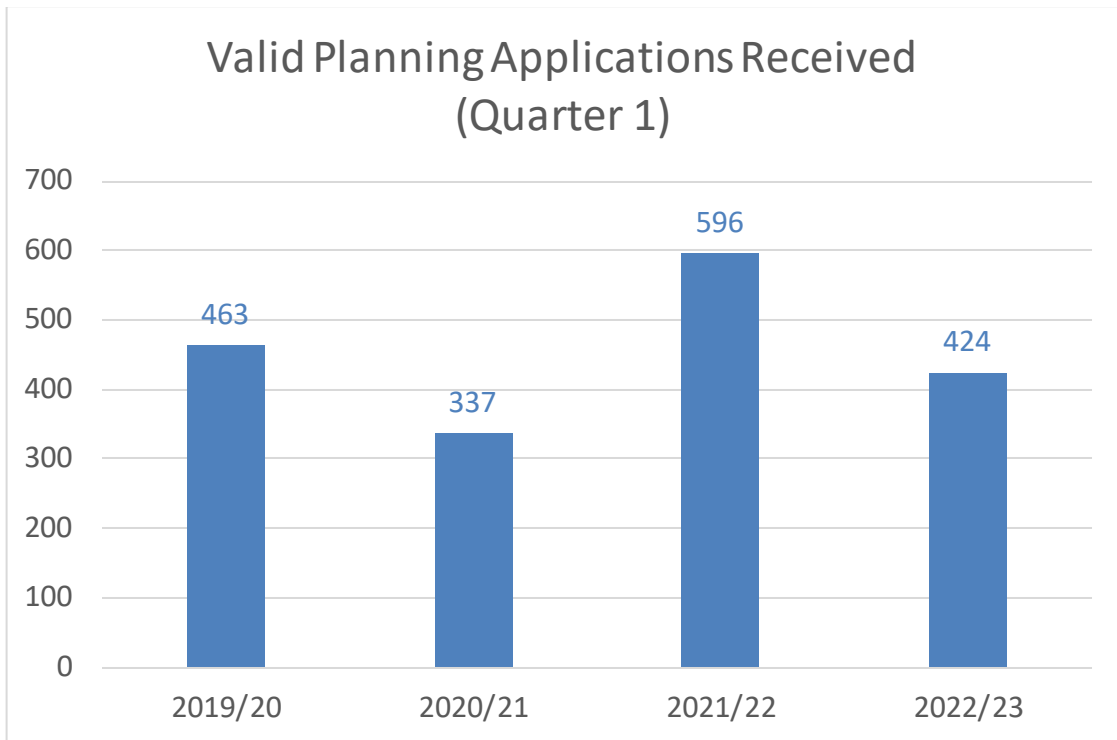
1.3 A key focus as we have worked from home has been looking after staff wellbeing. We have carried out two surveys and devised an action plan. These have been received positively and sickness absence is at its lowest level ever.

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. We held a staff away day in May 2022 and the focus was on customer care

2. Development Management

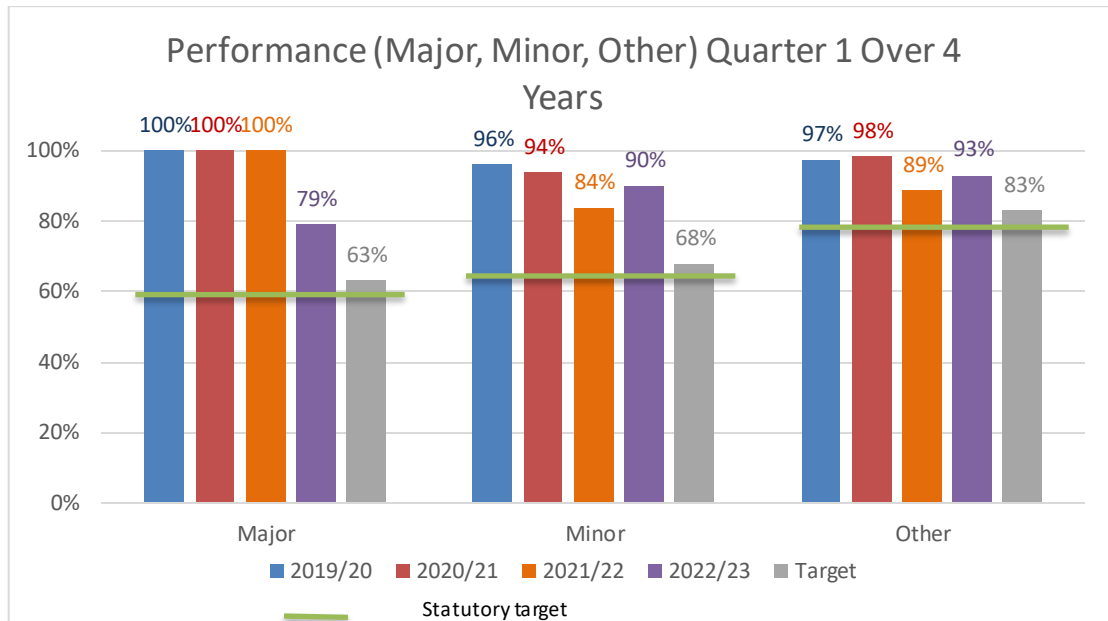
2.1 The graph below shows the number of planning applications received during Quarter 1 in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. It demonstrates that though there was a significant dip in applications following the onset of COVID 19, activity picked up significantly since then and has since settled back to a similar level to pre-Covid. Looking at the only the first quarter gives a snapshot in time so it will be important to review successive quarters to identify any longer term trends.

Agenda Item 10



- 2.2 The chart below shows the performance of the Service over the same time periods. The rate of determining 'minor' and 'other' applications (this comprises the vast majority of all applications) slowed down a little in 2022. This was only to be expected given the high numbers of applications received during 2021-22. The determination rate still significantly exceeds national and local targets.
- 2.3 There was dip in the number of 'major' applications determined in the first quarter of 2022-23. However, there are comparatively few applications in this category so even one application not meeting its target can result in dropping a few percentage points.
- 2.4 This is a major achievement but has depended on the ability to agree 'Extensions of Time' with the applicant. This gives us more time to determine applications and still meet Government targets.

Key performance against national targets for speed and quality of decision making:
Quarter 1 (April – June): 2019 - 2022



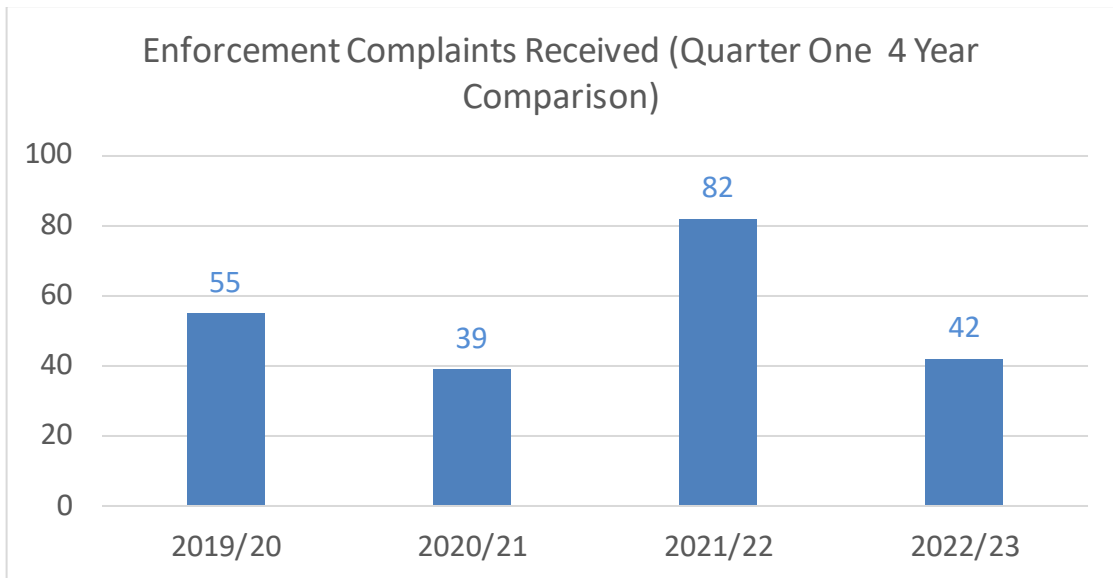
2.5 The pressure on this part of the Service continues with planning applications having been received for 31 of the 47 housing sites allocated in the Local Plan (approximately 5,400 homes as at 30 November 2021). This equates to 73% of the homes allocated in the Local Plan.

2.6 The capacity of the Service is stretched by the increased pressure relating to dealing with many complex and contentious applications. We have increased the size of our team which is helping us deal with an increased workload. One of the Team Leaders resigned in June and while we have appointed to this position there will be a several month gap before the successful candidate can start. Whilst working from home has not presented any major issues it does however have some implications for performance. It is a significant team effort across the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.

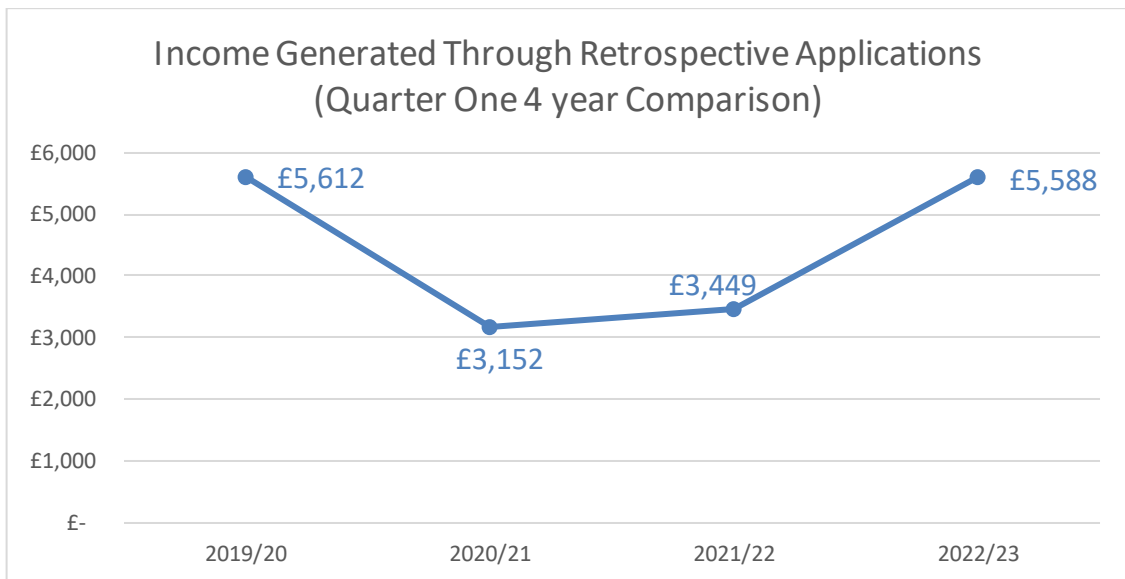
Enforcement

2.7 As we emerge from Covid the number of complaints received in the first quarter of 2022 is actually 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 slight 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.

Agenda Item 10



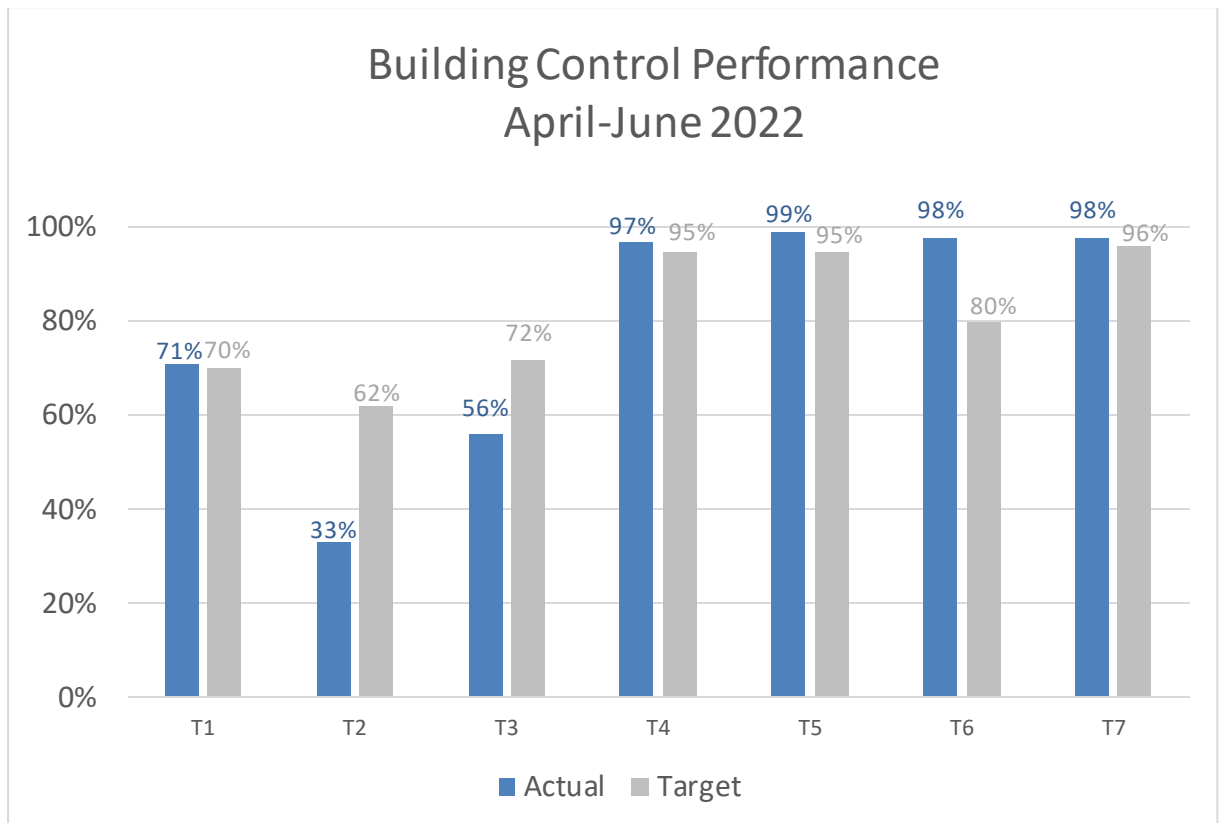
2.8 The chart below shows the income generated from following up complaints which has resulted in planning applications being submitted, with a drop during Covid and then a rise back to previous levels in this last quarter (April – June 2022).



3. Building Control

Performance targets

3.1 The number of building regulation applications received compared to earlier years is shown elsewhere in this report. This section focuses on the Building Control Team's performance in the first quarter of quarter of 22/23 and compares it against similar periods in previous years.



	Detail	Target	Actual Q1 19/20	Actual Q1 20/21	Actual Q1 21/22	Actual Q1 22/23
T1	Market share	70%	72	76	74	71
T2	Full Plans app decision / schedule within 3 weeks	62%	32	60	54	33
T3	Full Plans app decision / schedule within 5 weeks	72%	67	84	75	56
T4	Full Plans app conditionally or fully approved	95%	100	98	100	97
T5	Site insp's carried out on day they were arranged for	95%	99	99	99	99
T6	Customer satisfaction rating (from latest survey)	80%	98	98	98	98
T7	Sickness absence – attendance levels	96%	96	98	99	98

Agenda Item 10

3.2 The Building Control Team continues to meet its key statutory targets in relation to plan-checking and the carrying out of site inspections. It is also meeting the majority of the locally set performance targets. Results from 2021/22 indicate that the Teams market share has reduced slightly to that of the previous financial year, although it remains higher than the national average. This is mainly due to the recent loss of two Building Control Team Leaders 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. However, due to an increased number of Building Regulation applications being received and unfilled vacancies, the performance against some of the locally set targets (including market share) showed a slight reduction in 2021/22 compared to the previous year.

Comparing the first quarter of the current financial year, against the previous 3 years, performance remains reasonably consistent, with the exception of the speed in which plans are being checked - which has declined. Having to cope with unfilled vacancies and increased workload has meant transferring resources from plan checking to site inspection duties and this has resulted in reduced performance in this area declining. However, vacancies are now being filled and an action plan has been put into place to address this particular issue.

Income and financial performance

3.3 Building Regulation income for 2020/21 covered our costs and figures for income derived from Building Control charges for the 1st quarter of 22/23 appear to show a similar trend – with the deposit of a number of applications relating to volume housing developments.

Safety at sports grounds

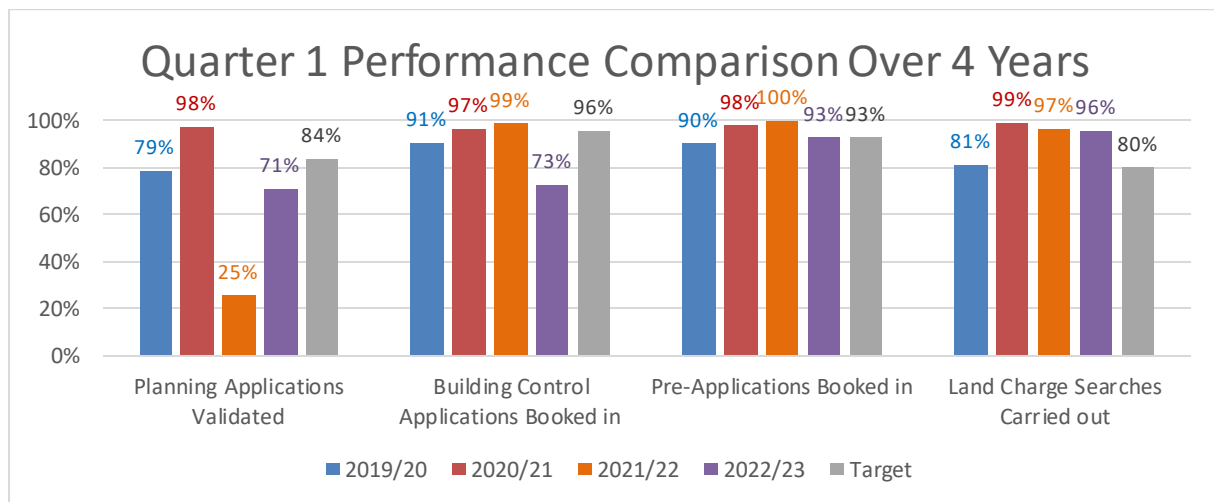
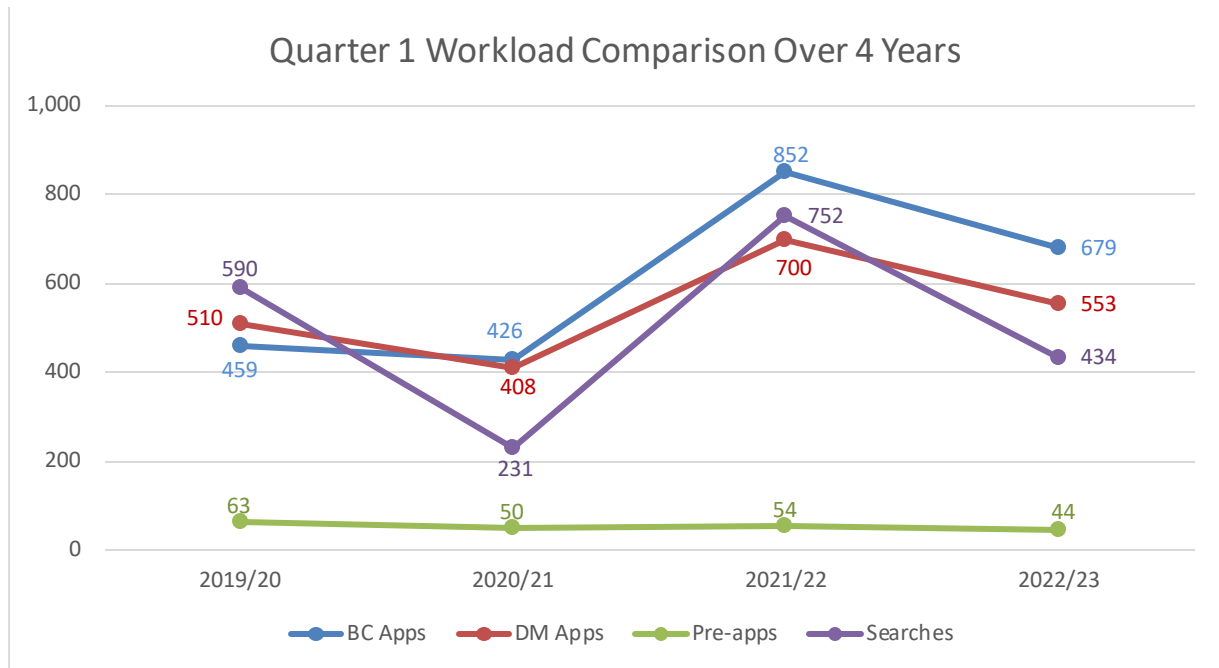
3.4 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections in order to check the grandstands are properly maintained. The inspection of the five permanent grandstands at Aintree Racecourse was undertaken in January 2022 and inspections at Southport FC and Marine FC were undertaken in February 2022. In April 2022, the Building Control Team carried out plan checking and site inspections of the various temporary grandstands and hospitality marquees erected for the Grand National race meeting.

Staffing

3.5 Following the resignation of a Building Control Team Leader in February 2022, that vacancy has recently been filled – by an internal candidate and steps are currently being taken to backfill his previous Senior Building Control Officer post. Another vacant post – that of a Building Control Officer was filled in mid June 2022.

4. Technical Support

4.1 The chart below shows performance over quarter one over the last 4 years



Detail	Target	Actual	Remarks
Planning Apps validated within 5 days	84%	71%	Whilst below target, the overall average days taken to validate remains at 5.
BC Applications registered within 3 days	96%	73%	Whilst below target, the overall average days taken to validate remains at 2.
Pre-Apps validated within 3 days	93%	93%	On target
Searches completed within 7 days	80%	96%	Target exceeded

Agenda Item 10

- 4.2 The team is multi-functional, and resources are allocated to the most urgent priorities daily. Performance on pre-application enquiries and Local Land Charge services meets current targets. The validation of planning applications and Building Regulations applications is below target this is partly due to essential maintenance and downtime of our back-office systems and the training of two new team members.
- 4.3 The team has also taken on additional workload to ease the pressure on our other teams whilst recruitment takes place.
- 4.4 An improvement in performance across all areas is anticipated once the new recruits are fully trained and the staff member that is currently on maternity leave is back in the office.

Service Development

- 4.5 Work is continuing with the transfer of the Local Land Charges Register to HM Land Registry. The project is now in the data cleansing phase and HMLR are expected to serve notice by the end of 2022 with transfer likely to take place early 2023.
- 4.6 Following a recent meeting of the Service Improvement Group, several areas were identified for improvement, these include how we engage with our customers to make the process more user friendly, accessible and efficient.

5. Local Planning

The Sefton Local Plan

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

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents

- 5.2 The Planning Policy Team are currently working on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents to support the Local Plan. These include:
- Affordable Housing
 - Conversions to Flats and HMOs
 - New Housing
 - House Extensions
 - Sustainable Travel
 - Social Value in development
- 5.3 Whilst these have been delayed a little due to staff being temporary used for other projects, it is anticipated these will shortly be made available for public consultation.

Liverpool City Region work

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

Bootle Area Action Plan

- 5.5 To help support the regeneration and transformation of the wider Bootle area it has been decided to produce a Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP). This will set out a vision, objectives, projects, policies and priorities for the area. This will be led by the Planning Policy Team. In order to assist with this work, the Council has been successful in securing funding from a range of sources for various aspects of the Bootle AAP. These are:
- £138,000 from the Combined Authority to secure consultants to help with the AAP document preparation, background evidence and community engagement

Agenda Item 10

- £50,000 from the MHCLG for the Council to test the Draft Model Design Toolkit in Bootle as a pilot scheme. Sefton was one of 14 Local Planning Authorities that were successful (out of over 70 applicants)
- £14,000 from the Local Government Association to procure guidance on a range of project delivery methods.

5.6 The first draft iteration of the Bootle AAP was approved by Cabinet on 7 October for consultation. Public consultation on the Bootle AAP Issues and Options paper was undertaken from November to 31 January 2022. The engagement included a 12-page newsletter delivered to all 22,000 homes and businesses in the Bootle AAP area. The Council are currently considering all the comments made.

5.7 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.

Other work

5.8 The Planning Policy team continues to provide policy advice on all relevant planning applications and pre-application inquiries, including large housing developments on the Local Plan allocations.

5.9 Following recent applications and appeal hearings for traveller accommodation sites, it has been decided that the Council's evidence base for gypsy and traveller accommodation will be updated.

5.10 The Council is also undertaking a replacement Playing Pitch Strategy so that we have the evidence to deal with applications on existing playing pitches or can help secure contributions for improvements to existing pitches from large development proposals. The new strategy will also help support the Council's applications for funding for improvements to its playing pitches. This will be a complicated and multidisciplinary piece of work and will be managed and led by the Local Planning team.

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, including the major Lord Street Verandah project.
- 6.2 Recent success includes the restoration and renovation of the Listed former Sunnymede School in Birkdale and the continued restoration of verandahs on Lord Street, Southport, along with the improvements undertaken at previous derelict and vacant sites with work beginning on the former school for the partially hearing at 40 Lancaster Road for which the Listed Building Consent is beginning to be implemented.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 The numbers of buildings surveyed April 2020-April 2021: 155 – 27% while the number of buildings surveyed 01 April 2021- 31 March 2022 was 362 - 64%.
- Buildings on the Council's list of Buildings at Risk: 53
 - Buildings removed from the list 2021-22: 10
 - Buildings added to the list 2021-22: 9

Regeneration

- 6.5 The capital build part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project is progressing, and discussions continue with targeted building and discussions with interested property owners. The first grant application has been awarded and works are soon to be complete mid July 22, this is for 509-515 Lord Street, a grade 2 Listed Building on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. Other schemes are slowly progressing, and we are speaking to owners of other target property with architects having offered advice and prices on some of these possible schemes.
- 6.6 The learning and skills part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project has made significant progress in developing complementary training and education initiatives. This includes Southport's Victorians is a ninety minute interactive play aimed at school children aged 9-14yrs. Excerpts of the script have been filmed and have been uploaded **Page 117** We are looking to find ways of

Agenda Item 10

introducing this into the curriculum and host live performances of the play at The Atkinson for Southport based Primary Schools in the autumn. A successful and comprehensive week of Heritage Open Days have been undertaken and a current exhibition is being held at the Atkinson called “Built on Sand – 200 Years of Southport’s Changing Street Scene” an interactive, exhibition this will run until 17 September 2022. We are also working closely with the CVS, Southport Civic Society and other local organisations.

- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 Work have commenced on the public realm improvements of Scarisbrick Avenue. This public realm project is integral to the Southport Townscape Heritage project and is within the main cluster of target properties in order to complement the buildings themselves. The public realm will focus on high quality paving and new street lighting.

Other Projects

- 6.9 After a successful joint bid from Sefton, Knowsley and Wirral Councils the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded a grant to develop both the supporting documentation (selection criteria) and to establish a system for members of the public to propose heritage assets for local listing. The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), a joint environmental service, are leading on the project which has appointed a project officer and set up a website <http://local-heritage-list.org.uk/merseyside> which is inviting nominations of buildings to be included. Nominations to be received by 31st March 2023.

Advice to Development Management team

- 6.10 The pressure on this part of the Service has increased significantly over the past year for consultation requests on planning applications and pre-applications relating to Listed Building Consent, development within Conservation Areas and non-designated heritage assets. During this annual period the Conservation Team dealt with 637 consultation responses. The number of consultation requests in Quarter 1 (Apr – June 22) is 94.
- 6.11 In addition, this part of the Service continues to assist in various appeals, on-site monitoring and enforcement cases.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The past two years have been unprecedented for the Council. The Service has strived to maintain high levels of performance, but sustained increases in the numbers of applications and staffing issues have begun to impact on performance and we struggled to meet a number of key targets last year. However, we are on the way to meeting key targets again.
- 7.2 Appropriate technology has been put in place to support staff and services, and staff have performed to the best of their ability. Staff surveys show the service has been able to respond to key issues in order to maintain essential services whilst maintaining staff morale.
- 7.3 The service has risen to the challenge posed by Covid with an innovative package of measures to promote and encourage economic activity by incentivising development, and the Council has been recognised nationally for this exceptional approach. We are seeing the results of this now with numbers of applications for planning permission and building approval more or less at pre-Covid levels which is maintaining inward investment into the Borough.
- 7.4 A measure aimed at making the planning process more transparent and participants more accountable in the form of publishing comments online has taken a short while to embed. This has now been successfully embedded and enhances the service we provide to the public.
- 7.5 Major legislative change is heralded in the Levelling Up and Planning Bill and we will outline the implications of this for the Planning Service in subsequent updates.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

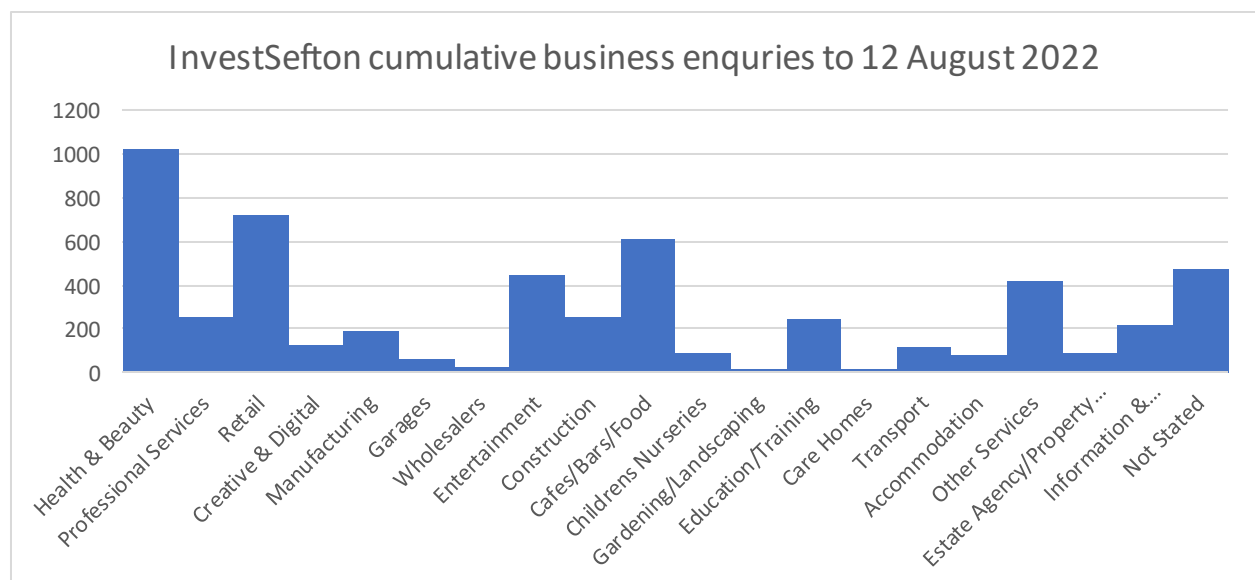
CABINET MEMBER REPORT O&S (Regeneration and Skills) Committee – 20 September 2022		
Councillor	Portfolio	Date
Marion Atkinson	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills	September 2022

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT

InvestSefton Update:

Business engagement

- InvestSefton website has a dedicated COVID 19 landing page which is updated regularly with the latest guidance and news from Government, Growth Platform, Sefton Council and other sources of help. Since the new site went live on Monday 30th March 2020 until Thursday 11th August 2022, the site has had **59,297** unique sessions.
- From Friday 5th to Thursday 11th August 2022 the website has had 256 sessions. The devices used were as follows: Desktop 52.3%, Mobile 45.7% and Tablet 2.0%. The top two pages were financial support and starting a business. The top five countries of origin accessing the website are as follows: UK (69.9%), China (8.2%), United States (4.7%), Ireland (3.1%) and 'other' (2.3%).



Year	Total Enquiries
1 st April 2020- 31 st March 21	3513
1 st April 21- 31 st March 22	1316
1 st April 22- to date	641

Agenda Item 10

Total	5470
-------	------

Business Support Eco-system

- InvestSefton is heavily involved in the LCR review of business growth delivery and inward investment delivery and, together with other Las, provided insight and content into a CA commissioning brief currently out to tender. This seeks to help understand the currently business support and inward investment ec-system across the city region and provide recommendations on a potential revised model bearing in mind the limited amount of UKSPF monies available compared to ERDF. This work will align with the CA's business support policy and the commission will be tasked with, setting out the main design principles which it is proposed should be used to re-shape the place-based Local Business Support Offer and a centralised inward investment service

Case studies

The team continues to engage with businesses as part of its 1:1 delivery support. Recent case studies below:

Commercial photography company based in Waterloo and established in 2015. The business has suffered badly due to both Brexit and also covid lockdowns as around 95% of its business was related to the hospitality industry. The business has now repositioned itself and is becoming a specialist in the supply of multimedia virtual tours using 360/3d imaging photography, video and audio. InvestSefton assisted the business with the preparation of a business plan to make them investment ready and enable them to purchase additional equipment.

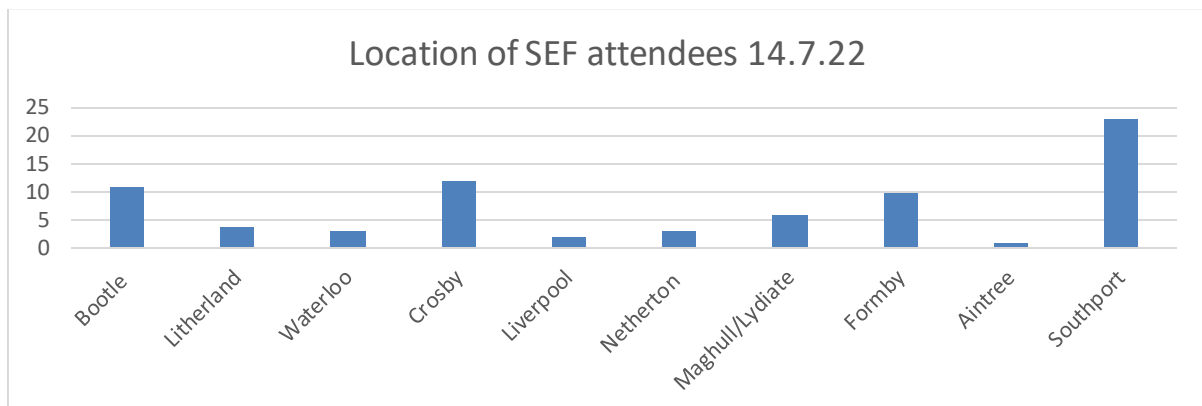
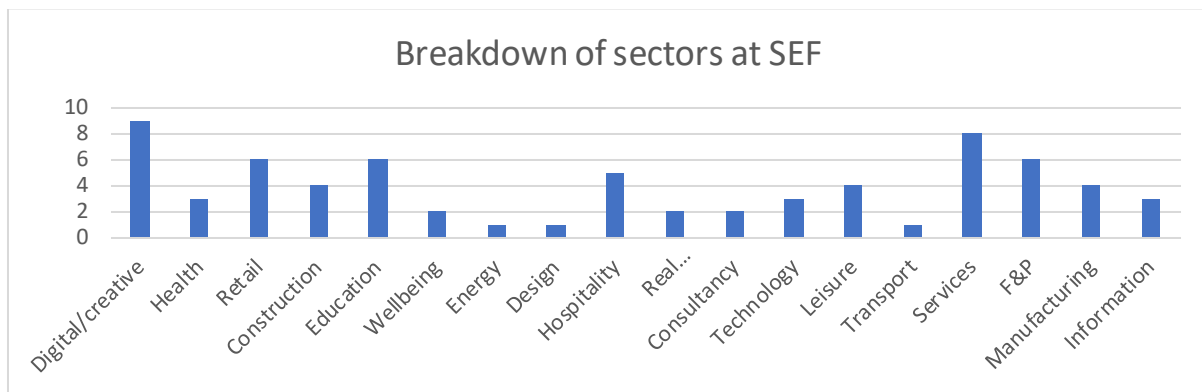
Business based in Crosby that designs, builds and installs up market bathrooms. The business took premises in November 2020 to offer a high-end showroom experience but needed to complete installation of fittings due to various Covid lockdowns. InvestSefton supported the business with completion of a business plan and financial projections to enable them to secure finance to complete the showroom.

Business based in Southport that provides teaching techniques for Venetian Plasterwork. The business was established in 2016 and has steadily increased turnover and investment in buying premises in September 2021 to locate to a specialist centre. The Business has good growth potential, but the Directors want to enhance their personal skills and put growth strategy in place to take the business forward. InvestSefton supported the business by working with them to develop and implement their growth strategy as well as providing managed referrals for finance and business skills workshops.

Steel fabrication company trading from Bootle. Originally the director provided contractor services to global offshore and renewable energy businesses, but the company changed direction in 2021 when they took a unit in Bootle to start supplying a steel fabrication service for businesses from SMEs to multinationals. Opportunities to grow the business further have been identified by introducing digitalisation to the manufacturing process and implementing BS EN 1090 Certification to improve processes and efficiency. To do this the business needs to obtain funding. InvestSefton assisted the business in identifying appropriate grant schemes and supporting them in applying for funding.

Webinars/Events

- InvestSefton’s webinars and events have become a useful vehicle for engaging with businesses on a one-to-many basis. The team has started the planning and development of events and workshops covering a wide range of demand-led themes. The team has now compiled feedback received from the **14 July Sefton Economic Forum event**.
- 79 delegates attended
- 30 Female delegates attended
- 70 individual Sefton businesses attended



SEF Feedback:

- **Richardsons Healthcare Ltd** thought it was the best SEF he had ever attended.
- **K2 Architects** advised Stuart Barnes it was a great event, especially compared with the Liverpool Chamber economic briefing the day after...same format and only 30 attendees, so Sefton must be doing something right.
- **Sandway Homes** thought the event was very informative and the team took a lot away with them.
- **Card Dispenser UK Ltd**, thought it was great and as always the support from InvestSefton is valuable.

Agenda Item 10

- *Freshfield Business Services – Your support is phenomenal! And venue excellent.*

- **Chimera Bespoke Reality** - *thought the SEF was very good, he had some interesting conversations and made some useful contacts.*

Inward Investment update:

- **Mersey Reach - Bootle.** This development has now reached practical completion. Invest Sefton continue to attend the developers marketing meetings to ensure we are up to date with new companies moving in and can offer appropriate support and to work with any Sefton based companies that are expanding.

Enquiry levels are good with several of the units under offer to national trade operators. The team is working with the developer on a date for a proposed launch event and PR for some time in September. The launch has been delayed due to the holiday season and to allow the developer to fit out the office space in several of the units. These are additional works to the main contract and a decision to fit out the offices was taken in response to feedback from prospective tenants.

- **Atlantic Park - Bootle-** Further meetings have been held regarding the development options for this site, with a wider range of unit sizes being considered. This process is being supported by planning colleagues, with a detailed briefing for members to be produced shortly. **Full planning application expected by end of September.**
- **Southport Business Park** - Ongoing work to support investment in the site. Work with interested local end users and developers is gaining momentum. No 3 Southport Business Park (Former Paymentsshield House) – Building works to meet the demand for smaller units to attract occupiers has now been completed with heads of terms already agreed on several of the units.
- **Biz Hub, Dunnings Bridge Road (former NWTC building)** - Demolition works to the frontage are complete and the developer has advised that they have started on site to refurbish the remaining building by the end of the year. This development will complement rather than compete with the adjacent site at Mersey Reach, as the eaves height will be lower and the units overall on the smaller side. The developer is also not expecting the same covenant strength from occupiers as Mersey Reach have asked for so this should make the units more attractive to local businesses wishing to expand (rather than the national companies moving to Mersey Reach). Viewing day for prospective tenants is being considered for end of August/early September.
- **Farriers Way Business Park (formerly Comben House)** is now being actively marketed for sale. The agents have advised that strong interest has been received. They are asking for offers more than £3.5m.

EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING

Sefton Adult Learning

- The Service has concluded all 2021/22 learning activities, all moderation has been completed and learner information is currently being archived. The achievement this year is as follows:

	Total Number	%
Learners	1339	

Learning Aims	1930	
Female	1008	75
Male	331	25
19 – 29	97	7

30 – 49	601	46
50 – 64	330	24
65 – 99	311	23
Without a LLD	1085	79
With an LLD	173	14
Unknown/Not provided	81	7

- The Service is well underway with its preparations for 2022/23 academic year and the 2022/23 prospectus has now gone live. To date we have received 175 email enquiries and taken 234 bookings, with a further 35 waiting to undertake initial assessments for ESOL courses.
- The Service ran an open-day on **31st August** for local residents to visit the refurbished centre at Cambridge Road and take part in free workshops and demonstrations. Individuals have the opportunity to enrol directly onto a course whilst at the centre. Save the date invites have gone out to partners and stakeholders.
- Summer events attendance and learner numbers:
 - Bowersdale centre Funday - 50 learners took part in our Aromatherapy and Bird-Box workshops.
 - Rimrose Valley Community Celebration - 55 individuals completed learning activities on the day.
 - Staff have also attended the Southport Flower Show and Thornton Family Fun-day to enrol new learners.

Additional Partner Engagement Activities

- DWP - Updated all Work Coaches on Service programme and provision.
- Crosby Health Hub – The Service was invited to take part and provide an update to staff and long-term unemployed claimants regarding Health and Wellbeing support.
- ASDA - Working alongside Asda’s Community Champion the Service engaged with shoppers to promote courses.
- The Service is creating individual promotional material for the following areas:
- Health and wellbeing; Family learning; Employability; Digital

- All Services internal documentation (Learner Handbook, Individual Learner Plans, Policies and Procedures) are currently being reviewed and updated ahead of the new academic year.

Recent Learner Comments and Feedback

- “It was the best experience, the way of teaching was understandable for everyone
- Good course would recommend. great knowledge and feel more confident
- Teacher is the best and the course help me improve all the time.
- Excellent, more please
- Excellent, inspirational and accessible. Met and exceeded all the learning outcomes
- Absolutely fabulous and an enjoyable evening
- Excellent supportive and engaging!
- Excellent, very professional and I enjoyed It!”

Agenda Item 10

NEET and Not Known Combined Measure for June 2022

As comparison data for July will not be published until the end of August, June is the latest published data we have on our NEET and NK figures.

Area	NEET	NK	Combined
Sefton	2.70%	0.50%	3.30%
Wirral	3.50%	0.70%	4.20%
St Helens	3.80%	0.80%	4.60%
England	2.80%	2.00%	4.80%
North West	3.50%	1.60%	5.10%
Halton	4.60%	0.60%	5.20%
Knowsley	5.20%	1.30%	6.50%
Liverpool	4.90%	3.60%	8.50%

- Sefton has the lowest % for NEET and NEET & NK Combined across all LCR Local Authority Areas and is below the England and NW performance for all three measures (-1.8% below NW and -1.5% below National averages). *'Below' for the purposes of these statistics is 'better than'.
- At 0.5% Sefton's NK has decreased by -0.1% year on year. This is -1.1% below the regional average at 1.6%
- NEET has reduced by -0.3% year on year to 2.7%. This is -0.8% below the regional average at 3.5%
- Sefton Statistical Neighbour 16-17 NEET and NK % (ranked 2nd lowest in June 22 and June 21)
- Age 16 – the June cohort was 2801, 1.68% (47) were NEET and 0.29% (8) were NK
- Age 17 – the cohort was 2863, 3.77% (108) were NEET and 0.77% (22) were NK
- In comparison to June 2021, 36% of our NEET and NK are in our vulnerable groups, which is a 12.7% increase from this time last year.
- However, NEET clients in Sefton are spending on average 27 days less as NEET than in June 21

Vulnerable Groups

	16-18 SEND	19+ SEND	16-18 YOT	*Care Experienced
NEET	41	37	6	63
NK	5	11	0	5
EET	351	176	12	126

*This includes all social care, young carers, and teenage mothers

- The cohort of SEN NEET has been particularly impacted by Covid measures, we have seen an increase in the numbers of young people who have been further isolated because of covid measures and who need additional support to progress to EET outcomes.
- The current year 11 are the first cohort in 2 years to have taken external examinations, resulting in young people, parents/carers and schools becoming increasingly more nervous about results.
- Career Connect are working proactively to ensure early intervention measures are in place as well as following up year 13 school leavers and those young people in employment to ensure that quality IAG is in place to prevent clients moving into NEET destinations.

September Guarantee

- **Year 11** – total cohort is 3075, 2789 (90%) have confirmed destinations for Sefton but 2 schools have yet to submit their information which includes an additional 104 young people
- **Year 12** – total cohort is 2806, 2445 (87%) have confirmed destinations, however, an additional 230 are attending colleges outside of Sefton and are currently being contacted to enable Career Connect to update their guarantee status.

Sefton@work partnership

- In July this year, Career Connect made 17 referrals to Sefton@Work. Although some young people did not engage, 9 clients registered on Ways to Work or Positive Inclusions and one is currently on a work trial in the hope of gaining an apprenticeship (see case study 1).

A Level and GCSE Results Day (18th August & 25th August 2022)

- Career Connect have been carrying out a social media campaign specifically aimed at Sefton young people, the campaign is to highlight the support available to young people to assist them in making a positive transition to EET. This includes staff contact details for further guidance on options available and how to access support.
- Staff will liaise with colleagues in schools and colleges to ensure early identification of young people who have exceeded expectations or may be at risk of NEET. They will also be contacting all clients identified as RONI on a 1-1 basis and will continue to track clients in all Sefton schools. They will also be contacting their case loaded clients and vulnerable groups to offer support. Staff will be on site in both Hugh Baird and Southport colleges on results day to support and offer IAG to clients who require their support.

Case Study 1 (Male)

Young person in Year 11 identified as RONI (Risk of becoming NEET) and was recently diagnosed with ADHD but finding it difficult to accept this diagnosis. Poor attendance at schools and at serious risk of becoming NEET. The adviser contacted mum who initially said that a place on a Business Course with King George V was already secured but was worried that he would disengage as he wanted to enter employment. He was referred to Sefton@Work to register on their Positive Inclusions programme, he has now been supported into applying for one of their apprenticeship vacancies at a local Estate Agents. The young person was interviewed by the employer and he and another client are currently participating in a work trail in the hope of a positive outcome which will be agreed with the employer at the end of August.

Case Study 2 (Male)

School referred client to Career Connect as RONI. Tutored off site during Year 11 at Impact but stopped attending, school then arranged for a tutor to teach Maths and English at home. The advisor spoke to mum who initially said that he would not attend College due to anxiety issues and was in the process of being assessed for ADHD. She also said that he would be more interested doing practical work rather than a formal academic learning programme. Career Connect conducted a home visit and discussed pathways into apprenticeships, as he

Agenda Item 10

was looking to work during the summer, the advisor supported him in preparing his CV and with applications. During subsequent contacts, mum contacted Career Connect to say that he had applied for an apprenticeship with Sefton Rangers service via the Sefton Apprenticeship Team but was very nervous about having to attend an interview.

Career Connect contacted the Apprenticeship Team to discuss the process and supported the young person with interview preparation work, going through relevant questions that may be asked and how he should conduct himself on the day. The client has now been offered the position and will commence his apprenticeship in September this year.

Sefton@Work

Sefton@work General Performance Data July 2022

Data Description	Range	Figures
Total Clients accessing service	Since 01/01/2016	4,941
New clients registering by age	July 2022	16-24 48 25-49 42 50+ 17 Unknown 1
W2W Male	Since 01/01/16 July 2022	58.0% 63.0%
W2W Female	Since 01/01/16 July 2022	42.0% 36.0%
W2W Other	Since 01/01/16 July 2022	0.1% 0%
Positive Inclusions Male	Since 01/01/21 July 2022	67.5% 45.0%
Positive Inclusions Female	Since 01/01/21 July 2022	32.5% 55.0%
Positive Inclusions Other	Since 01/01/21 July 2022	0.6% 0.0%
ESF clients with Disabilities/Health Conditions	Since 01/01/2016 July 2022	1,522 10
ESF clients without basic skills	Since 01/01/2016 July 2022	1,433 14
People leaving the programme (into jobs/self-emp/training)	Since 01/01/2016	W2W & PI + 200 from other programmes Total 1,983
Ways to Work Starts	Since 01/01/2016 July 2022	4,436 29
Positive Inclusions Starts	Since 01/01/2021 July 2022	165 12
Footfall (Face to Face contact) (sub category of Overall Service Demand)	July 2022	1,435
Overall Service Demand	July 2022	2,527

Learning Disability Employment

- Employment and Learning have been requested to work up some options to support some dedicated resource to help improve Sefton's offer for people with Learning Disabilities who wish to enter paid employment. Work is progressing in partnership with adult social care colleagues to move this concept forward.

Dedicated employment support for Ukrainian families

- Similar negotiations are also underway with colleagues in Communities to provide some dedicated resource to assist Ukrainian families access suitable work.
-
- This intervention is intended to provide some help to prevent this client group presenting as homeless to the Council once their initial housing placements cease on the understanding they may be better able to afford private sector rental properties if they are in employment.
- The Employment and Learning Service is closely involved with the Council's wider support for Ukrainian families across Sefton@work, Adult Learning and the NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service.

Individual Placement Support in Primary Care (IPS-PC)

- An opportunity has arisen to bid to DWP for some new project funding to operate employment support to people with physical or mental health conditions and disabilities who access primary health care.
- As part of a devolved Combined Authority area, Sefton is obliged to bid in partnership with the LCR - CA along with the other LAs and a bid is in preparation for submission at end of August.
- A sum of £40 million is available nationally for 6 successful bids and given the poor rates of employment for people with disabilities across the Liverpool City region, a local bid may be well received.

Social Value – employment and training

- **Sandway Homes** – Bootle site, developer **Barnfield** has just been appointed and we have worked with them on their other sites. Awaiting site manager appointment.
- Meeting with **Vinci Construction Ltd** on 24th August (low secure unit Ashworth, Maghull) again to discuss how they will adhere to their social value commitment concerning jobs, in particular with their sub-contractors.

Lakehouse Recruitment

- **Sefton@work** took the lead on developing the Open Day with Lake House staff, screening clients interesting in hospitality or catering, promoting the opportunity across Sefton and organising the interviews which were held with the management team of the Lake House at a Recruitment Open day held on 29th July 2022.
- **Sefton Adult Learning** provided premises, staff and support for the event and are continuing to host Lake House management company personnel until the opening of the new facility. Sefton Adult Learning also designed an Interview Readiness course for people who felt they needed additional assistance.

Outcomes:

- 73 people were booked to the event by Sefton@work each of whom were sent maps, travel options, job outlines and SMS reminders in the days before.
- Details of the 29 July event were shared with learners and all partners across a number of platforms and social media sites. DWP were also engaged.
- 80 people signed in at the event, but it is estimated the actual figure attending was more than 90 as some details were not captured at the busiest time of the day.
- Members of staff from Sefton@work, Sefton Adult Learning and the Lake House management team were present throughout the event.

Agenda Item 10

- Following the event, we received more interest from additional residents who were unable to attend on the day and these details have been passed to SHOL to arrange interviews
- Further interviews have and will continue to take place at the Cambridge Road Centre.

- On the day Sefton Adult Learning recorded 13 expressions of interest to complete the Interview Readiness course and the Interview Readiness took place 1st and 2nd August
- To date 19 people have been offered job starts with the company
- 15 of this 19 attended the Recruitment interview event on 29 July
- A volunteer from the Cambridge Road Community Pantry was offered an immediate start and is already working on the Ainsdale site operated by SHOL
- Soft opening of The Lakehouse expected on 19th August

Vulnerable clients:

- 1 direct referral received from the LAC Personal adviser team. This young person is registered on ESF Positive Inclusions and has some relevant qualifications as a chef. They interviewed well and have been offered a position but has since called their Sefton@work adviser as they are unsure whether to accept due to mental health and anxiety issues. The Sefton@work adviser and LAC PA have jointly intervened to give further reassurance and continue working with the young person to build confidence.
- Another ESF Positive Inclusions client has also been successful with a job offer. This young lady has autism and will be receiving in-work support from Sefton@work throughout the programme.
- Approximately 6 Ukrainian guests attended the event and have had interviews as a result of reaching out to hosts via the Council's Ukrainian support working group.

TOURISM

Business Tourism

- Below is a summary of the current conference opportunities, these are limited due to the closure of the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre. As plans finalise for the Marine Lake Events Centre it is expected bidding for new conferences will start in 2023 ready for the opening of the venue in 2026.

Pursuing	12
Proposal submitted	1
Awaiting response	0
Won	2
Lost	7
Closed	9
Low Priority/Future contact requested	2
RFP	0

- Ladies Aglow – a regular client of the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre (STCC) have confirmed to host their next event in Southport.

This will be their first in person event since October 2019. The event will take place over 2 nights in May 2023 with around 500 delegates.

- Support continues for accommodation partners with business support calls and reviews helping businesses to be more attractive to prospective business and leisure visitors.

Destination Marketing

- **Summer Campaign** – The main campaign for 2022 is running now, through to the end of August. It consists of; radio (both FM and digital), digital (Google and Facebook), Outdoor (48 sheet digital sites, Rail escalator panels, passenger panels and poster sites), e-newsletter, PR activity and VisitSouthport website updates
- **Design and Campaign Management Agency** – we are about to commence the procurement process for our design agency for 2023 – 2025. This will be undertaken via The Chest
- **PR** – The contract with our current agency finishes December this year. Work is shortly to commence on securing an agency for 2023
- **Visitor Guide** – the 2022 guide distribution is complete. There is minimal stock held locally (less than 500) and distributors have exhausted all stock delivered to them. The 2023 guide will form part of the design agency contract.
- **Southport Restaurateurs Association** – The 2022 Eating Out Guide has been distributed locally and stock is virtually exhausted. Work will commence on the 2023 edition in the autumn. A local advertising campaign will run through October and November and will include local radio, press and digital.
- **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 has been placed in key travel trade publications. Editorial has been secured alongside all ads to date. We have joined AGTO and CTA to increase our communication with GTO's and coach companies. A Southport Showcase (mini exhibition) is being planned for April next year.
- **Golf** – Working with England's Golf Coast to support local accommodation providers and golf clubs. 2022 has been a very busy year for international visitors and the EGC shoulder season package.
- **Marketing Southport** – membership currently stands at 106 (108 this time last year). The next Marketing Southport board meeting is to be held on 13 September.

Major Events

Southport Air Show

- The 2022 event took place and attracted over 30,000 paying customers over the 2 days
- A full economic impact report is being produced
- The new 'Pier Viewing' ticket sold out both days and was well received by the customers
- Trader numbers were down but this appears to be normal throughout events this year

Agenda Item 10

- There were a few problems with the queues for the catering – this has been noted and will be improved for next year
- Dates for 2023 to be announced before the end of the year

The British Musical Fireworks Championship

- Final preparations are taking place for the event
- Tickets sales are doing well, slightly up on last year – this is expected to increase once the schools go back
- Gates open at 6pm with pre-entertainment
- Fireworks start at 8pm each night

- Individual local food caterers have been contacted this year and the take up had been good – 11 units booked so far consisting of traders from Southport Market
- Site meetings are taking place to go through the traffic management plan with the stewarding company and Traffic Manager

Tourism Operations

Southport Market

- Southport Market continues to perform strongly despite the cost-of-living crisis along with an increase of people going abroad this summer;
- The Market continues to attract new trader interest, hot food units are currently full and a waiting list is in operation for incoming traders;
- The Market continues to evolve and has hosted its first wedding, a number of free and paid events have and continue to take place both in the main hall and the events space;
- Work is underway to re-establish a Sunday Makers Market.

Kings Gardens

- Extensive work is taking place in Kings Gardens, these works are being funded by Sefton's Kings Gardens contingency fund;
- Work is underway, the Venetian Bridge has been fully repainted along with all Victorian Shelters on the Promenade;
- Other works consist of enhanced landscaping, repairs and replacement in the children's play area and all benches fixed and stained.

Southport Pier

- After going out to tender, the award to replace the pier decking in phase one went to Rigby's Construction, site was set up on the 4th of July with work to starting on phase one on the 11th of July and due for completion in October 2022;
- The pier has remained open during the summer while the phase 1 works are undertaken;
- It is now planned to replace the remaining full deck of the Pier, starting this year. It is expected to cost circa £3m. Cabinet agreed to this on 1st September. Work has begun on design and specification along with professional team appointments.

Marine Lake Events Centre

- As part of the Southport Town Deal the new Southport Marine Lake events centre is progressing;
- Full Planning application submitted; decision expected October/November and RIBA Stage 2 complete along with full business case;
- Business case and supporting information has been submitted to Government and Combined Authority for release of funds;
- Operator Procurement complete and preferred Operator appointed (ASM Global);

-
- Stage 3 has commenced, extensive ground investigations also on site. Contractor procurement has started via framework, with a view to appoint in December.

REGENERATION, GROWTH AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

- The Regeneration service is providing both a lead and supporting role across the Growth and Strategic investment programme, and a number of key Council and external projects.

Levelling Up Round 2

- Sefton Council submitted two levelling up funding bids in August 2022 for Bootle and Crosby. Totalling £30.3 million both bids are designed to help regenerate these areas, tackle local deprivation, enhance and/or provide new facilities to serve the local communities and support the creation of investment and employment opportunities in the two town centres.

Bootle LUF

- The Bootle bid is for £20 million to underpin a major regeneration scheme to transform Bootle town centre, focused on the iconic Bootle Strand I the heart of the centre. Additionally, a large area of unused land alongside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal will be transformed into green spaces for local communities to use. This will support more healthy lifestyles, activities and events and improvements to the overall environment.
- The development will also contribute to a more diverse and better-quality town centre with new food and drink, culture, arts and entertainment spaces. A hi-tech gigabyte fast digital hub, education and training, business support and a new integrated health and social care hub will all be available on the high-street. This will complement, refresh and improve the retail and town centre services currently available and on which local people rely.
- The investment will drive the growth of night-time economy, attract more visitors and drive inward investment from new businesses. This will enable Bootle to re-build after having been one of the boroughs hardest hit in the UK by the Covid pandemic.

Crosby LUF

- The £10.3 million bid for Crosby Town Centre underpins the programme of regeneration ambitions of the local community set out in the Crosby Investment Strategy. The proposals will enhance the viability and vitality of Crosby town centre and support local businesses by helping to attract more residents and visitors.
- The proposal if approved will build a new learning, skills, health and well-being hub, library and GP/community health care. It will be a place for people to both work and develop skills within Crosby.
- Levelling Up Fund resources would also allow for a significant upgrade of the main gateways into the town centre, better pedestrian and cycle access and new electric vehicle charging points in car parks, while also fund on the appearance of public spaces.
- Sefton is a Category 3 (least priority) for Levelling Up funding however has been lobbying hard for support for these key projects.
- [Council submits Levelling Up bids despite being judged alongside 'prosperous' Cambridge & Windsor - My Sefton News Channel](#)
- A decision is expected later this year.

Bootle Town Centre

Agenda Item 10

- The Council is driving forward plans for a repurposed Strand Shopping Centre following completion of key acquisition and site clearance work and the creation of Bootle Canalside event and activity space.
- **Strand Transformation** – work is progressing to develop the concept design for a phased repurposing of the Strand Shopping Centre (the above referenced LUF bid for the next phase of this programme). Options for the future development and operational arrangements of this key town centre asset, including investment market considerations and delivery strategy, are being assessed. This will enable members to reach a view on the best approach for delivery, given the current market conditions for this key town centre asset, service centre which in turn can aid town centre recovery and regeneration.
- This project links to the Bootle Area Action Plan which is exploring the key issues and options to be considered for Bootle.
- **Bootle Canalside** -members approved the business case for Bootle Canalside for the next phase of works at the May Cabinet and help complete this site development as a key events and activity space for the benefit of the local community. Link to press release - [Bootle gets a boost as Cabinet approve Bootle Canalside business case - My Sefton News Channel](#)
- **Further design and branding work is commissioned, and planned infrastructure work with the Canals and Rivers Trust (delayed due to breeding birds) will recommence imminently.**

SOUTHPORT

Southport Town Deal

- Following the Southport Town Deal allocation of £37.5m business cases have been submitted for all of the projects in the programme in accordance with the Town Deal bid submission requirements.
- Business cases have now been approved for:
 - Southport Enterprise Arcade
 - Les Transformation de Southport (Public Realm enhancement) Phase 1
 - Building a Better Customer Experience
- The business case for the Marine Lake Events Centre was submitted in August 2022 as agreed with DLUCH, ongoing dialogue continues on the details contained within, and a decision is expected later this year.
- Programme Management for Town Deal continues including monitoring and evaluation for programme delivery and output measurement for reporting purposes to Government.

The Enterprise Arcade, Southport

- Refurbishment of one of Southport's central town centre buildings next to Southport Market 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.
- Cabinet approved plans to transform the Crown Buildings into a high tech, collaborative and affordable workspace for small businesses, dubbed the 'Enterprise Arcade.'
- Forming part of the Southport Town Deal, £1.5 million has been earmarked for the regeneration and transformation of Crown Buildings, eventually creating a purpose built hub for individuals, freelancers, enterprises, and independent professionals who are taking their first steps into setting up their own business.
- The Enterprise Arcade project is a key project within the Southport Town Deal programme to kickstart the previously untapped digital, creative and technological sectors within the resort.

Les Transformation de Southport

- The business case for this project was submitted to Government in March 2022 following endorsement by the Town Deal Board and approval by Sefton Cabinet. The business case has been accepted by central Government and Sefton Council are progressing with the next stage of the project.
 - This involves the delivery of the first phase of the improvements, focussing on the area around Southport Market, and the development of the proposals for future phases.
 - The Town Deal will provide the funding for the first phase of the works and the business case will be used to pursue funding options for the future phases of the project.
-
- In addition, the public consultation and engagement that was carried out in February and March 2022 concluded there was a lot of support from residents, businesses and young people (through the schools' responses) for many aspects of the proposals and the responses received will be used to inform the next stage in the delivery of the project.

CROSBY

Crosby Town Centre Regeneration

- In addition to the work to explore the potential of Levelling Up Round 2 support for Crosby Village work is progressing on the Central Buildings site development by Plus Dane Group for a mixed residential and commercial scheme. Planning approval has also been secured for Telegraph House, Moor Lane, Crosby for a mixed use development containing commercial and community floorspace at ground floor and 72 residential apartments on upper floors.

Crosby Lakeside

- The main contract for Crosby Lakeside refurbishment is now complete and the restaurant facility opened to the public in August 2022.
- The Sefton Council hospitality company (Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited) is in place to oversee the hospitality management of the facility now it is operational.

AINSDALE ON SEA

Ainsdale Coastal Gateway

- Marketing underway for the former Sands Public House to explore market interest in this key gateway property.
- Marketing process outcome to be reported later in 2022 to members.

Ainsdale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandbrook Way

- Following Cabinet agreement to acquire the current leasehold interests in this centre by agreement and to bring it into full Council ownership, negotiations have continued.
- A number of properties have now been acquired and brought into Council control.
- A review of an agreed shortlist of options for this site is nearing completion and will inform the best approach for this site once in Council ownership including how it can support the wider neighbourhood and community.
- Consultation on site development options took place in 2021 with Cabinet and local ward councilors, which has helped inform the option appraisal shortlist being assessed.
- Site clearing has also taken place over the summer to address resident concerns about weeds and appearance of the area.

This page is intentionally left blank

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	September 2022

GREEN SEFTON

In addition to the Annual Review, which is elsewhere and to be discussed on this agenda:

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 situation still affecting staffing levels availability.

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.

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.
- 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 to formalise this suite of projects to be developed and delivered

Agenda Item 10

- 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 are now 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

A narrated version of the 2021 Annual Review has been published on the website, and can be found here: www.sefton.gov.uk/greensefton , and the 2022 Annual Review is elsewhere on this agenda

This was 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.

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 has undertaken significant formal consultations recently including an overall customer satisfaction survey for the service, and site / project specific consultations such as for Ainsdale Beach gateway, Hesketh Park and the proposed Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO;
- The development of a Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO was a new item added to the services work programme this year – formally approved at Full Council, this will enable better management of visitor behaviour, and address anti social behaviours in the designated locations.
- Bootle Driving Range is now operational and exceeding initial expectations, albeit with some operational challenges that the service are learning from
- A new Visitor Action Plan for 2022 is being enacted. The Multi Agency Group with other landowners and emergency services etc. also resumed in March.

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. 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 were initially presented to Cabinet Member in January 2022 and now also form part of regular updates.

Working with Volunteers

A specific challenge over the last quarter 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 'Friends of' Handbook – this guiding document introduces volunteers to setting up a group, however it will now go much further in terms of 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 updated Handbook was approved by Cabinet Member in September 2022 meeting, and final amendments are being made before releasing this in the coming months.

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 has been shared with Cabinet Member, and final amendments are being made before releasing this in the coming months.

This page is intentionally left blank