

Overview  
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday 27th June, 2023

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

**Member**

Councillor  
Councillor Dowd (Chair)  
Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Corcoran  
Councillor Harvey  
Councillor Lloyd-Johnson  
Councillor Christine Maher  
Councillor McKee  
Councillor Catie Page  
Councillor Sir Ron Watson  
Councillor Webster

**Substitute**

Councillor  
Councillor Killen  
Councillor O'Brien  
Councillor Halsall  
Councillor Waterfield  
Councillor Dodd  
Councillor Grace  
Councillor Richards  
Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Prendergast  
Councillor Anne Thompson

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Telephone: 0151 934 2068  
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 3 - 8)

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023

**4. Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 9 - 38)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

**5. Cabinet Member Reports - March 2023 to June 2023** (Pages 39 - 100)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

**6. Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People – Migration Update** (Pages 101 - 106)

Report of the Assistant Director of People (Communities)



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member –  
Regeneration and Skills  
Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory,  
Compliance and Corporate Services

### 36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sir Ron Watson; and  
Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing.

### 37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting  
held on 17 January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record:

- (1) Councillor Myers be added to the list of Members present at the  
meeting;
- (2) Minute No. 27 be amended to read as follows:  
  
"No apologies for absence were received."
- (3) Minute No. 28 be amended to reflect the following:

| Member              | Minute No.  | Nature of Interest                               |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Councillor<br>Myers | Minute No. 31 –<br>Sandway Homes<br>Limited - 2021/22<br>Outturn Review of<br>Council Wholly<br>Owned | He is a board member of Sandway<br>Homes Limited |

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

Companies

## **39. MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING AND WASTE AUTHORITY – SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23**

The Committee received a presentation from Lesley Worswick, Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) on the MRWA Service Delivery Plan 2022/23.

Ms. Worswick provided information on:

- The Corporate Plan – 4 aims
- Aim 1: Improve the Sustainable Management of Waste and Resources
- Climate Action Plan Review 2022
- Our Response
- Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework
- Strategic Outcomes
- Aim 2: We will deliver effective waste services
- Going forward
- MRWA and Veolia Community Fund 2023/24
- Aim 3: Co-operate to Improve Working Arrangements
- Aim 4: Measure and Report on Climate Change Impacts and Sustainability Improvements
- Summary

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

- Information on the Community Fund had previously been circulated.
- Factors affecting recycling rates.
- Mechanisms by which the messages regarding recycling and which items could be recycled, could be conveyed to the public.
- Domestic waste had increased during the pandemic and industrial waste had decreased.
- Lessons to be learnt on industrial relations.
- What would happen when the current waste services contract ended in 2030?
- The Zero Waste Strategy and different legislative changes.
- The possible re-introduction of the food waste service.
- Regional recycling rates compared to the national average.
- The need for constant communications and marketing to convey recycling messages to the public.
- The levy set by the MRWA across the City Region.
- Support was expressed for the aspiration to encourage certain behaviours and to incentivise.
- It would be useful to receive feedback on developments in approximately 6 months' time.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

- A visit to the Recycling Discovery Centre (RDC) at Gillmoss could be arranged.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Lesley Worswick be thanked for her informative presentation;
- (2) Lesley Worswick be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee in approximately six months' time; and
- (3) a visit by Members of the Committee to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss be arranged in due course.

### **40. DATA ON WEED CONTROL OPERATIONS SINCE APRIL 2022**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Operational In-House Services) / Cabinet Member - Locality Services that provided data on weed control operations since April 2022.

The report set out details on the following:

- Statistics relating to complaints about weeds
- Issues that were identified pre-April 2022
- Improvements to the Street Cleansing provision since 1 April 2022
- Next steps

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

- A discussion on the control management of weeds would be welcomed.
- The robust monitoring process introduced to ensure contract compliance, and the importance of quality checks on work undertaken was emphasised.
- The different teams responsible for weed control and how they interfaced.
- The actual length of cleansing rotas.

RESOLVED:

That the report providing data on weed control operations since April 2022 be noted.

### **41. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; sought the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; provided an update on

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; sought consideration of the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group; and sought formal approval of a decision taken by an informal meeting of the Committee in respect of leasehold house sales.

Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, was in attendance and provided information on the comments contained in the report regarding the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group.

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

- The dual enforcement role undertaken by Civil Enforcement Officers who undertake both parking offences and environmental offences. Committee Members considered that environmental offences were likely to be enforced only in parking areas and that the roles should be separated.
- The leasehold of property which was at a low rate.
- Second home ownership.
- The informal sessions held by the Committee during 2022/23 had proved to be useful.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (3) Having given consideration to the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group, the following recommendation be agreed:  
  
“the Head of Highways and Public Protection be requested to consider the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers.”; and
- (4) the following recommendation arising from the informal meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2023 in respect of leasehold house sales be approved:

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

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

### **42. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - JANUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2023**

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

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills, attended the meeting to present her report and to respond to questions/issues raised by Members of the Committee.

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

#### Communities and Housing

- A cost benefit analysis of the Atkinson. Detail could be provided.

#### Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element)

- Congratulations to the Natural Alternatives Project, Green Sefton’s long-running inclusion programme for adults and young people with additional needs.
- Progress made with the Strategy for Allotment Focus Groups.

#### Locality Services

- Clarification in terms of the implementation of LED street lighting across the Borough.
- CCTV capacity and links with enforcement

#### Regeneration and Skills

- The new library/health facility in Crosby.
- The possibility that care-experienced children might require additional support beyond the age of 25.
- Investment programmes and the time and effort associated with the submission of bids for funding.

RESOLVED: That:

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

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 7TH MARCH, 2023

- (2) Councillor Atkinson be thanked for her attendance at the meeting;  
and
- (3) the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to forward queries to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

### **43. THANKS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The Chair, Councillor Dowd, advised that this evening's meeting was the final meeting of the 2022/23 Municipal Year and she thanked all Members and officers for their help and support during the year; and indicated that the cross-party collaboration of Members had resulted in a productive year for the Committee.



# Agenda Item 4

|                                      |  |                                  |              |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                    | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)  | <b>Date of Meeting:</b>          | 27 June 2023 |
| <b>Subject:</b>                      | Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan   |                                  |              |
| <b>Report of:</b>                    | Chief Legal and Democratic Officer   | <b>Wards Affected:</b>           | All          |
| <b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>            | Communities and Housing;<br>Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element)<br>Locality Services;<br>Planning and Building Control; and<br>Regeneration and Skills |                                  |              |
| <b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>       | No   | <b>Included in Forward Plan:</b> | No           |
| <b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b> | No   |                                  |              |

## Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2023/24; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or by informal meetings of the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to seek a potential date for an informal meeting of the Committee to consider a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough; to seek a date for a visit by Members of the Committee to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss; to consider the views of the Head of Highways and Public Protection on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers; and to seek approval to cease the submission of update reports on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group.

## Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) consideration be given to the selection of a topic(s) for review by either a Working Group or at informal meetings of the Committee;
- (3) consideration be given to a date to hold an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough;
- (4) 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

# Agenda Item 4

Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above;

- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (6) further to Minute No. 39 (3) of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 consideration be given to a date to visit the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss;
- (7) further to Minute No. 41 (3) of the meeting held on 7 March 2023, consideration be given to the views of the Head of Highways and Public Protection on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers as detailed in paragraph 6.4 of the report; and
- (8) no further update reports be submitted on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group.

## **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2023/24 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

**(A) Revenue Costs** – see above

**(B) Capital Costs** – see above

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None |
| <b>Legal Implications:</b> None   |
| <b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.       |
| <b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> No                          |

There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people 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.

**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; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan. |
| Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.   |
| Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report.  |
| 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; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan.                                  |

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

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5464/23) and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7264/23) have been consulted and have no comments to make. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with

# Agenda Item 4

any subsequent reports arising from the report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Executive Director Place  
Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services  
Head of Highways and Public Protection  
Head of Economic Growth and Housing  
Head off In-House Operational Services  
Head of Communities  
Head of Commercial Development

## **(B) External Consultations**

Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority

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

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

### **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2021/2022
- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **Introduction/Background**

#### **1. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2023/24 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.
- 1.2 The Work Programme has been produced based on items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.4 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 2023/24 to provide Members with the opportunity to add

items to the Programme.

## 2. Working Group Reviews

- 2.1 In previous years it has been the 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, last year the Committee agreed to adopt a new approach by arranging informal meetings to undertake short reviews of services rather than establishing formal Working Groups.
- 2.3 The Committee's views are therefore sought on whether any topics for review should be held via Working Groups or informal meetings of the Committee.
- 2.4 For the information of Members, a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**. This is used to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.

## 2.5 Strategic Approach for Waste Containment/Disposal across the Borough

- 2.6 At an informal meeting of the Committee held on 20 October 2022 topics associated with the Council's Cleansing service were considered.

At the next formal meeting of the Committee held on 8 November 2022 it was resolved that "a review of the adoption of a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the Borough be dealt with at an informal meeting of the Committee rather than establishing a Working Group to review the topic".

The informal meeting was arranged to take place on 23 January 2023. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be cancelled.

- 2.7 Consideration is now sought to a date to hold the informal meeting of the Committee to consider the strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough.

## 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.

# Agenda Item 4

- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan published on 31 May 2023 is attached at **Appendix 3** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 3.6 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

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

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

### **4.4 Role**

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

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

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

### **4.5 Membership**

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

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Desmond, Hart and Howard. Councillor Howard is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative group on the Committee will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

#### 4.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee on 13 July 2022.

#### 4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

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. This has on occasion caused meetings to be inquorate.

#### 4.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link  
<https://modern.gov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

#### **Latest Meeting - 19 April 2022**

The latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S scheduled to be held on 19 April 2023 was cancelled.

4.9 The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held in July 2023. Matters discussed at this meeting will be reported to Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

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

### **5. RECYCLING DISCOVERY CENTRE AT GILLMOSS**

5.1 At its meeting held on 7 March 2023 the Committee received a presentation from Lesley Worswick, Chief Executive of the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) on the MRWA Service Delivery Plan 2022/23.

5.2 The Committee resolved (Minute No. 39 (3)) that a visit by Members of the Committee to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss be arranged in due course.

# Agenda Item 4

- 5.3 Colleagues at the MRWA are happy for Members to visit the Recycling Discovery Centre; and suggested that the visit take place in July 2023 on one of the following dates:

10 or 17 July 2023.

- 5.4 One of the above dates is therefore sought for a visit by Members of the Committee to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss

## **6. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP**

### **6.1 Meeting held on 28 September 2022**

A report was submitted to Committee on 28 September 2022 which updated on the implementation of recommendations agreed by the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group Working Group. During the meeting the following comment was made:

“In respect of the recommendations on “a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers be established to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping”; and “a high-profile publicity campaign be introduced to highlight the increased enforcement activity to be undertaken”, concern was expressed at the update responses that there was currently no budgetary provision to implement such recommendations; particularly bearing in mind that the Working Group’s Final report recommended that funding be provided from the £500k that had been identified to tackle street scene problems from the Council’s 2021/22 budget”.

The Committee resolved that the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to give further consideration to the implementation of the recommendations referred to above and report their findings to the Committee.

### **6.2 Meeting held on 17 January 2023**

At its meeting held on 17 January 2023 the Committee considered the views of the Cabinet Members as set out below:

“Prior to and since the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group on the Effectiveness of Council Enforcement were reported to Cabinet and approved by Council in November 2021, the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services have been working with officers to explore how the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping could be better addressed and what resources might be needed to do so.

The Cabinet Members consider that a combination of education, enforcement and engineering measures are required, alongside reversing some of the resource reductions in the Street Cleansing, Waste Management and Environmental Enforcement services that were necessary to balance the Council’s budget following significant reductions in government funding since



2010.

In 2021, Council approved £500k of additional revenue investment for “street scene activities including enhancements relating to the removal of fly tipping, street cleansing and weed removal”. A decision was taken in 2021 to await the recommendations of the Working Group before permanently allocating this resource, and in the meantime to temporarily use the resource for enhanced street cleansing, including intensive weed removal in worst affected areas.

In 2022, having received the Working Group’s recommendations and assessed the impact of the £500k reinvestment within the Street Cleansing and Waste Management Service, a decision was taken to permanently allocate all of the £500k to Street Cleansing and Waste Management Services. Consideration was given to allocating some of this funding to enforcement and education, but it was considered that the £500k was insufficient to deliver the required level of improvement in street cleansing, a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers and a high-profile publicity campaign.

Since then, the Cabinet Members have continued to work with officers to understand the nature and scale of resources needed to deliver the recommendations of the Working Group, and remain committed to delivering against those recommendations, as soon as the Council’s budgetary position allows”.

The Committee resolved that in respect of the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group:

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

## 6.3 Meeting held on 7 March 2023

Councillor Lappin attended the meeting and her comments contained in the report to Members are set out below:

- Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services recognises and shares the concerns expressed by the OSC Working Group.
- The issue of fly-tipping is a significant one in Sefton and across the UK.
- Tackling the issue requires a combination of education, enforcement and engineering, so that we change people’s behaviour and penalise those

# Agenda Item 4

who refuse to change. This includes better promotion of the Council's actions and the penalties issued.

- This change will not happen overnight. It requires a persistent and consistent focus, and greater resources than we are currently able to deploy.
- The Council currently employs 3 FTE Environmental Enforcement Officers and has recently also recruited an apprentice into the Environmental Enforcement Team. When other duties, such as monitoring and enforcing the Duty of Care for the correct disposal of waste by businesses, enforcement of trees and shrubs overhanging the highway and annual leave is taken into account, this allows for approximately 50hrs per week investigating and enforcing fly-tipping.
- Due to the small size of the team, responses and investigations relating to fly-tipping are prioritised on the basis of the nature and scale of the incident and the likelihood of identifying the offenders
- In 2021, the Council received 4323 reports categorised as fly-tipping. As the Council is legally responsible for removing fly-tipping from its own land, the majority of these were referred direct to Operational In-House Service (OIHS) Street Cleansing or Green Sefton teams to address (dependent upon where the material has been fly-tipped).
- These services work closely with the Environmental Enforcement Team, and where they believe there may be evidence of the perpetrator, this is also referred through for investigation. Otherwise, the waste is removed. The impacts of fly-tipping on Sefton and elsewhere has been on the rise for several years. The estimated cost for Sefton to remove fly-tipped waste for the year of 2021 was £344,276.
- Those matters referred either directly to the Environmental Enforcement Team, or via OIHS, resulted in 5 Fixed Penalty Notices and 1 successful prosecution during 2021 and a further 6 Fixed Penalty Notices and three pending prosecutions in 2022/23 to date. These figures are lower than in previous years. In more than half of cases referred to the Environmental Enforcement Team, either no evidence was found linking the waste to a perpetrator, or the waste was removed before they were able to attend and investigate.
- It is recognised that this does not paint an impressive picture and Officers are continuing to review ways of increasing the efficacy of enforcement, the number of penalties issued and cases prosecuted. This includes how they work with others to prevent and tackle fly-tipping and exploring the use of technology to detect and provide evidence of perpetrators.
- Since 2017 the Council has also employed an external contractor, NSL Ltd, to provide Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) who undertake a dual enforcement role, which includes identifying both: Parking Offences (yellow line restrictions, schools, bus stops, residents parking areas, Pay and Display and limited waiting restrictions, etc); and Environmental Offences (litter, dog fouling and dog control). Officers are deployed on a mixture of patrols across the Borough averaging approximately 3000 hours per month, typically this results in 12 officers per day Monday to Saturday, and 10 officers per day Sundays/Bank Holidays. There is a Deployment Plan in place which sets out the agreed principles for deployment of these officers in terms of locations, activities etc. In

2021/22 CEOs issued 782 Fixed Penalty Notices for Environmental Offences and to date in 2022/23 they have issued almost 400.

- The Council will shortly commence a procurement process for a new Parking and Environmental Enforcement Contract, to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. In line with normal practice the contract specification will be reviewed prior to re-procurement and as part of this, consideration can be given to the nature of offences enforced under the contract and the balance of deployment. The Cabinet Member will be consulted on that review.
- However, the key issue remains that the resource available is insufficient to satisfactorily tackle the scale of the problem, particularly in relation to fly-tipping. At the same time the Council's budgetary position has not enabled the Council to allow any growth in the Environmental Enforcement Budget. Cabinet are continuing to work with officers on this and will seek to increase resources as soon as possible.

The Committee resolved (Minute No. 41 (3)) that having given consideration to the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group, the following recommendation be agreed:

“the Assistant Director of Place - Highways and Public Protection be requested to consider the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers.”

## 6.4 **Views of the Assistant Director of Place - Highways and Public Protection**

In accordance with the above decision the views of the Assistant Director of Place - Highways and Public Protection have been sought and such views are set out below:

“On 7th March 2023, O&S Committee (Regeneration and Skills), resolved that: “Having given consideration to the views of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, in response to a request of the Committee concerning the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group, the following recommendation be agreed: “the Head of Highways and Public Protection be requested to consider the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers.”

On 9th March 2023, Cabinet considered and agreed the recommendations of a report seeking approval to reprocure the provision of a parking and environmental enforcement, cash collection and car park management service, as the current contract ends on 30th September 2023.

Prior to finalising the contract specification and commencing the approved procurement process, in accordance with the O&S Committee resolution on 7th March 2023, fresh consideration was given to the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual

# Agenda Item 4

enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers. The conclusion of this was to continue with the dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers.

The review can be summarised as follows:

Prior to 2016 two Officers were employed through contractor NSL to carry out environmental enforcement which at the time was littering and dog fouling, for a total of 80 hours per week. This pilot was delivered on a cost neutral basis for the Council, with a percentage of the income received by the Council from FPN's issued and court costs being paid to the Contractor. However, the Contractor found they were unable to cover their costs and indicated that they would not wish to continue beyond the end of the pilot scheme under that model.

In 2016, on a trial basis NSL began to enforce both parking contraventions and environmental offences using half of the existing parking Civil Enforcement Officers on a voluntary basis.

In 2018 this was extended so that all CEO's carried out the joint enforcement role. This has continued to date, and Environmental enforcement has now extended to include dog control in addition to littering and dog fouling.

The current contract provides for 3000 CEO hours per month. Typically this results in the deployment of 12 officers per day Monday to Saturday, and 10 officers per day Sundays/Bank Holidays.

All officers deployed enforce parking, littering and dog control offences, providing a significant increase in hours spent monitoring the borough and enforcing environmental offences compared with the pre-2018 position.

This has proved an effective way to deliver the service, and in the past 12 months CEOs have issued almost 400 Fixed Penalty Notices for Environmental Offences and 34,000 Penalty Charge Notices.

The whole of the service is now funded through the parking services budget, mainly through the approx. £850,000 generated through parking Penalty Charge Notices. There is no budget or funding contribution for the provision of environmental enforcement, all funding is through parking services.

There is a Deployment Plan in place which sets out the agreed principles for deployment of these officers in terms of locations, activities etc. and this does include some specific patrolling activities targeted at environmental offences. This deployment plan can be adjusted to increase the emphasis on environmental enforcement targeted patrols, but a balance is necessary to avoid a negative impact on parking control and income generated through Penalty Charge Notices.

Without the provision of significant additional funding, splitting parking and environmental enforcement within the contract and/or deployment of officers, would effectively reduce the time spent patrolling and enforcing both aspects, reducing the effectiveness of the service.

A possible further impact of a reduced number of CEOs for each function, and for parking control in particular, could be reduced visibility, compliance, enforcement, income, and therefore funding for the service, thereby further impacting the effectiveness of the service.

In view of the above it is not considered practical or effective to split parking and environmental enforcement.

Officers have also considered whether enforcement of the recently introduced "Coastal and Visitor Areas" PSPO could be incorporated into the contract, but because of the very different nature and wide variety of offences created by that PSPO, it has been concluded that it would not be practical for the CEO's to extend their role to include this enforcement".

## **7. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE WORKING GROUP**

- 7.1 The Committee has received one update report on the implementation of recommendations approved by the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group. The report was considered by Committee on 28 September 2022.
- 7.2 The Head of Communities has submitted a report elsewhere on the agenda that explains changes to the process that Serco takes for procuring properties and which addresses outstanding actions. Bearing in mind the comments in the report of the Head of Communities it is recommended that no further update reports be submitted to Committee.

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### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

| Tuesday, 27 June 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle |  |                             |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| No.   | Report/Item  | Report Author/Organiser     |
| 1.  | Cabinet Member Update Reports                                    | Paul Fraser                 |
| 2.  | Work Programme Update  | Paul Fraser                 |
| 3.  | Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People – Migration Update | Simon Burnett/Allan Glennon |

| Tuesday, 19 September 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| No.   | Report/Item  | Report Author/Organiser                     |
| 1.  | Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2023/24                     | Michelle Williams (Liaising with MRWA)      |
| 2.  | Southport Market Update  | Stephen Watson/Stuart Barnes/Mark Catherall |
| 3.  | Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Pilot  | Stuart Barnes/Lee Payne                     |
| 4.  | Domestic Abuse Report  | Simon Burnett/Janette Maxwell               |
| 5.  | Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Final Report – Update on Recommendations | Paul Fraser                                 |
| 6.  | Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Final Report - Update on Recommendations       | Paul Fraser                                 |
| 7.  | Cabinet Member Update Reports  | Paul Fraser                                 |
| 8.  | Work Programme Update  | Paul Fraser                                 |

| <b>Tuesday, 7 November 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle</b> |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>No.</b>  | <b>Report/Item</b>  | <b>Report Author/Organiser</b> |
| 1.  | Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report  | Michelle Williams              |
| 2.  | Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan   | Peter Moore                    |
| 3.  | Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth (with a focus on the new Crosby Library project and the Bootle Regeneration Strategy) | Stuart Barnes                  |
| 4.  | Sandway Homes Limited - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies  | Stephan Van Arendsen           |
| 5.  | Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies                   | Stephen Watson                 |
| 6.  | Cabinet Member Update Reports   | Paul Fraser                    |
| 7.  | Work Programme Update   | Paul Fraser                    |

| <b>Tuesday, 16 January 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport</b> |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>No.</b>   | <b>Report/Item</b>  | <b>Report Author/Organiser</b>         |
| 1.   | Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2023/24          | Michelle Williams (Liaising with MRWA) |
| 2.   | Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy | Andrea Watts                           |
| 3.   | Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services                  | Michelle Williams                      |
| 4.   | Green Sefton Annual Review 2023   | Michelle Williams                      |
| 5.   | Cabinet Member Update Reports   | Paul Fraser                            |
| 6.   | Work Programme Update   | Paul Fraser                            |



| Tuesday, 5 March 2024, 6.30 p.m., - Town Hall, Bootle |  |                         |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| No.   | Report/Item  | Report Author/Organiser |
| 1.  | Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth                    | Stuart Barnes           |
| 2.  | Damp, Mould and Condensation in Residential Properties | Stuart Barnes/Lee Payne |
| 3.  | Cabinet Member Update Reports                          | Paul Fraser             |
| 4.  | Work Programme Update                                  | Paul Fraser             |

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## APPENDIX 2

### CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

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

### CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

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

# Agenda Item 4

## APPENDIX 2

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

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

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

## APPENDIX 2

### KEY QUESTIONS

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

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

### INVESTIGATIONS:-

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

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 - 31 OCTOBER 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](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

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

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

# Agenda Item 4

## APPENDIX 3

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

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

**NOTE:**

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

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



## APPENDIX 3

### FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

| Item Heading  | Officer Contact  |
|---|--|
| Bootle Regeneration Strategy                              | Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619 |
| Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy | Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk               |
| Article 4 Direction E to C3                               | David Robinson david.robinson@sefton.gov.uk                |
| Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton       | Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk                          |

# Agenda Item 4

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

|   |   |     |                  |     |
|---|---|-----|------------------|-----|
| Details of Decision to be taken                                 | <b>Bootle Regeneration Strategy</b><br>Update and review Bootle Regeneration Strategy (Strand transformation related).  |     |                  |     |
| Decision Maker  | Cabinet   |     |                  |     |
| Decision Expected   | 27 Jul 2023<br><br>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 22/06/2023 to 27/07/2023. Reason: More time is required to develop the strategy and to discuss and agree with members; and the Strategy to follow Bootle Area Action Plan consideration by Cabinet. |     |                  |     |
| Key Decision Criteria   | Financial   | Yes | Community Impact | Yes |
| Exempt Report   | Open  |     |                  |     |
| Wards Affected  | Derby; Linacre  |     |                  |     |
| Scrutiny Committee Area   | Regeneration and Skills   |     |                  |     |
| Lead Director   | Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)   |     |                  |     |
| Persons/Organisations to be Consulted                           | Members, Ward Councillors   |     |                  |     |
| Method(s) of Consultation                                       | Via briefings and meetings (e.g. Members Reference Group).  |     |                  |     |
| List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker | Bootle Regeneration Strategy  |     |                  |     |
| Contact Officer(s) details                                      | Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619  |     |                  |     |

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

|   |  |    |                  |     |
|---|--|----|------------------|-----|
| Details of Decision to be taken                                 | <p><b>Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy</b></p> <p>The main purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework to make sure that Sefton will be able to best meet the existing and future need for cricket, football, hockey, rugby union, tennis and bowls in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility within the constraints of limited resources. It will provide a robust and objective justification and strategy for current and future playing pitch, tennis court and bowling green provision throughout Sefton.</p> |    |                  |     |
| Decision Maker  | Cabinet  |    |                  |     |
| Decision Expected   | <p>27 Jul 2023</p> <p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 22/06/2023 to 27/07/2023. Reason: to enable a final check of the information and figures contained in the strategy to be undertaken</p>   |    |                  |     |
| Key Decision Criteria   | Financial  | No | Community Impact | Yes |
| Exempt Report   | Open   |    |                  |     |
| Wards Affected  | All Wards  |    |                  |     |
| Scrutiny Committee Area   | Regeneration and Skills  |    |                  |     |
| Lead Director   | Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)  |    |                  |     |
| Persons/Organisations to be Consulted                           | Internal and external Steering Group partners; Clubs and schools have been consulted during the PPOSS preparation process  |    |                  |     |
| Method(s) of Consultation                                       | The PPOSS has been prepared by jointly by the Council (with input from service areas including Planning, Green Sefton, Communities and Education Excellence) and other Steering Group partners such as Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of sports; in line with Sport England guidance.  |    |                  |     |
| List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker | Approval of the Playing and Outdoor Sports Strategy  |    |                  |     |
| Contact Officer(s) details                                      | Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk   |    |                  |     |

# Agenda Item 4

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

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

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

|   |   |     |                  |     |
|---|---|-----|------------------|-----|
| Details of Decision to be taken                                 | <b>Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton</b><br>Capital renewal approval is to be sought for the replacement of essential fleet and machinery |     |                  |     |
| Decision Maker  | Cabinet   |     |                  |     |
| Decision Expected   | 27 Jul 2023<br>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 22/06/2023 to 27/07/2023. Reason: to allow more time for discussion/consideration of the proposal |     |                  |     |
| Key Decision Criteria   | Financial   | Yes | Community Impact | Yes |
| Exempt Report   | Open  |     |                  |     |
| Wards Affected  | All Wards   |     |                  |     |
| Scrutiny Committee Area   | Regeneration and Skills   |     |                  |     |
| Lead Director   | Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)  |     |                  |     |
| Persons/Organisations to be Consulted                           | None  |     |                  |     |
| Method(s) of Consultation                                       | None  |     |                  |     |
| List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker | Procurement of Fleet and Machinery for Green Sefton   |     |                  |     |
| Contact Officer(s) details                                      | Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk   |     |                  |     |



# Agenda Item 5

|                                      |  |                                  |              |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                    | Overview and Scrutiny Committee<br>-(Regeneration and Skills)  | <b>Date of Meeting:</b>          | 27 June 2023 |
| <b>Subject:</b>                      | Cabinet Member Reports – February 2023 to June 2023  |                                  |              |
| <b>Report of:</b>                    | Chief Legal and Democratic Officer   | <b>Wards Affected:</b>           | (All Wards); |
| <b>Portfolio:</b>                    | Communities and Housing;<br>Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element)<br>Locality Services;<br>Planning and Building Control; and<br>Regeneration and Skills |                                  |              |
| <b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>       | No   | <b>Included in Forward Plan:</b> | No           |
| <b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b> | No   |                                  |              |

## Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period February 2023 to June 2023; and to update on information requested at the last meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2023.

## Recommendation(s):

That:

- (1) 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; and
- (2) the information requested at the last meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2023 and as referred to in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5 of the report be noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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:** (including any Risk Implications)

# Agenda Item 5

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

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

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

**(A) Revenue Costs** – see above

**(B) Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

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

Assistant Director of People – Communities  
 Assistant Director of People – Operational In-House Services  
 Assistant Director of Place – Highways and Public Protection

**(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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

**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

# Agenda Item 5

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

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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

- 1.2 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.

### **2. Matters Considered at the Previous Meeting of the Committee**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 7 March 2023 the Committee, upon consideration of the Cabinet Member reports, requested (Minute No. 42) various pieces of information from Cabinet Members.
- 2.2 The Senior Democratic Services Officer was requested to forward the queries to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers for response. The information requested, together with the responses received is set out below.
- 2.3 **Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing Portfolio**

#### **Details were requested on a cost benefit analysis of the Atkinson.**

Response:

The following information has been provided by the Localities Team Manager, Communities:

The Atkinson is a key destination for Sefton's residents and visitors to enjoy a wide-ranging cultural offer. In 2020 Museums Development North-West estimated that the Atkinson contributed an annual visitor impact of £2,698,130 to the local economy. With the average single day tourism visitor now spending approximately £46 each, the Atkinson's programme continues to attract a significant amount of income for the visitor economy. In the last financial year the centre welcomed 353,417 visits. Theatrical shows delivered during the period generated £920,311 gross ticket sales, welcoming new audiences to its performance spaces.

In addition to this positive economic impact the Atkinson enriches Sefton's communities with the social value of its diverse programme -

The museum and exhibitions programme plays a key role in the safeguarding and promotion of Sefton's heritage. Exhibitions are frequently featured across popular media platforms including regional television and radio features.

The educational programme welcomes school visits from across the Borough and its family programme ensures young families are stimulated with cultural activities during the term breaks.

In terms of partnerships the centre supports community wellbeing groups for social prescribing and enables people who would otherwise be at risk of social isolation to engage with their local community. The Atkinson hosts Southport's One Stop Shop and its café is delivered by the Autism Initiatives team.

The library offers a range of free services supporting the development of literacy, digital skills, cultural engagement and the provision of information. It also participates in Sefton's Warm Hub programme.

Active participation is a key theme of the Atkinson programme – this year's Sefton Open exhibition celebrates artistic talent from across the Borough and features over 700 artworks. At present the centre engages a cohort of over 80 volunteers who support its wide-ranging programme and benefit themselves from their active participation.

The Atkinson continues to develop its reputation as a major cultural destination in the region. In 2020 the Atkinson won the Arts Organisation of the Year and People's Choice categories at the Liverpool City Region Culture & Creativity Awards. The 2022 Visit England Assessment Service awarded an overall score of 87%, continuing the trend of increasing scores in consecutive years with a retention of its 'Very Good' rating.

The total budget for the Atkinson is £1.705m, which includes the budgeted income generated. Excluding uncontrollable budgets (NNDR, internal recharges etc) the budget is £1.350m, the majority of which is attributed to salary and premises costs, and daily running costs. Where possible, the core budget is supplemented with external funding arising from partnership projects and applications for cultural grants. As well as developing programming this funding can also lead to environmental investment which helps to reduce building overheads.

## 2.4 **Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Portfolio**

**Information was requested on progress made with the Strategy for Allotment Focus Groups.**

Response:

The following information has been provided by the Green Sefton Service Manager:

# Agenda Item 5

The Council has indeed undertaken a public and tenant survey on allotments to provide data which could be used in the preparation of an Allotment Strategy. To further test the conclusions reached, and to provide a secondary means of collecting information on the wishes of tenants, an Allotment Focus Group was recently formed. This meeting brought together representatives from different sites to explore potential ideas to development allotments in the future. The information sourced from this was presented to Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing, and it is intended that the information be used as the Council moves to prepare its new Allotment Strategy 2024/29. It is anticipated that a first drafting will be presented to Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing in the autumn for adoption at the end of this financial year.

## 2.5 Cabinet Member - Locality Services Portfolio

### **Clarification was sought regarding the implementation of LED street lighting across the Borough.**

Response: At the time of preparing this report a response has not been received. A response will be circulated prior to the meeting as part of a supplementary agenda.

### **Information was sought on CCTV capacity and links with enforcement.**

Response:

The following information has been provided by the Service Manager, Sefton Arc:

Regarding CCTV for enforcement, Sefton Arc used to use deployable CCTV cameras which contained a mobile phone sim which would enable the camera images to be accessed via the Sefton Arc control room. These cameras were initially paid for by Ward councillors from devolved budgets, but it was found after number of years that funds were not available to pay the bills for sim usage which was a considerable amount each month being paid from Sefton Arc budget. Subsequently, the Alarms Manager had all of these sims terminated.

The camera option now being used is a camera which Sefton Arc install, has a hard drive recording to the pole and the cleansing team go to the sites to download images to laptops. This has taken away the running costs of the use of sims.

| <b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b><br><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023)</b> |                         |             |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>COUNCILLOR</b>   | <b>PORTFOLIO</b>        | <b>DATE</b> |
| Trish Hardy   | Communities and Housing | June 2023   |

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

### **Neighbourhoods**

A site visit has taken place with Network rail after a complaint regarding the railway embankment along Lorne Road. The embankment is full of litter and fly-tipping. Although network Rail have stated they would not be able to gain access to remove 100% of the waste, they are sending in contractors to remove what they can safely. This will involve some of the fencing along Lorn Road being removed as a temporary measure.

A clean up has taken place on Netherton Park Estate with the MP and ward members. OVH provided two skips as did the Council. Plus Dane provided a caged tipper for the day. The Council cleansing team removed weeds and provided a mechanical vehicle to service the area.

We consistently receive complaints regarding black sacks being placed out along South Road on non-collection days. Businesses are trying their best to keep the area clean and encourage people to the area, but the issue is persistent. The team have met with local business owners and have installed a new bin to encourage residents of the flats to place their waste around the bin instead of along the road. We have also provided letters to the flats reminding people of their collection day and their responsibilities of disposing of their waste correctly.

The team have been working with Cleansing and the Councils Ground Maintenance team to enable Cleansing to make use of lane closures that are in place whilst grass cutting is in progress to enable a large mechanical sweeper to sweep the inside lanes of Netherton Way, Southport Rd, Northway & Ormskirk Road.

Work is continuing with colleagues in Cleansing and Network to make improvements in Formby Village which have been identified by ward members. The work includes a mixture of environmental work to cleanse the pavement areas in the village and the introduction of bollards to restrict vehicle access on the pavement.

Community payback have continued to carry out work across the Borough. It has been agreed that they send a team every month to the Sefton Estate area to clean up and maintain the space. Community Payback have confirmed they are ready to take outside painting requests with summer approaching.

# Agenda Item 5

Cost of Living / Welfare Reform

Foodbank voucher information:

| 1st April 2022 - 1st April 2023 | South Sefton   | Southport   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Total Vouchers received         | 8066   | 2301  |
| Adults supported                | 10137  | 3136  |
| Children supported              | 6427   | 1805  |
| Total supported                 | 16564  | 4941  |
| Crisis Type                     | Low income –6065 vouchers presented 12547 people supported | Low income –1352 vouchers presented 2862 people supported |
| Family Type                     | Single 4559 vouchers presented 56.52%                      | Single 1126 vouchers presented 48.94%                     |
| Age group                       | 25-64: 8853  | 25 – 64: 2665   |

## **Sustainable Affordable Living Coordinator**

The Sustainable Affordable Living coordinator will be facilitating the Foodbank and Pantry network that has been previously managed by Sefton CVS. It is key to the success of this project that partner organisations support our approach and are happy to share their specific Sustainable Affordable Living data so that we can look for trends, hot spots, and gaps in provision.

The Officer has met with the leaders of the 'Taking Root in Bootle' network and is working with them develop a way to share any produce that they have a glut of at harvest times. At the scale of production now, this would not be sustainable across the whole network, as the growers predominantly grow for their surrounding community, however, working with these groups we are looking at adopting unused green spaces to create growing areas that communities can engage with and reap the benefits of their labours.

## **Holiday Activity Fund**

39 providers who took part in Easter HAF 2023 and engaged with 1400 unique attendees. Young people took part in a range of physical and creative activities as well as Easter scavenger hunts and crafts; skating; Eurovision themed activities; mindfulness; cooking and baking; trips to the cinema, the beach the park and more.

Feedback from providers, attendees and families was very positive with a focus on young people having the opportunity to access experiences they otherwise would not be able to.

The HAF team worked with colleagues in the leisure team to offer free swimming sessions during half term to under 16's in receipt of free school meals. The project will allow young people to access 1 free swimming session in the shorter holidays and 3 sessions during the summer break.

## **Warm Spaces / Clothing Support**

Funding has been agreed to support organisations who want to continue to offer a space for people to attend throughout the year. The Page 46<sup>o</sup> tranches, a summer offer May –

# Agenda Item 5

September and a winter offer October- March. Some providers are opting to do just winter due to capacity, other activities etc however, a large number want to continue through the summer months. This round of the project will bring in the organisations that were not funded through the original HSF offer and are listed as additional warm space providers into this tranche after being Quality Assessed.

The project name will change to Welcome Spaces then switch it back to Warm Spaces in the winter.

It has also been agreed to offer funding to provide Clothing support to residents via CVS and the Family Wellbeing Centres. This year the project will offer clothes throughout the whole year rather than just in the winter months. Additionally, to support the offer of free-swimming sessions for children eligible for free school meals, the teams are looking to source swimwear for families that may find it a barrier to accessing the service.

## **Hate Crime**

Reports of far-right graffiti continue. The Hate Crime JAG, Merseyside Police and the Police and Crime commissioner's office coordinated a leaflet drop in the Rawson Road/Claremont Road area of Seaforth in response to recent instances of graffiti.

## **Equalities**

Sefton Council signed up to the Disability Impact Pledge. An event to launch the new Equality and Diversity Strategy took place at Crosby Lakeside on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

An increase of Youth ASB in the Coronation Park and surrounding area has been reported. Merseyside Police, Sefton ASB team, the Youth Team and Green Sefton liaise on a weekly basis regarding this, to enable effective action.

The ASB team are supporting Merseyside Police carrying out action days focusing on street drinkers breaching the PSPO.

## **Youth Service**

An LGBTQIA+/Hate Crime Awareness session has been delivered to the new Youth Justice Turn Around Team. A partnership Project with The Open Eye organisation is taking place and artwork was Exhibited in May at the Atkinson.

The team supported sessions during the Easter Holiday's at SPACE. These were delivered alongside SPACE's Easter HAF activities - which included their very own version of Euro Vision.

The Linacre Mission Youth Session has resumed on a Tuesday night, staff are out and about encouraging young people to attend the session.

# Agenda Item 5

## DOMESTIC ABUSE FESTIVAL OF PRACTICE

On the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office held their first ever Festival of Practice. The festival took place at the Midland Hotel in Manchester and was free to attend with organisations restricted attendance-wise to one delegate per day. As well as whole conference, plenary sessions at the start and end of each day, there were also 2 thematic workshops per day. Sefton were represented at the event and attended workshops that had featured in Sefton's Needs Assessment as unmet need or had appeared in Sefton Domestic Homicide Review Learning.

The themes, priorities, emerging issues and examples of good practice have been recorded and will be embedded in Sefton's Action Plan for delivering the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028. Furthermore the event provided assurance that Sefton's direction of travel for the Domestic Abuse Strategy is correct. The event was hugely beneficial and we will attend future events when they become available.

### **Fully Integrated Community Domestic Abuse Service**

Current DA provision in Sefton has evolved historically and has the potential to be disjointed and based on risk. The Council has 4 core funded Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and has accessed some time limited funding to increase this cohort by 4 to a total of 8. The role of Sefton's IDVA's is to support high risk (gold) victims of DA and male victims.

Sefton Women's & Childrens Aid (SWACA) receive £210,900 per annum to deliver their core adults and children's and families support services. These services are delivered to medium risk (silver) DA victims.

There is currently no commission for standard risk (bronze) victims of DA. Historically victims of 5 standard risk DA incidents would be referred by the Police to Venus Charity for access to the generic family support services. However, as this is a non-contracted and non-specified service there is no clarity of availability and in recent months referrals have not been accepted. Indeed, the very nature of 5 low risk DA incidents would immediately raise the risk to medium. We know through our Domestic Homicide Reviews the many Domestic Homicide victims, are not previously known to services or have previously been determined to be low risk. There is a clear gap in service offer that represents a high risk to the council executing its statutory duty. This project would seek to address this.

I received proposals for the introduction of an integrated Community Domestic Abuse service that operates on a network approach and the service will provide:

- A holistic support to the victims and families of domestic abuse who are deemed at standard risk (bronze) of following a Merseyside Police report of domestic abuse.
- A holistic support to the victims and families of domestic abuse who are deemed at medium risk (silver) of following a Merseyside Police report of domestic abuse.
- A holistic support to the victims and families of domestic abuse who are identified from other sources within the borough that are not deemed to be at the level of MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment).
- Strong links with education settings & Family Well Being centres in the borough and support the delivery of Operation Encompass (the notification given to schools following a domestic abuse incident involving a child). To deliver appropriate healthy relationship sessions to groups when required.



# Agenda Item 5

- A domestic abuse helpline that can be contactable for a minimum of 5 days per week between the hours of 8am to 6pm which could be utilised by victims, the families & friends of victims and professionals seeking support and advice around domestic abuse.
- A minimum of one a week drop-in session in each of the localities, based on identified needs to allow residents to seek support around domestic abuse. These need to be flexible and accommodate all residents.
- Domestic abuse recovery-based programmes (e.g., Recovery Toolkit) that aid the long-term recovery of victims and build resilience across the borough developing flexibility to allow open access to all that need this.
- Strong links with Primary Care Networks, Mental Health providers, and Community Link workers, where they exist, and to offer support for victims and families who are within mental health services and in need.
- Offer therapeutic counselling support for victims and families effected by domestic abuse, aiding long term recovery and prevention.
- Strong links with the existing provision delivering domestic abuse support in the brough including the IDVA team, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise provision, and partner agencies.
- Effective communications to raise the profile of Domestic Abuse, and available services, advice and guidance, using a range of communication channels, including digital.
- Training programme for the Council, partner organisations, private sector business community and general public.
- Co-locating the IDVAs into the new service will be explored to ensure there is seamless transition from silver to gold and vice versa.

It is proposed to commission SWACA to deliver this service for a 12-month proof of concept period before a full and open procurement process takes place in 2024.

## **Community Safety Partnerships – Response to Consultation**

The government launched a consultation on the recently launched Anti Social Behaviour Action Plan as well as the first part of a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) review.

The ASB Action Plan was published following two months' focused work by officials in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office in response to a January speech by the Prime Minister setting out his intention to crack down on ASB. The plan includes a mix of measures targeting ASB in different settings, as well as the causes of it, and covers drug use, homelessness, environmental crimes and ASB within properties, as well as measures for dealing with those who commit ASB. The plan references some funds to support the measures, and there are a number of potential implications for councils' work in this area, some of which will be the subject of further consultation. As part of the plan, the Government is consulting (via the CSP review consultation) on proposals to strengthen a number of ASB tools.

The CSP review arose from part two of the recent review of Police and Crime Commissioners, which found that CSPs were not being used as effectively as they could be and recommended a full review of CSPs. In practice the consultation published does not appear to be a full review of the role of CSPs in a complex landscape, and how best to support them, but instead focuses quite narrowly on information sharing/accountability between CSPs and PCCs, and on CSPs' role in ASB. Part two of the review is likely to consider some of these more strategic issues later this year.

The closing date for the consultation was 22 May and Sefton responded with its views which were largely supportive of the proposals.

# Agenda Item 5

## **New Knife legislation - Response to Consultation**

On the 18 April 2023 the government launched a public consultation on legislative proposals to tackle the use of machetes and other bladed articles in crime. The consultation ran between 18 April and 6 June 2023. The consultation was open to the public and was targeted at directly affected parties, including the police, Crown Prosecution Service, community groups, businesses and organisations with a direct interest in the proposals.

The government are seeking views on 5 legislative measures, summarised below, to tackle knife crime:

Proposal 1: Introduction of a targeted ban of certain types of large knives that seem to be designed to look menacing with no practical purpose.

Proposal 2: Whether additional powers should be given to the police to seize, retain and destroy lawfully held bladed articles of a certain length if these are found by the police when in private property lawfully and they have reasonable grounds to believe that the article(s) is (are) likely to be used in a criminal act.

Proposal 3: Whether there is a need to increase the maximum penalty for the importation, manufacture, sale and supply of prohibited offensive weapons (s141 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and s1 Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959) and the offence of selling bladed articles to persons under 18 (s141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988) to 2 years, to reflect the severity of these offences.

Proposal 4: Whether the Criminal Justice System should treat possession in public of prohibited knives and offensive weapons more seriously.

Proposal 5: Whether there is a need for a separate possession offence of bladed articles with the intention to injure or cause fear of violence with a maximum penalty higher than the current offence of possession of an offensive weapon under s1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953.

Sefton responded to the consultation by the deadline. We know the impact that knife crime has on our Communities and we are supportive of the proposals.

## **LIBRARIES**

### **Library Assistant shortlisted for Municipal Journal Award**

Crosby Library Assistant Lizzie Todd has been shortlisted for the prestigious national Municipal Journal Awards which recognises excellence in local government. Lizzie has been shortlisted for the rising star award for the work she has carried out in developing an android tablet loan project, the Crosby Smokery, Slime making workshops and a social media takeover event. She has attended an assessment interview with the judging panel for the second stage of the evaluation and then will attend the awards at the end of June.

### **Tablet Loan project up and running**

The ground-breaking tablet loan project through libraries and the Homeless Team is now up and running. While tablet loan projects already exist using ipads, this project is the first one of its kind to loan android tablets which are significantly more cost effective. A significant period of research

and development was required to deliver a working model which safeguarded personal data but also allowed for remote management. Samsung developers in Brazil, Canada and Korea were involved in producing specific code for Sefton's tablets so that the Knox management software would work as required. For the 6-month pilot, the tablets have unlimited data, but this is expensive for so many tablets, so free data has been sourced via the UK Databank and will be applied once the pilot is concluded. Tablets are now being loaned at Crosby Library and the Homeless Team will be loaning their tablets via Lonsdale House.

## **Success of new pods**

In October 2022, 4 sound-proof study pods were installed in Southport and Crosby Libraries, following a successful bid to the Library Improvement Fund. The new pods have been fitted with equipment to allow for virtual meetings and software was installed to allow them to become language labs. This would support the work towards integrating into the community refugees in Sefton. These pods were a new venture for the Library Service and they have proved an overwhelming success.

Since October the pods have been used for over 1125 hours. Their usage is interesting and varied:

- Tutoring excluded children – 180 times
- Work related activities, interviews and meetings etc – 195 times
- Refugee support – 73 times
- Use by community groups – 177 times
- Private study – 497 times

The Library Improvement Fund expected the usage to be monitored and reported on. Our estimates for expected usage for the full year have already been wildly exceeded after less than 6 months.

## **Crosby Library refit, partial closure**

Crosby Library was closed for a couple of days at the beginning of June to allow for the replacement of the lending shelving. The new shelving has a steel core and is on casters, meaning it is mobile. As well as modernising the look of the library this shelving will allow for the existing space to become much more flexible. The size of storytimes and other children's activities can be increased as the shelving can now be move to create more space for events. Staff at the library worked tirelessly to remove 23,000 items of stock from the old set of shelves to the new ones, and then dismantled the old shelving.

## **New Crosby Library Project**

The initial study looking at options for the delivery of a new library in Crosby Village was presented to Cabinet Members on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Options for the disposal of the existing site were also discussed. It was decided to progress further developmental works towards the delivery of this project including extensive public consultation and more detailed cost analysis. This will take place over the next 6 months, with a further report to be presented at the end of the year. A site development brief has been prepared by Planning for the redevelopment of the existing site, and is ready for use upon commencement of soft market testing. A planning application for the new library (and health) development, the junction and access improvements within Crosby Village is anticipated to be submitted later this year.

## **THE ATKINSON**

# Agenda Item 5

The June programme features some sparkling comedy performers who will be familiar to audiences from their television and radio appearances -

**Andy Hamilton** (7 June) has won numerous awards as a writer who has co-written and directed such household TV classics as *Drop The Dead Donkey* and *Outnumbered*. He is a regular panellist on shows such as *QI* and *Have I Got News for You*.

**Justin Moorhouse** makes a welcome return on 17 June, encouraging us to 'Stretch & Think' as we embrace the challenges and delights of growing older into middle age – yoga, labradoodles and lycra clad cyclists are included in the topics for celebration!

BBC Radio's **Alfie Moore** is a 'cop-turned-comedian' whose stand-up show on 23 June will share his personal insights into life on the front-line of the police force.

## Exhibitions Programme

Following the conclusion of the Sefton Open competition the gallery spaces have been re-animated with the launch of four dazzling new exhibitions -

### **The Story So Far 27<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 Harris Museum**

Looking at the theme of storytelling, this exhibition includes highlights from The Atkinson's collection and the Harris Art Gallery in Preston. The Harris's collection is built upon the wealth and personal collections of the textile manufacturers of the town. Richard Newsham, whose father made a fortune from cotton and from banking, left a sizeable bequest of paintings featuring work by the leading British artists of the day, several of which will be included in the exhibition. The Atkinson's founding collections were acquired from the wealthy middle-class families that retired to the seaside resort of Southport or bought holiday homes in the town. Both collections received important founding bequests of narrative paintings and continued to develop this strand of collecting well into the twentieth century.

The exhibition will look at differing kinds of story-telling, from the illustration of literary and historical texts to coastal and rural genre as well as classical and domestic scenes. The exhibition will also include post-war and contemporary works of art, illustrating the galleries' strategies for developing the narrative theme.

### **Gordon Cheung: The Garden of Perfect Brightness 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023**

A poetic exploration of the relationship between nature, culture, and power in the digital age. Through a series of paintings and sculptures, viewers are invited to contemplate the rise and fall of civilisations in the age of globalisation. The show is constructed around the concept of a Chinese garden with sculptures created from Financial Times newspapers which draw inspiration from traditional Chinese 'scholar's rocks' or 'spirit stones'. Embodying microcosms of landscapes they are meditative focal points between nature and civilisation.

### **Herbert Ponting: Explorer & Photographer 10<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2023**

After years of taking photographs in America, Japan, other parts of Asia and in Europe, Herbert Ponting became and remains best-known for his work on Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition (1910-3). This exhibition will be looking at his life and work with photographs from Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, alongside artefacts and research carried out by biographer Anne Strathie.

### **Blue and White Pottery 17<sup>th</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023**

The Willow Pattern has long been a stock pattern of nearly every British Pottery manufacturer. Here we showcase some of The Atkinson's blue and white pottery collection and look at

the ongoing fascination modern ceramicists have with The Willow Pattern and blue and white decoration.

## **Museum Programme**

The Museum has contributed to Sefton's celebrations commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Battle of The Atlantic. Bootle has incredibly strong links to Battle through the influence of Captain Johnny Walker, whose courage and ingenuity helped to protect convoys of merchant ships crossing the Atlantic. There are numerous items commemorating him in Bootle Town Hall, including two paintings on loan from the Atkinson.

The Atkinson arranged two free talks on the subject: one about the contribution to the Battle of the Atlantic by Liverpool and Bootle by David Roberts; another in online format about the Battle of The Atlantic, 1939 – 1945 with military historian Aldon Ferguson. Both events were well attended, with the online talk attracting some listeners from the USA.

The commemorations were enhanced with an online exhibition displaying some of the amazing WW2 images from the Atkinson's collection -

<https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/whats-on/online-exhibitions/battle-of-the-atlantic/>

## **Southport Library**

Last month the library hosted a Dementia Wellbeing Hub, which was organised in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society to promote with Dementia Action Week 2023 (15-21 May). The hub featured a number of participants such as Sefton Council's One Stop Shop, the Memory Clinic, Sefton Carers' Centre and Adult Social Care teams - all of whom offered practical advice to those living with dementia and their carers. The event attracted over 40 attendees and there are plans to continue with the hub as a regular feature within the library programme.

## **Other News**

To support Sefton's Armed Forces Community Covenant, the Atkinson will host a special Sunday opening on Armed Forces Day 25 June with a range of family activities co-ordinated with groups and charities representing the respective military services.



## HOUSING

### **Extra Care Housing**

As colleagues are aware the Council has a target to deliver 1306 new Extra Housing units before 2036. Work continues to progress on a number of schemes across the borough, including a scheme to develop 91 Extra Care Homes and 67 for Affordable Rent which had commenced on a site off Hawthorne Road in Bootle. Although there has been a delay to the scheme we expect the work to commence soon.

Following the granting of planning consent, the proposed development of 90 Extra Care Homes, 40 for Affordable Rent and council facility providing 8 short-term assessment units at Sandbrook Road in Ainsdale is progressing well. Initial board approval from Riverside has now been obtained and work is progressing to enable a start on site later this summer.

The Extra Care Allocation Policy public consultation process was conducted from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for a period of two months to Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023. A full report will now be presented back to the public engagement and consultation panel in July. Responses were very positive with between 87% and 96% in support of the various criteria sections. Envisage the final policy will be presented to cabinet in Autumn this year.

Page 54

### **Private Sector Housing**

#### *Enforcement and Licencing*

The new 5 year Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. As at 30 May 2023, 546 licence applications had been received by the team and 115 licences have been issued. Licence compliance inspections have commenced with many landlords seeking to apply for property accreditation.

The team have been successful at 2 Housing Tribunal appeals, where each Landlord appealed against their Civil Penalty Fine for failing to licence their properties during the 2018-2023 scheme. Both Civil Penalties were upheld by the Tribunal. There are a further 4 appeal cases and 1 criminal prosecution pending for failure to licence properties.

There have been 68 requests for service relating to poor housing standards received between 1 April and 30 May 2023. Where landlords fail to comply with informal action, the team continue to take formal enforcement action relating to poor housing standards. During April & May this has included the service of an Emergency Prohibition Order, Improvement Notices and Notices relating to breaches of the Electrical Safety Regulations, Smoke Alarm Regulations, and Minimum Energy Efficiency standards.

Work to reduce the number of long-term vacant homes has continued, with responses to 10 new Service Requests relating to problematic empty homes and a further property being identified for an Enforced Sale.

Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues, and improvement works identified on a recent condition report have been completed. There have been 2 Unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampments in Sefton during April & May.

## Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Programme

Sefton Council recently won the Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness category at this year's Northern Housing Awards for its Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Service.

The pilot, which was launched in 2019 by Sefton Council, commissioned Riverside Housing to provide two or three-bed furnished properties with support to those families which Sefton's Housing Options Team would previously have struggled to accommodate. At that stage, there was only temporary hostel accommodation available for families, with people facing the prospect of having to move away from their existing support networks and could face several moves before stable accommodation was offered

Sefton Families Service provides families the option to transfer the home from temporary to general needs tenancy after the support. This approach helps families settle immediately into a home-for-life, near schools, family and friends, and as part of the community. And results in a range of tangible benefits, including in terms of health, and provides a stability that helps them put down roots

Winning the award is a tribute to everyone who has been involved in its development and ongoing management, and the scheme is having such a positive impact on the day-to-day lives of nearly 40 Sefton families who before they were part of it were facing a range of issues, including homelessness. And demonstrating financial value to the Borough

An independent evaluation carried out on the pilot found that the service delivered £3.36 of benefit for every £1 spent. Sefton Families Service, in this award, it is.

In late 2022, Sefton Council commissioned the Sefton Families Service for a further two years.

The Northern Housing Awards judges said: "The success of this scheme is unquestionable, with a 100% success rate in terms of families remaining in homes.

"The well-thought-through approach to resolving outmoded practices is impressive.

"A super example and well evidenced throughout."





Page 56

### **Council Housing Programme**

*Business Plan* – The Business Plan for a 1<sup>st</sup> phase to establish the new programme was approved by Cabinet in May. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of growth will see approximately 50 new council owned homes made available at Social Rent levels over the next 5 years.

*Management Agent* – Tenders have now been returned for the Managing Agent to manage the new council housing. Officers are in the process of assessing the bids to determine the successful bidder.

*Buckley Hill Lane* – Officers continue to work with Sandway Homes on the acquisition of properties at the Buckley Hill Lane site as the first new council housing which is expected next year. We are in the process of confirming the contractor with an anticipated start on site is September 2023 with the site of 63 homes built over a number of phases.

*The Buckley Hill Lane Scheme*





Proposed Development Mix

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 2 Bed house  | 8         |
| 3 Bed house  | 23        |
| 4 Bed house  | 14        |
| 1 Bed Apt    | 9         |
| 2 Bed Apt    | 9         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>63</b> |

Phasing Key                      No. Units

|  |               |       |
|--|---------------|-------|
|  | Phase 1A & 1B | 4 + 4 |
|  | Phase 2A & 2B | 8 + 9 |
|  | Phase 3       | 18    |
|  | Phase 4       | 12    |
|  | Phase 5       | 8     |

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| <b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>                              |                                     |              |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b> |                                     |              |
| <b>Councillor</b>  | <b>Portfolio</b>                    | <b>Date</b>  |
| John Fairclough  | Cabinet Member<br>Locality Services | 27 June 2023 |

### Port Access

- A series of rail improvements have been set out in Liverpool City Region Investment Programme. These include a number of schemes within the 'Rail Freight Investment Programme' including projects aimed at improving freight capacity, including to the Port of Liverpool. Programme 'roadmaps' are currently being developed for all the proposed improvements.
- The Government has announced that the Port Access Route will now be considered as part of the Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3). The Transport Secretary confirmed, in March 2023, that the 'A5036 Port of Liverpool Access in the Roads Investment Strategy faces a range of challenges including environmental considerations and ongoing design changes, and so will be developed in RIS 3 (covering 2025-2030) to allow time to ensure stakeholders' views are fully considered' The scheme had previously been in the RIS2. It is understood that modelling and survey work is ongoing. This process is likely to take a further 10 months to complete.

### LTP and Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with the LCR Combined Authority/Merseytravel and the other local authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme. The Council has achieved the agreed spend in Year 1 of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme despite the challenges the increased settlement has created. Progress is now being made on the delivery of Year 2. Recruitment for new staff to help deliver the programme is ongoing.
- The Year 2 CRSTS scheme will be set out in the 2023-24 Transport Capital Programme Report will be presented to Cabinet Member for approval.
- **Low Carbon Strategy:** In response to the Council's climate emergency declaration and an increased focus on active travel measures, work is continuing on the development of Low Carbon Transport Strategy for the borough. Some initial baselining work has been completed and a report completed. Plans are currently being developed for member engagement in advance of a wider consultation. The report will provide a quantification of the current transport related carbon position for the Council and a future trajectory for reductions towards Net Zero. The consultants are also identifying the next steps. 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 walking infrastructure plan is being developed. Proposals for stakeholder engagement were presented to the Consultation and Engagement Panel in early November. A number of engagement sessions were held with specific interest groups and some initial plans developed for helping inform the engagement process. Detailed plans for further engagement, initially planned with Members, are being developed.

# Agenda Item 5

- **Southport Eastern Access and Maritime Corridor Business Cases:** The detailed design work is now progressing on both schemes and the final details will be included within the Full Business Case submission as requested by the LCRCA.

Part of the Maritime Corridor scheme is likely to be funded from the Levelling Up Fund, following the success of the transport bid. There is some pressure to have the scheme delivered as soon as the FBC is approved, and therefore procurement options are being examined. It is expected that LUF projects will be delivered by March 25. Some further engagement to ensure that local Members, businesses and residents are sighted on the proposals and have an ability to shape them is planned for June and July 2023. Ward Members will receive a briefing on both schemes shortly.

- **A59 Junctions and Corridor:** 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 have been undertaken with local Ward Members and Maghull Town Council on the details of both schemes and further consultation with the wider public is programmed.
- **Scarisbrick Avenue:** In Southport, improvements to Scarisbrick Avenue in conjunction with the Townscape Heritage Initiative have been completed, including the installation of lighting. Some defects were undertaken in April with some further work planned for after the summer season. The scope of this work has been reviewed by landscape architects.
- **Southport Town Deal:** Preliminary Design work on the first phase of public realm project identified within the Southport Town Deal (*Les Transformation de Southport*) has been completed. A Landscaping report has been completed which sets out the proposed materials to be used. This has been considered by the tourism, consultation, maintenance, Green Sefton and cleansing teams and comments provided and plans reviewed accordingly. The material adopted will then be used in further phases of improvement. Works has commenced on a report highlighting potential changes to the highway to facilitate improved pedestrian accessibility and public realm.
- **Crosby Town Centre:** The detailed design of the highway works which will support the new library development proposed for the Green Car Park. The works are aimed at reducing severance and improving access to the town centre. Discussions have been held with relevant authorities over the phasing of the works. It is anticipated that works will commence in the Autumn and a Ward Members update is being prepared.
- **Bootle Town Centre:** - Initial work has also been commissioned to review access to the Strand in Bootle, in order to help shape initial work associated with the re-imagining of the centre. A Transport Framework has been established, some detailed work is now being undertaken to look at the servicing of the Strand with a view to enabling the Vermont Way entrance to serve as access and egress. The detailed design of this work will be undertaken shortly as some work is likely to be delivered in the Autumn prior to demolition being undertaken. Some Master planning work will be undertaken looking at parking and bus waiting facilities. A series of parking surveys have been commissioned to help determine both current parking provision within the town and current demand.

- An updated version of the Transportation Capital Programme for 2022/23 to confirm final spend will be submitted to Cabinet Member for approval and a further report for 2023/24 will follow shortly. This will set out the schemes.

## Sustainable Transport

- **Crosby Coastal Park:** Funding has been secured to introduce a scheme to provide lighting and an improved surface between South Road, Great Georges Road and the Lake House. This is targeted for implementation before the clocks change in the Autumn.
- **Formby By-pass:** The Department for Transport had previously confirmed that the funding secured through tranche 2 of the Active Travel Fund can be used for proposals to improve the cycle and walking facilities on part of the Formby Bypass. Work commenced on 13 February. Completion is due in July 2023. Detailed design works will shortly be commenced on improvements to the junction of the A565 with the Coastal Road at Woodvale.
- **Revenue funding** received from the Active Travel Fund for the development of projects capable to improving cycling and walking throughout the borough. Works is currently progressing the A59 cycleway, the remainder of the A565 corridor to complement the improvement to the links identified above, junction on the A565, including Woodvale and the development of a Local Walking and Infrastructure Plan to compliment the City Region Strategic Plan. Further revenue money has been successfully bid for to continue this work and a Grant Funding Offer received,
- **School Streets:** Consultation work has been undertaken on three School Street Pilot schemes in Southport. Two of the schemes will be formally launched in July and engagement events have been planned. The further scheme, at Stanley High School is more complicated and will be subject to further development before implementation in the Autumn. Funding has been secured to develop other school streets initiatives throughout the borough and a dedicated officer, seconded from Sustrans, has recently commenced the selection and engagement work. A priority list of 10 schools has been chosen for further engagement and discussions are ongoing to determine the appetite from schools for engaging in this work. The initial response has been disappointed so some other schools may be approached.
- **Green Bus Corridor:** The LCRCA commissioned consultants to develop and appraise options for potential bus priority measures commence works on a number of routes in the City Region, including the No 53 bus corridor which travels between Crosby and Liverpool, passing on Stanley Road. Officers have provided some initial comments and a report is expected shortly setting out the results. The LCRCA are now engaging further consultants to develop schemes based on the initial options. Opportunities for 'quick wins' are also being established.
- **Great Georges Road:** Final design work to complete the previous cycle lane scheme along Great Georges Road has been completed and dates are being established for implementation.
- **Birkdale Village** - Some funding from the CRSTS programme has been established to enable proposals to be developed to improve accessibility in Birkdale. These will be subject to consultation within 2023.

## Highway Development Control

### Planning Applications

# Agenda Item 5

- The team continue to process large numbers of planning applications despite ongoing challenges associated with the recent turnover in staffing resources, increased by the fact that no suitable applications were received for the vacant senior highway development engineer post.

The applications include sites identified in the Local Plan and continue to involve close liaison with case officers from the planning department. A total of 203 applications have been responded to in February and May 2023.

## **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 – 46
  - No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) – 2 where the developer appears to have ceased trading.
  - Number of development sites adopted within the last 3 months - 0
  - No of submissions awaiting technical approval – 20
  - 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 70 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 coastal access rights and the coast path were enacted on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Some minor items of establishment works have yet to be completed but they do not materially impact on the new rights and public use. The route is now a national trail and Natural England are working towards establishing a partnership with the local authorities in order to manage and maintain the route.
- Definitive Map Modification Applications – The British Horse Society has submitted 7 applications to either record additional routes on the Definitive Map or to upgrade routes to a higher status that are already on the Definitive Map. Once validated the applications must be considered and determined within 12 months.

## **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 traffic management plans for new developments so that we can manage the highway network efficiently and effectively

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

## **Highway Asset Management**

### **Winter Maintenance**

- The final gritting figures for last year were 57 carriageway treatments and 31 footway treatments.
- The annual winter consultation is about to commence with comments to be collated by 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- The report to approve next season's policy will be taken to O&S (regeneration & skills) on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Street Lighting LED retro fit scheme**

- Work is continuing with the replacement of the high – wattage bulbs to maximise the energy savings. This will continue for the remainder of the calendar year.
- Officers are currently working with colleagues in finance to look at the financing of the LED project. This is to take into account increased borrowing costs, whilst also factoring in the rise in energy costs which have increased savings for the Authority.
- The core period of the street lighting contract expires in March 24. Officers are working with the contractor to explore options to extend the contract until the end of the LED project to ensure continuity of work.

### **Traffic signals LED retro fit scheme**

- Work has now commenced on the Traffic Signals LED scheme which will increase energy savings, provide carbon efficiencies, and reduce on-going maintenance costs.
- This is a 2-year programme with at least 50% of the programme to be delivered this financial year.
- This project is being externally funded through the Combined Authority.

### **Highway Maintenance**

- Planned and routine maintenance operations are progressing well and in accordance with allocated programming timeframes.
- To date, since the beginning of this financial year, key maintenance improvements have been completed which include the following:
- Application of footway surface treatments commonly known as “slurry Seal” has been applied to 39,000 M2 of bituminous surface with a spend value of £120,000.

# Agenda Item 5

- Surface treatments in the carriageway known as “Micro Surfacing” has been applied to 50,000M2 of defective carriageway with a spend value of £385,000.00.
- Resurfacing, which involves the removal of one or more surfacing layers in the carriageway, has been completed totalling 12,000 M2 with a spend value of £610,000.00.
- Routine safety inspections and other maintenance functions such as grass cutting, and drainage renewals continue to operate daily which identifies isolated defects and repairs in accordance with the council's safety inspection policies and other industry guidelines.

## **Operational In-House Services**

### **Building Cleaning**

It has been a challenging period financially for the service as school budgets continue to be stretched at a time when labour costs have increased significantly, in the region of 20% since last year, for the following reasons:

1. In 2022/23, it was estimated that the pay award for staff would be around 2.5% and this was built into the costs of the SLA. However, when the pay award was agreed, it was significantly higher than that, in the region of 10% for cleaning staff. However, the additional costs of the pay award were not passed on to schools but absorbed by the Council.
2. Also included in the 2022/23 pay award, was a commitment to delete pay point 1 from the NJC pay spine from 1 April 2023. The majority of cleaning staff are employed on pay point 1, so from 1st April 2023, they moved to pay point 2, increasing their pay.
3. The Council's Finance section advised to build a flat rate increase of £1,925 for the 23/24 pay award into SLAs. This will afford most cleaning staff a pay increase of around 9.5%.

Officers continue to work with our partners in schools to creatively address the problems they are facing but also supporting staff through what can be an unsettling time.

Recruitment of staff remains very difficult in certain parts of the Borough with some posts receiving no applications, causing operational difficulties. It is hoped that the pay award will make such roles more attractive to potential applicants.

### **Catering**

The service faces the same financial issues as the Building Cleaning Service as regards increasing labour costs at a time when school budgets are so tight. All SLA's have been issued and we have been in discussions with many schools regarding the cost of their service for 2023/24, with some schools raising significant concerns about being able to afford to remain with our service.

In addition, food costs have increased significantly during the last 12 months and there are likely to be more increases in 2023/24. As a member of the TUCO purchasing framework, we are as well placed as we can be to ensure that any future increases are not only justified but also fairly reflect the increases that food producers and distributors are having to bear. We are also working closely with our operational staff to ensure that they are taking all the necessary steps to reduce food waste.



Whilst part of the increased costs charged to schools were offset by the 5% increase in the price of a school meal, schools still had to bear a significant increase.

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

Using the TUCO framework agreement, the service is in the process of undertaking a mini competitive tender to source a new supplier.

The service is also in the process of procuring an Electronic Communication, Payment and Kitchen Management System, which would enable it to operate in a more efficient manner.

This is being procured via the YPO framework agreement and it is anticipated that the process will be complete by the time schools return from the summer break in September.

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

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

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

An Electronic Communication, Payment and Kitchen Management System would benefit all key stakeholders: schools, parents, pupils and catering staff.

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

## **Transport and Vehicle Maintenance**

The service has successfully recruited a new Transport & Fleet Manager. Michael Roberts joins Sefton from United Utilities and has a wealth of experience within the Transport Industry. He will be the Operator Licence holder for the Authorities fleet ensuring we remain fully compliant and our Green status continues.

The service has also recruited a new Workshop Manager Joel Powell. Joel started with Sefton as apprentice Auto Fitter in 2013. He has progressed from Apprentice to Auto Mechanic and is now the Workshop Manager, responsible for the maintenance of all of Sefton's Vehicle's and Plant. This is one of our great achievements as Joel has progressed through the system and is a shining example of how successful Sefton's Apprenticeship scheme is.

The service continues to provide a full MOT service to both internal and external customers and remains 100% compliant with inspections and services.

## **School Crossing Service**

The service has successfully recruited 4 new Patrols since February. These staff will fill 3 of the 10 vacancies we currently have and 1 will replace a leaver. Recruitment for the service is difficult and remains an ongoing issue country wide. The service also has a new Part Time Supervisor, George Payne, who commenced work within the service on 15th May and is settling in well. George has worked for Sefton Council for 20 years and comes to the service from Community Equipment Stores.

The service celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year which is an outstanding achievement. The service was officially created by the School Crossing Patrol Act in 1953 and the first official

# Agenda Item 5

Patrol started work in 1954 in Bath, whilst the uniform and pole have changed to meet modern standards and Patrols can now stop traffic to cross any pedestrian, adult or child – the role is essentially the same today as it was 70 years ago. To reach 70 years is truly a remarkable achievement and testament to how important the service is viewed by the public.

The service gives thanks to all Patrols for their hard work and commitment they have demonstrated past and present and continue to do so in keeping the children and pedestrians safe whilst crossing the busy roads in Sefton.

## **Burials and Cremations**

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

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

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

## **Sefton ARC and Careline**

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

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

## **Specialist Transport Unit**

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

## **Waste Management**

The service is continuing to move in the right direction and has recently undertaken a recruitment drive with numerous vacancies on the collection teams filled. This has created reliance within the service and has allowed us to resolve the long-standing issues we had previously faced around staff holidays.

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

Strategically, the Assistant Director and Service Manager 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 first of four sprays in March 2023 and will finish the fourth spray in late October 2023. A stringent inspection process is being carried out daily by Officers to ensure evidence of 'die back' of weeds approximately 10-14 days following scheduled spray. This has proved successful in many aspects. However, we will continue to monitor the situation stringently and will be working closely with the contractor to improve the weed control across the Borough.

The service is currently of introducing a new zonal working arrangements with the Street Cleansing Operation. Each team will be allocated a zone and they work exclusively within that zone taking ownership and ensuring its continuously maintained. Similar to the new zonal arrangements that were recently **Page 66** rear entry teams.

# Agenda Item 5

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

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| <b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023)</b> |  |               |
| <b>Councillor</b>  | <b>Portfolio</b>                                   | <b>Date</b>   |
| Daren Veidman  | Cabinet Member<br>Planning and Building<br>Control | 17 April 2023 |

## **Introduction**

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

These are supported by the Technical Support team.

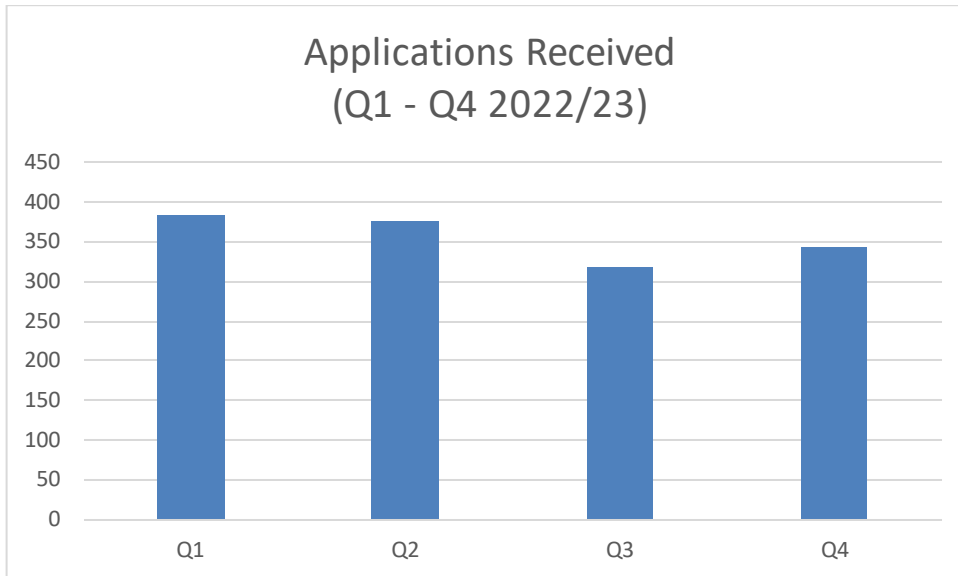
- 1.3 A key focus as we have worked from home has been looking after staff wellbeing. We have carried out two surveys and devised an action plan. These have been received positively and sickness absence has reduced to 40% of per-Covid levels.
- 1.4 We recognise the importance of customer satisfaction and the need to understand how our customers feel about the service they receive. We have addressed this with a survey of agents who submit planning applications to us and the overall response is they consider us to be the most efficient planning authority in the Liverpool City Region.
- 1.5 The Management Team have completed Mental Health First Aid training during the past year. We have organised various events to promote staff wellbeing including two walks during the summer and regular opportunities for staff to come together for a chat on Teams called 'Time to Talk'.

## Performance Monitoring

- 1.6 Work has been undertaken to prepare a directorate wide plan, which includes all the departments within the Economic Growth and Housing department. The plan demonstrates the links to Sefton's 2030 vision and to departmental work themes and identifies performance measures to use in the future.



**Figure 2.1** Applications received: April 2022 – March 2023

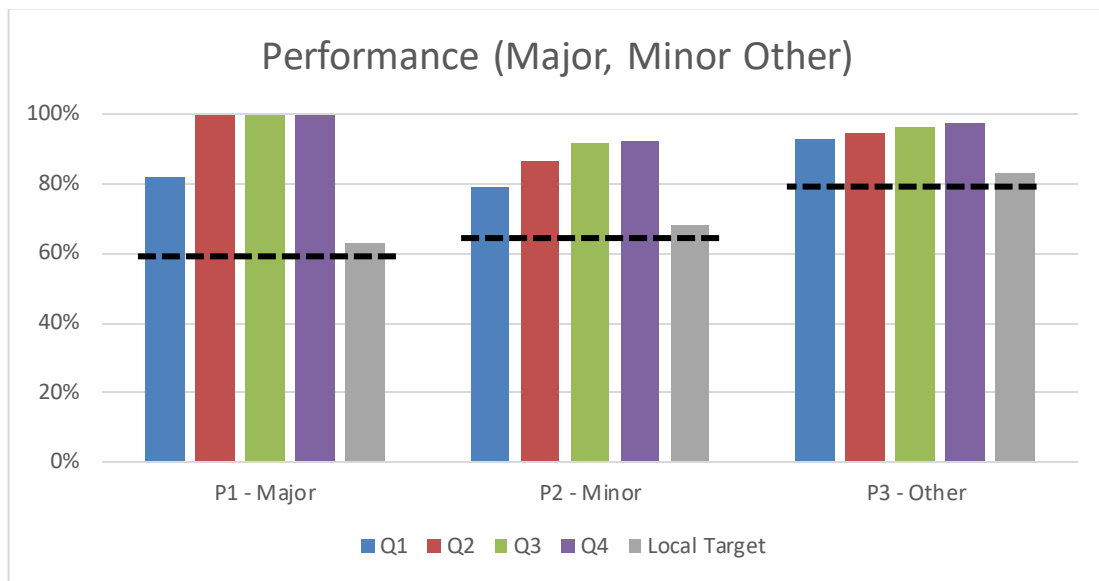


- 2.3 During Quarter 3 we introduced a new approach to agreeing ‘Extensions of Time’ within which we consider applications and keep within Government targets. This reflects good practice. This approach will enable us to respond to any delays in applications more transparently and provide a more efficient service.
- 2.4 The speed in dealing with pre-applications has remained very high and consistently surpasses our target of 80% response rate within 21 days (Figure 2.3). The Service has significantly exceeded targets in relation to the number of applications allowed at appeal (Figure 2.4). We have kept just above our target of approving 90% of all applications over the past year. (Figure 2.5).
- 2.5 The capacity of the Service has been stretched in the early part of this year as one of our two Team Leaders resigned at the end of May and his successor started in mid-November. We have begun to feel the benefit of the new Team Leader over this past quarter, and we are reviewing and enhancing our procedures in a number of key areas. It is a significant team effort across the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.

# Agenda Item 5

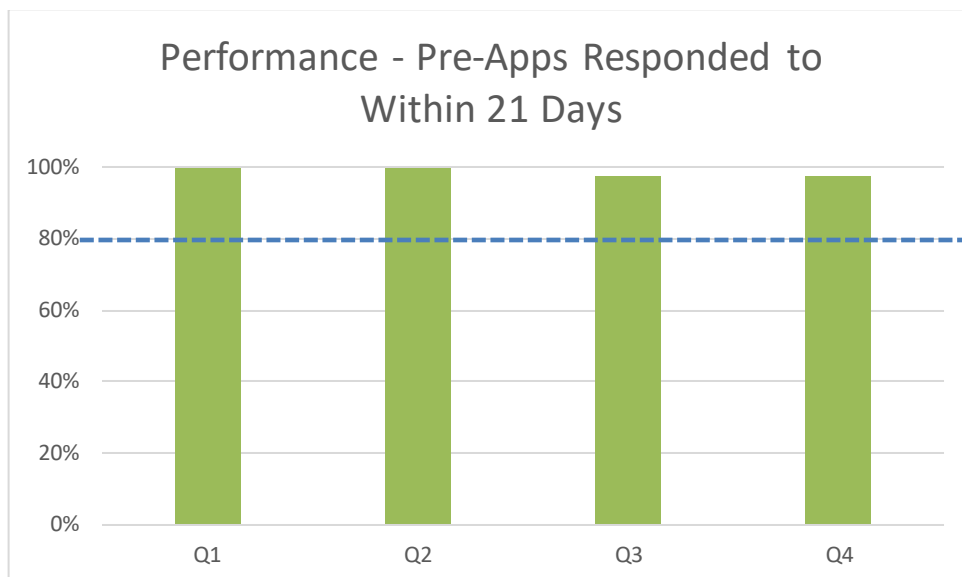
**Figure 2.2**

Key performance against national targets for speed and quality of decision making: April 2022 – March 2023



--- National Target

**Figure 2.3** Pre-application inquiries received: April 2022 – March 2023

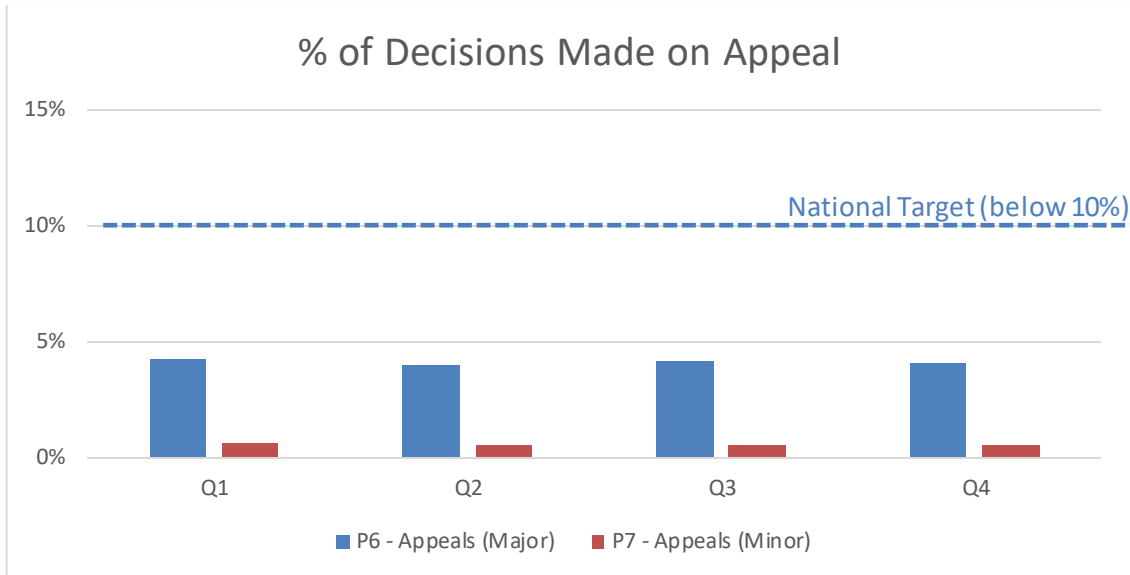


----- Local Target



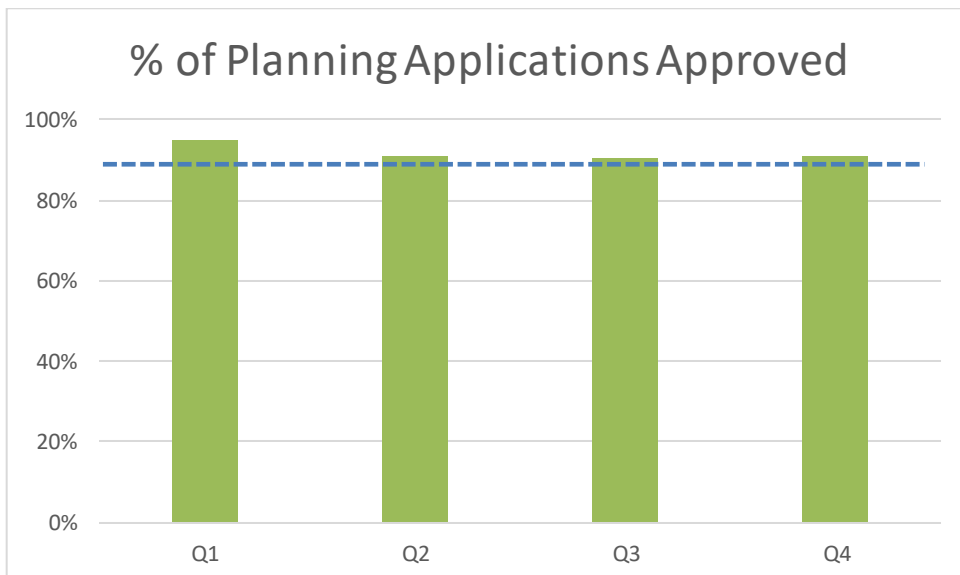
**Figure 2.4**

Percentage of decisions made on appeal: April 2022 – March 2023



**Figure 2.5**

Percentage of planning applications approved: April 2022 – March 2023



----- Local Target

## Enforcement

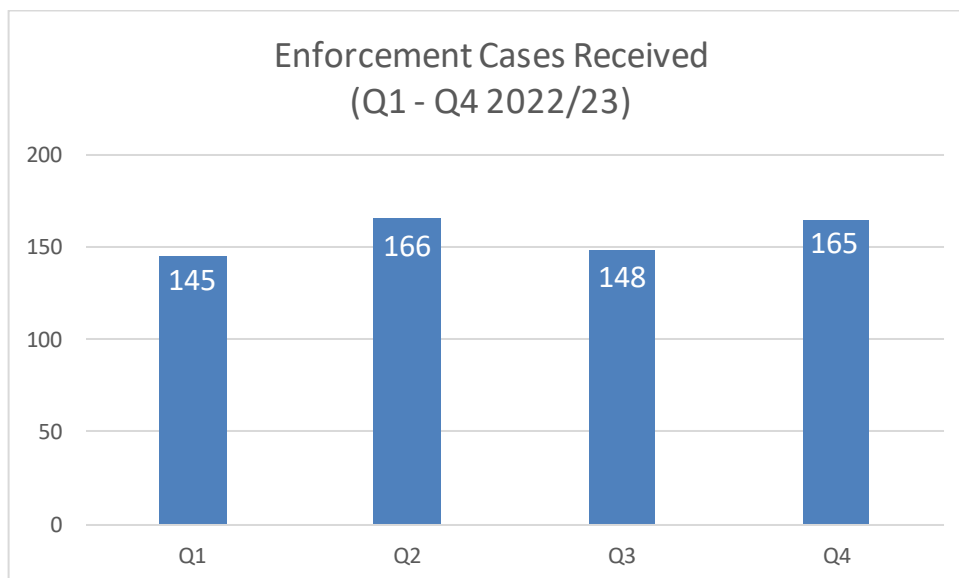
- 2.6 The number of complaints received during 2022-23 is similar to the number received in the previous year (624) – see Figure 2.6.

# Agenda Item 5

2.7 More cases have however resulted in formal enforcement action than the year before with 33 formal notices being served in this period (a rise of 50% from 22). Of those 33 notices:

- 17 have been complied with
- 2 have not been complied with and are proceeding to prosecution
- 2 have appealed and the appeals have been dismissed
- 8 have appealed and the appeals are ongoing
- 4 are still within the compliance period
- 0 have appealed and been successful

**Figure 2.6** Enforcement cases received: April 2022 – March 2023

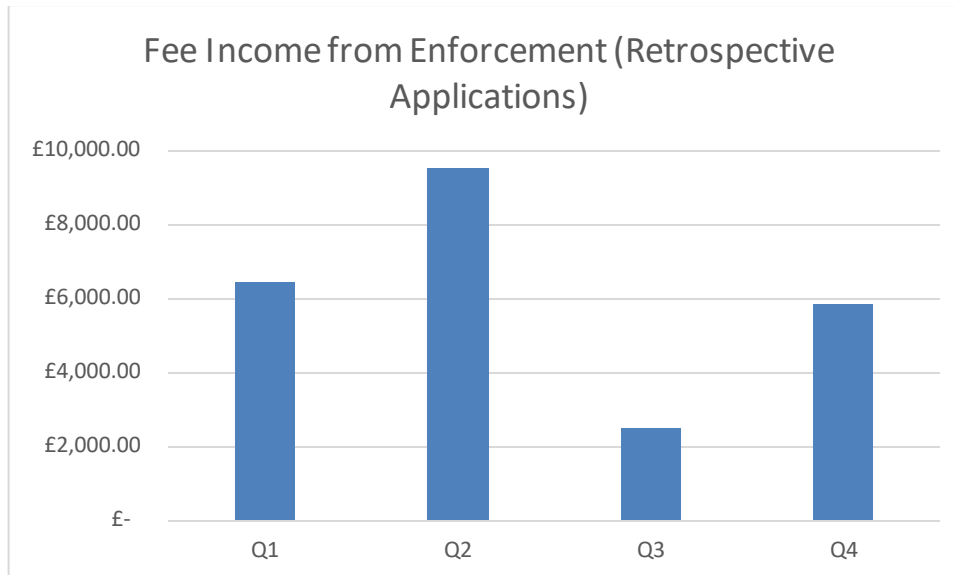


2.8 Taking a case to formal action is time consuming and when appeals are submitted this again is time consuming and takes up a lot of officer time. The figures show that the majority of complaints continue to be resolved without the need for formal action through negotiation and discussion with officers and where formal action is required the majority of cases are resolved without the need to resort to legal action (i.e. prosecution). Formal enforcement action is a last resort when all other options have failed and the enforcement team continue to be successful in this regard managing to resolve most complaints without resorting to formal action.

2.9 Figure 2.7 shows the income gained from retrospective applications resulting from following up enforcement complaints.

**Figure 2.7**

Fee income from enforcement (retrospective applications): April 2022 – March 2023



|    | No. of apps | Fees       |
|----|-------------|------------|
| Q1 | 16          | £ 6,440.00 |
| Q2 | 24          | £ 9,506.00 |
| Q3 | 7           | £ 2,466.00 |
| Q4 | 20          | £ 5,834.00 |

### 3. Building Control

#### Performance targets

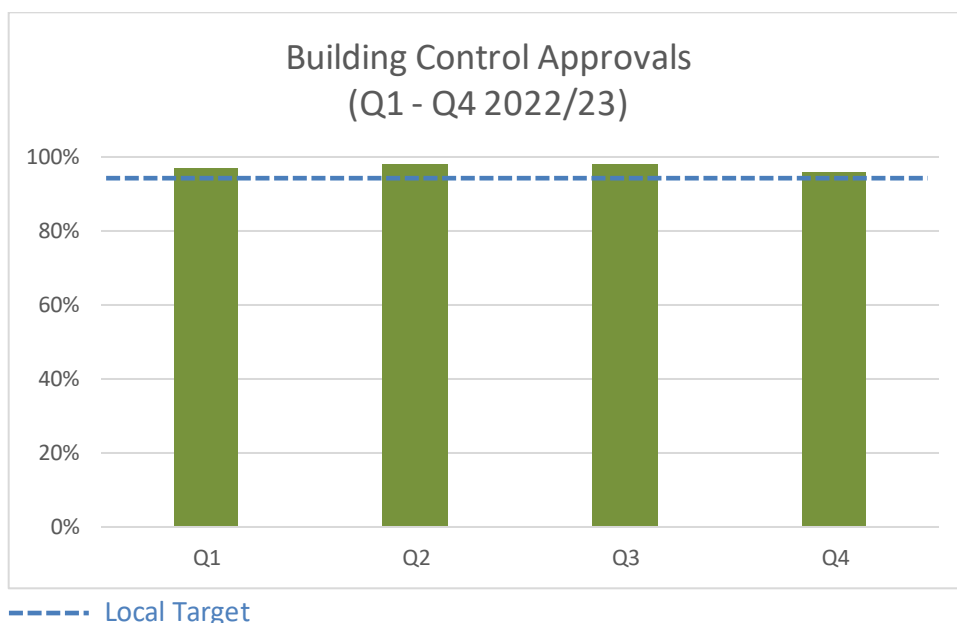
- 3.1 This section focuses on the Building Control Team's performance in the final quarter of 2022/23.
- 3.2 The Building Control Team continues to meet its key statutory targets in relation to plan-checking and the carrying out of site inspections. In terms of the percentage of Building Regulation applications given full or conditional approval, the figure for the final quarter of 2022/23 shows this to be at 96% - compared to the locally set target of 95% (see Figure 3.1 below).
- 3.3 Results from financial year 2022/23, indicate that the Team's market share has reduced slightly from that of the previous year, although it remains at the national average for local authority building control teams. This is mainly due to the loss of some key members of staff to private sector Building Control, who will have taken a number of 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.

# Agenda Item 5

All other locally set performance targets are also being met – except for the target to check plans within 3 weeks of deposit, although performance in this area is only marginally below target. An improvement plan has been put in place to address and overall, performance for this element is showing steady improvement.

**Figure 3.1**

Percentage of building regulation applications approved: April 2022 - March 2023



## Income and financial performance

3.4 Building Regulation income for 2021/22 covered the Section's costs in terms of its fee-earning work element and although final out-turns for 2022/23 are not available at time of writing this report, indications are that this will be the case again for 2022/23.

## Safety at sports grounds

3.5 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections to check the grandstands are properly maintained. The inspection of the five permanent grandstands at Aintree Racecourse was undertaken in January 2023 and inspections at Southport FC and Marine FC were also carried out in 2022.

## Staffing

3.6 Over the last 12 months there have been a series of vacancies within the Building Control Team, the maPage 76ch have been filled.

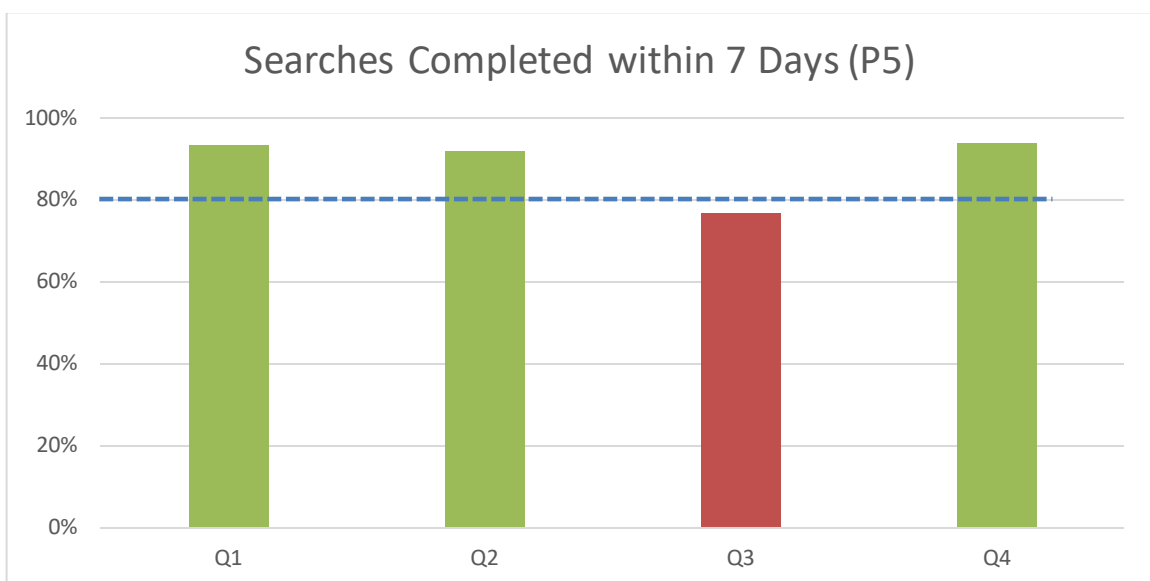
Currently there is a vacancy within the Team for a Senior Building Control Officer - following the recent resignation of a member of staff.

## 4. Technical Support

- 4.1 Figure 4.1 below shows our performance in 2022/23 over all four quarters in respect of the completion of local land charge searches. The performance has improved in quarter 4, this makes the annual performance overall 88% (8% above target).

**Figure 4.1**

Searches completed within 7 days: April 2022 – March 2023



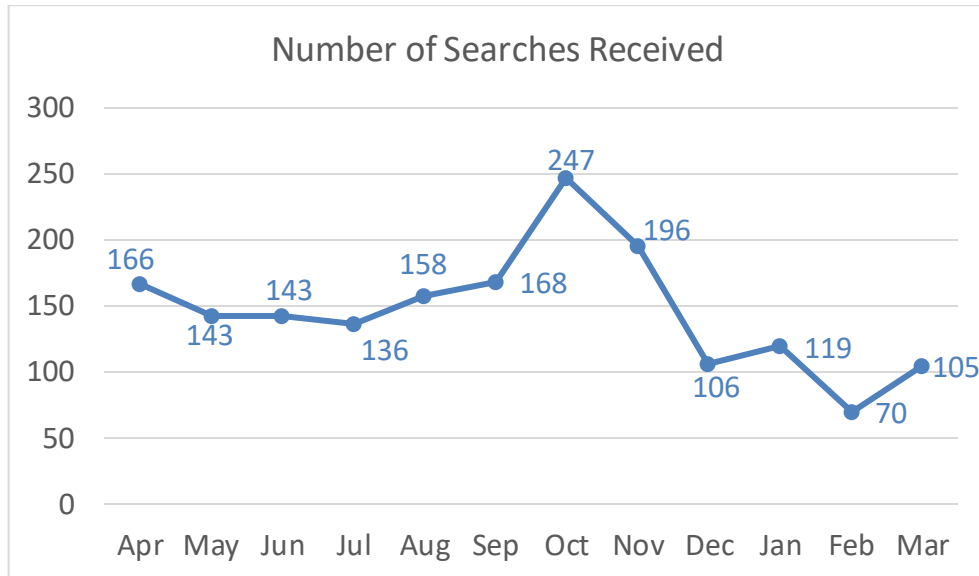
----- Local Target

- 4.2 In January 2023, the Land Registry assumed responsibility for the Land Charges register. The data transfer project proved complex and time-consuming, was successfully completed on time. Since then, the CON29 section of the Land Charges search (which is still being carried out by the Authority) has returned to pre-COVID levels as shown in Figure 4.2 below.

**Figure 4.2**

# Agenda Item 5

Number of searches received: April 2022 – March 2023



## 5. Local Planning

### The Sefton Local Plan

- 5.1 The Council have committed to undertake a high-level review to determine whether the Local Plan remains up to date or whether it needs to be updated wholly or in part.
- 5.2 Major legislative change is included in the Levelling Up and Planning Bill which is currently making its way through parliament. Further detail on reform to the planning system and on a new style Local Plan was announced at the end of December and this will have significant implications for when and how the next Local Plan is progressed. Any decision on the review of the Local Plan will take account of the proposed changes to the shape and content of local plans.
- 5.3 Planning applications continue to be submitted on Local Plan allocated housing sites. As of 21 March 2023, planning approval has been granted for 76.6% of the total indicative site capacity on Local Plan housing allocations, up from 74.5% last December. The latest approval (1<sup>st</sup> March) on a Local Plan housing allocation was 146 homes on Waddicar Farm site in Melling. There have been a total of 1,145 new dwellings completed on Local Plan allocated housing sites (as at 31 March 2022), an increase of 223 during 2021/2022. This equates to 15.76% of total Local Plan allocated capacity. This shows there is still a large supply of housing land 10 years into the 18-year period of the Local Plan (2012-30<sup>1</sup>).

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents

<sup>1</sup> Whilst the Local Plan was adopted in April 2012, it was amended in 2013 and 2014 and is now dated April 2012.

5.4 The Planning Policy Team recently consulted on a number of Supplementary Planning Documents and an Information Note to support the Local Plan.

These include:

- Affordable Housing SPD
- Conversions to Flats and HMOs SPD
- New Housing SPD
- House Extensions SPD
- Social Value (Employment and Skills) SPD
- Contributions towards primary education from development Information Note

5.5 These were available for public comment in two batches: November to December 2022; and February to March 2023. They have since progressed and now inform decision making.

### Liverpool City Region work

5.6 The Combined Authority undertook early engagement with the public on the Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) for the Liverpool City Region concluding January 2020 to which the Council submitted comments. The next stage of consultation on the SDS is likely to be delayed until summer of 2023, at the earliest and the Council will fully engage with this, and the supporting evidence.

### Bootle Area Action Plan

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

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

5.8 The first draft 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 2021 to 31 January 2022.

5.9 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

# Agenda Item 5

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.

The Preferred Options document will be published Summer 2023.

## Other work

- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 Following recent applications and appeal hearings for traveller accommodation sites, it was decided that the Council's evidence base for gypsy and traveller accommodation needed to be updated. The Council commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment and is now in receipt of the final study which will be published online.
- 5.12 The Council is also undertaking a replacement Playing Pitch Strategy so that we have the evidence to deal with applications on existing playing pitches or can help secure contributions for improvements to existing pitches from large development proposals. The new strategy will also help support the Council's applications for funding for improvements to its playing pitches. This is a complicated and multidisciplinary piece of work and will be managed and led by the Local Planning team. An initial draft has been received and the Local Plans Team is coordinating a response.
- 5.13 To inform both the Local Plan review and Bootle AAP (see above) the Council will undertake an Employment Land and Premises Supply assessment. This will look at all of Sefton's allocated and designated employment land, including Bootle Office Quarter.
- 5.14 The Local Plan team have recently completed its first Movers' Survey. This looks at where people moved to newly built homes in Sefton and why. It also looks at what services and facilities they have had to switch because of their move. This will be undertaken every year. The initial results can be found at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/5703/movers-survey-report-2022-first-edition.pdf>

## **6. Heritage and Conservation**

### Heritage at Risk

- 6.1 We are continuing to work towards the removal of the 6 Conservation Areas from the National Heritage at Risk Register.

This includes a number of different work areas including raising their profile through Twitter and Facebook, regeneration funding bids, working with the local community, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans,



# Agenda Item 5

taking enforcement and other legal action in relation to a number of derelict sites and listed buildings in these areas.

- 6.2 Progress has been made on a number of Heritage at Risk sites including working with colleagues and partners on a number of Council owned Listed Buildings to secure their improvement and long term use and sustainability.
- 6.3 In order to help prevent major repairs to historic homes and to help in the cost of living crisis the Heritage team are due to publish helpful guidance for homeowners in the maintenance of their property. Providing useful bespoke guidance for these important buildings will help prevent deterioration and buildings failing into costly disrepair.
- 6.4 In order to help deal with the Climate Emergency and the cost of living crisis the Heritage team have formulated helpful guidance for homeowners in improving energy efficiency in their historic homes and saving money.

## Regeneration

- 6.5 The capital build part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project is progressing, and discussions continue with owners of targeted buildings. The first grant application is nearing competition - this is for 509-515 Lord Street, a grade 2 Listed Building on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. Other schemes have now received Board approval and are slowly progressing. The team is speaking to owners of other target properties 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 performances of Southport's Victorians to various schools at the Atkinson. Excerpts of the script have been filmed and have been uploaded to YouTube. A successful and comprehensive week of Heritage Open Days have been undertaken and the exhibition held at the Atkinson called "Built on Sand – 200 Years of Southport's Changing Street Scene". This interactive exhibition was hugely successful. We are also working closely with the CVS, Southport Civic Society and other local organisations.
- 6.7 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 The heritage team was successful in December 2022 in attracting £30k funding to build on a project to help unlock the potential in vacant upper floors in historic buildings and gap sites which are having a negative impact on the Lord Street and Promenade Co

# Agenda Item 5

## Advice to Development Management team

- 6.9 The number of consultation responses sent in the financial year of April 2022 - March 2023 is 404. This decrease from last year is due to removing the buffer zones for consultations so it means that requests for consultation are being targeted more effectively.
- 6.10 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 and with significant increases in the numbers of applications and staffing issues it was difficult for a period to maintain a high level of performance.
- 7.2 Appropriate technology has been put in place to support staff who mainly work from home, and staff have performed to the best of their ability. Staff surveys show the service has been able to respond to key issues in order to maintain essential services whilst maintaining staff morale. We continue to hold regular staff away sessions to bring members of different teams together, as well as helping to integrate those who have joined the Service since the start of Covid and have never known what it is like to be part of a Service working together in one office.
- 7.3 Feedback from the last Sefton Agents' Forum (February 2023) showed that 80% of the agents were aware of the measures and had used some of the options available, suggesting the publicity had been effective and the measures were helpful. 71% said that the service that Planning Services provided during COVID was either "good" or "excellent", and that Sefton's Planning service was either "better" or "significantly better" than other planning services used within the region. It is therefore felt that the measures had a significant and positive impact in this Borough. We intend to carry out a full customer satisfaction survey later in 2023 which will influence how we provide our service.
- 7.4 The Service continues to respond to the unsettled context in which we are currently operating. We are prepared to adapt to further changes on the horizon, in particular the major legislative change heralded in the Levelling Up and Planning Bill and recently announced reforms to the planning system which will have implications for the review of the Local Plan.

| <b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b><br>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) |   |                  |
|--|---|------------------|
| Councillor   | Portfolio                                 | Period of Report |
| Marion Atkinson  | Cabinet Member<br>Regeneration and Skills | June 2023        |

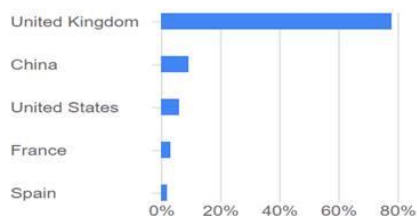
## INVESTSEFTON UPDATE

InvestSefton is the Council's business growth, enterprise and inward investment service. It provides support to all Sefton businesses with a specific focus on small to medium sized businesses via current external funded European and Government programmes-these are due to end on 30 June and are being replaced by UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

### Business engagement

#### Website

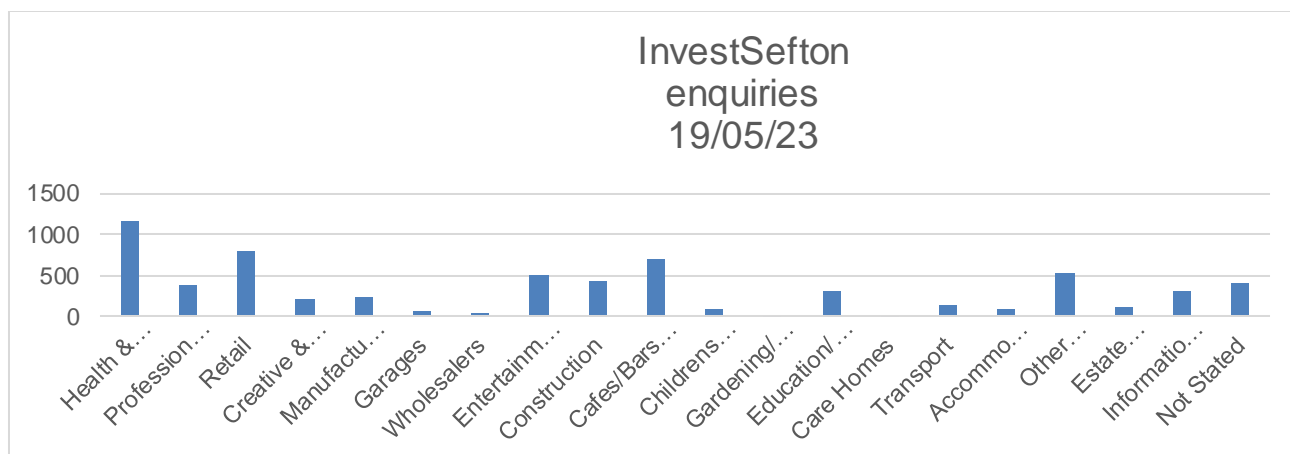
- From Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the website had 96 unique sessions
- For the same period 84.8% were new and 15.2% were returning visitors.
- The greatest number of visits this week were on Wednesday.
- Since the new website went live on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the site has had a total of **67,376** unique sessions.
- Posts on the website this week have included our upcoming Economic Forum and some free digital workshops delivered by LJMU.
- Twitter posts have included the economic forum and marketplace.
- InvestSefton twitter page now has 1601 followers.
- Country of origin of user of the website is broken down as follows:



### Business enquiries

Since March 2020 InvestSefton has handled **6,657** enquiries from a wide range of businesses. Breakdown by type of business is provided as of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023:

# Agenda Item 5



Total enquiry numbers from 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023:

| Year   | Total Enquiries |
|--|-----------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020- 31 <sup>st</sup> March 21 | 3740            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 21- 31 <sup>st</sup> March 22    | 1325            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 22- 31 <sup>st</sup> March 23    | 1413            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 23 – to date                     | 179             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>6,657</b>    |

## UKSPF Shared Prosperity Funding & other planned activities

Sefton is to receive £805,920 for Place Based Business Support (PBBS) and IRO£98,000 Town Centre business centre funding. The team is awaiting confirmation of top sliced funding for project co-ordination which has been agreed at LCR level. A summary of recent progress is as follows:

- PBBS will effectively replace LCR ERDF activities with effect from 1 July and Grant Funding Agreements are awaited shortly. InvestSefton has submitted its proposed delivery plan which will primarily focus on triage support from the Business Growth Officers; 1:1 support through the advisers and one to many activities such as events/workshops, Sefton Economic Forum, Sefton Huddle (Digital) and Business, Professional & Financial services networks.
- PBBS Business Start-up element. The preference here is to deliver on a LCR-wide basis and with the exception of Wirral (who sub-contract to their Chamber of Commerce ) all 5 LAs are seeking to commission.
- InvestSefton had an away session on 11 May and identified several priorities including Digital; Marketing & Engagement (creation of a dedicated post); maximising business growth from regeneration programmes; Inward Investment opportunities in Ashworth site; Key Account Management of foreign owned and large companies; supporting the council's equality and diversity agenda.

- The team is also looking to commission locally for UKSPF business support in town centres and is currently developing a brief with a focus on start-ups, retail innovation and business events. The team will keep CM updated on this work.

## Case studies

The team continues to engage with businesses as part of its one-to-one delivery support.

Recent case studies below:

**Bootle based business specialising in natural and synthetic wigs and hair systems for men, women and children.** The business offers off-the-shelf ranges, and bespoke hair systems for people suffering from alopecia and baldness from £1k upwards via a dedicated clinic as well as offering wigs to local hair salons. The business is looking to bid for public sector framework contracts with the NHS. InvestSefton supported the business by researching NHS supply chain opportunities as well as assisting the business with the tendering process.

**Digital Marketing Agency based in Southport.** The Business has managed to access **BeMore** skills funding from Liverpool LCR and is looking to work with Sefton in delivering training and hopefully grow the client base. InvestSefton assisted the business by reviewing their presentation slides and co-hosting a workshop which also supported other Sefton businesses.


**A trauma-informed mental wellness and community development institute based in Litherland.** Through partnerships with local charities, they have received funding to deliver courses to beneficiaries most in need of support including veterans, victims of abuse and the homeless. InvestSefton supported the business by reviewing their current slide deck which they use for presentations and recommending improvements to more clearly describe their offering to businesses.

**Food trailer business primarily based in Southport.** The business specialises in Caribbean food and in addition to having the food trailer is looking to partner with local restaurants to provide sauces and guidance on more authentic Caribbean food. The business is also looking to attend food festivals and take on bookings for corporate events. The business needs to improve its understanding of its future business position. InvestSefton supported the business by creating a business cashflow that reflects new planned business activity including a review of their current pricing.

## Business Events

InvestSefton's webinars and events have become a useful vehicle for engaging with businesses on a one-to-many basis. The team has set in place an events calendar for 2023, the most recent of which was the **Business, Professional and Finance event held at Southport and Birkdale Sports club on 27<sup>th</sup> April:**

- 33 delegates attended
- 14 female delegates attended
- 28 individual businesses attended

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# Agenda Item 5

- 18 evaluations were completed

Businesses listened to Colin Hickey who gave a talk on the relaunched financial and professional services networking group. Mark Borzomato presented on the financial opportunities available from River Capital. This was the first financial sector meeting since before the pandemic and delegates are pleased that the team is initially planning to hold 2 of these each year while also inviting the group to other network opportunities such as the Sefton Economic Forum. Some of the comments received are shown below:

“First time I have been along, interesting networking opportunity with excellent speakers, will attend regularly going forward.”

“Nice event, good set-up. Be good to hear about 1-5 year plans for Sefton at the event.”

“Absolutely fantastic event, it’s only my second one but it won’t be the last one.”

## LCR Business & Enterprise Board

Plans are underway to establish a new LCR Business and Enterprise Board under the Metro Mayor. The LCR-CA is leading on this and have asked LAs to promote the concept to encourage greater geographical coverage and diversity representation. InvestSefton is pushing this out through its various channels and advisers. Several local business leaders have already expressed interest. <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/growing-our-economy/new-business-and-enterprise-board-for-liverpool-city-region/>

## Inward Investment

### Mersey Reach Bootle

Invest Sefton continue to work with the owner and agents to ensure we are up to date with new companies moving in and can offer appropriate support. Despite uncertain market conditions, enquiry levels remain high with units under offer to public and private sector organisations. **Mersey Care have taken a lease on the largest unit available in Phase 2 (c. 30,000 sq ft).** 7 units still available ranging from 4,047 – 8,982 sq ft.

### Southport Business Park

Ongoing work to support investment in the site, working alongside Regen colleagues.

- No3 Southport Business Park (Former Payment Shield House). Invest Sefton/Regen viewed the units and the property brochure can be found [here](#).
- Agents for Seabank House, (former Experian building) are in discussions with one interested purchaser.
- Development plans from Southport based security systems supplier progressing with agents now appointed to negotiate heads of terms.
- **Interest from a local electronics company in building 20,000 sq ft (10,000 floor space) unit progressing.**

## EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING

### SEFTON@WORK

## Sefton@work General Performance Data for April 2023

| Data Description   | Range                          | Figures  |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Total Clients accessing service                            | Since 01/01/2016               | 5,367  |
| New Clients accessing service                              | April 2023                     | 70   |
| New clients registering by age                             | April 2023                     | 16-24 24<br>25-49 27<br>50+ 17<br>Unknown 2                      |
| New Registrations – NEET 1.3 clients only                  | April 2023                     | 12   |
| W2W contracts Male   | Since 01/01/16<br>April 2023   | 58.1%<br>37.9%   |
| W2W contracts Female                                       | Since 01/01/16<br>April 2023   | 41.9%<br>62.1%   |
| W2W contracts Other  | Since 01/01/16<br>April 2023   | 0.1%<br>0.0%   |
| Positive Inclusions Male                                   | Since 01/01/21<br>April 2023   | 67.6%<br>Now closed  |
| Positive Inclusions Female                                 | Since 01/01/21<br>April 2023   | 31.9%<br>Now closed  |
| Positive Inclusions Other                                  | Since 01/01/21<br>April 2023   | 0.5%<br>Now closed   |
| ESF clients with Disabilities/Health Conditions            | Since 01/01/2016<br>April 2023 | 31.2%<br>13.8%   |
| Supporting Families (new project replacing Turnaround)     | Current Active Total           | 28   |
| People leaving the programme (into jobs/self-emp/training) | Since 01/01/2016               | W2W & PI +<br>200 from other<br>programmes<br><b>Total 2,256</b> |
| Ways to Work Starts  | Since 01/01/2016<br>April 2023 | 4,858<br>39  |
| Positive Inclusions Starts                                 | Since 01/01/2021<br>April 2023 | 207<br>Project now closed  |

### European Social Fund Audit exercises

The Service has taken part in two ESF audit exercises over recent weeks. These are an Article 127 inspection on Ways to Work and an Article 125 inspection on Positive Inclusions project. Both these processes have placed significant requirements on project staff. Feedback from the auditors has now confirmed that both inspections have been completed with no outstanding issues flagged as cause for concern or risk of potential financial clawback. Given the scope and scale of the projects, this is a considerable achievement and reflects the dedication and precision of our compliance and monitoring staff.

### Sefton@work

#### Accommodation - Bootle Strand

Since the relocation/refit project is being funded via the DWP Restart budget, it will be imperative for us to be fully operational and wholly relocated in good time before the Restart

# Agenda Item 5

project funding starts to wind down. The current contract end date is September 2024, but there is an option for extension of this for a further two years.

## **Quality Assurance**

Preparations are underway for the 2023 Matrix 3-yearly review, which is a government endorsed measure for information, advice and guidance in employment work. There are two new units in addition to the existing award criteria which focus on health and wellbeing. These will highlight the service's offer in terms of promoting mental and emotional wellbeing for both clients and staff.

Preparation work is also well advanced for the Customer Service of Excellence Assessment (CSE) which is taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

## **Service Delivery Responses**

Sefton@Work has launched a pop-up job shop in Bootle Strand for added visibility of the service offer but also to deliver some guided group job search sessions for our digitally disadvantaged clients. In addition to this we will be offering digital learning alongside Sefton Adult Learning and trailing the forthcoming relocation as news for clients.

A comprehensive short course called Evolving Mindset has been sourced by Sefton@Work to offer support and learning related to attitudes surrounding employment, with the focus being on interview techniques and anxiety management. This course is run by mental health practitioners. Participants will also be supported after the course by their employment advisor. The Employer Liaison team will also secure interviews for participants with local employers. The aim is to promote positive mental health among our clients furthest from the labour market to move along their employability journey.

Virtual Jobs Fairs are being delivered by Sefton@Work's Employer Liaison Team on an ongoing basis and these are themed events to bring employers in with vacancies in specific sectors to share with clients, such as Social Care or Hospitality.

The Voluntary Sector Routeway Programme has been redeveloped by Sefton@Work for clients with little or no work experience or employer references to gain important skills and confidence. This will give clients access to tailored, unpaid work experience within the voluntary sector. We have, throughout April, secured placements with various SMBC Departments across SMBC, Citizens Advice (includes their trainee adviser programme) and the HM Passport Office.

## **Refocus on Restart**

Feedback from G4S has flagged some concerns that our projected expenditure to support clients with additional barriers is underspending in relation to forecasts developed prior to the pandemic. To address this, the service has undertaken a range of new diagnostic assessments around current client barriers to progression and has embarked on a suite of new actions to respond to client needs in a more dynamic way. These include the following:

Working with Council departments to source bespoke Interventions for Restart clients such as a programme to tackle mental health, wellbeing, social inclusion and mindset with the Leisure service.

Enhanced Job Support Package for Restart – enhanced support for those of our most disadvantaged clients transitioning into work to make the move more affordable due to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. This will include some support with workwear, travel support, vouchers for food shopping while adjusting to new budget and childcare (where appropriate).



Sefton@Work continues to find that clients are having issues with childcare availability and cost, not just for starting work but also to allow time to focus on learning and job seeking activities. The childcare market directly impacts opportunities for many parents (mostly women) to take regular paid employment and reduction in places remains a concern. Sefton@work has secured regular dialogue with early years/childcare sufficiency teams in the Council to better understand this changing picture and address some workforce retentions and recruitment challenges.

Cost of Living and the increased use of foodbanks also remain major issues for Sefton@Work staff dealing with clients in hardship impacting on client stress levels, anxiety and general wellbeing.

### **Employer Engagement**

Sector Based Academies have taken place at Sefton@Work in April and more are planned. May seen us working with a local employer who has Production Operative roles. Learning will include Basic Health and Safety, Manual Handling, Behaviour in the Workplace/Team working and Equal opportunities. Guaranteed interviews for all who complete.

In partnership with Sefton Adult Community Learning & DWP/JobcentrePlus, Sefton@Work is hosting another 50Plus Jobs Fair on 28th June. This is to support the needs of our older client group and collect feedback from those clients around the difficulty of moving into work in the face of employer attitudes about older workers.

### **Marketing & Communication**

We have launched Sefton@Work quarterly newsletter ([Sefton@Work Flash Extra – Issue 01 April 2023](#)) to promote our services and successes to residents, partners and employers.

### **Caring Business Charter Project**

Sefton@work has been called upon to lead on the delivery of actions to support the Charter and significant work and time from the whole team has been put into developing systems and processes for this project since its launch last Summer.

We have instigated an Operational Panel cycle of meetings with key representatives from Childrens Social care, education, leaving care and Career Connections. This is making good progress and is a forum for us to highlight the required steps to be taken to ensure young the engagement of young people is maintained, so they can participate in positive experiences to widen their horizons.

The Charter co-ordinator (herself a young person with experience of care) is making good progress and is working well through her personal development programme and growing in confidence. She is doing well in ensuring the continued engagement of the employers.

A summary of the opportunities currently available through the Charter is as follows:

# Agenda Item 5

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Charters agreed with Employers at launch but whose specific offers remain outstanding | <b>22</b>  |
| <b>Breakdown of Potential offers</b>  |            |
| Offer of tailored Apprenticeships   | 11         |
| Traineeships  | 3          |
| Full/part -time employment  | 8          |
| Work Experience placements  | 20         |
| Mentorship  | 13         |
| Taster days   | 16         |
| Work placements   | 9          |
| Training courses offered by employer  | 4          |
| Site visits   | 11         |
| Volunteering  | 2          |
| Mock interviews   | 7          |
| Presentations   | 12         |
| <b>Total offers at present:</b>   | <b>116</b> |

## **Sefton Adult Community Learning Service**

The Service has enrolled 1,332 new learners this academic year though to the end of May who have enrolled on 2,101 learning aims. The data shows that the number of learning aims continues to grow and surpass the same period as last year, however, it has still not yet returned to pre covid levels. In the typical pattern for our Service where we aim to reach people who are new to learning, Community Learning ( ie. non-formal and without accredited qualifications) continues to make up most of the activities this year. Further work is needed to increase the number of new learners accessing the Service and Community Learning learners who choose to progress through to qualification-bearing courses. The Service continues to revise its delivery plan to maximise the opportunities for learners to start a qualification before the end of the academic year. Many of these opportunities will be promoted at events through the coming weeks.

### **Events and Promotion**

- Staff continue to source new ways of advertising in the wake of The Champion having gone into receivership. We have met with three different suppliers and marketing agencies to identify new ways to promote qualifications and increase course bookings.
- Work is underway to develop a Service specific micro-website, to be accessed via the Council main website.

# Agenda Item 5

- Discussions are also being held with 'Me Learning' suppliers to investigate online booking options for potential learners to enrol remotely on to new classes with the Service for next year.

Promotional events include:

- Comedy weekender 27-28<sup>th</sup> May at Salt & Tar, Bootle.
- Food and Drink Festival 2-4<sup>th</sup> June at Victoria Park, Southport
- Music Festival 10<sup>th</sup> June at Lock & Quay Bootle
- Parent forum 16<sup>th</sup> June at Christ Church Waterloo
- Waterloo Music festival 17-18<sup>th</sup> June at Crosby Marina
- Business Forum and Market Place at Formby Hall and Bootle Cricket Club

General performance Update:



**Performance update**  
**Year to Date Comparison**  
*1st August to 24th May*

|                                      | Target | 18/19*<br>Aug to<br>May | 20/21<br>Aug to<br>May | 21/22<br>Aug to<br>May | 22/23<br>Aug to<br>May |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Total number of learners             | 2000   | 1695                    | 547                    | 968                    | 1332                   |
| Total number of unique learning aims | 2940   | 2557                    | 1035                   | 1417                   | 2101                   |

| SSA  | Learners |       |       |       | Learning Aims |       |       |       |
|--|----------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 18/19    | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 18/19         | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 |
| 01-Health, Public Services and Care          | 54       | 24    | 297   | 233   | 54            | 31    | 320   | 269   |
| 02-Science and Mathematics                   | 8        | 0     | 0     | 0     | 8             | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 03-Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care | 32       | 59    | 90    | 118   | 32            | 67    | 94    | 124   |
| 06-Information and Communication Technology  | 315      | 78    | 105   | 208   | 384           | 80    | 180   | 342   |
| 07-Retail and Commercial Enterprise          | 186      | 15    | 14    | 67    | 267           | 15    | 20    | 84    |
| 08-Leisure, Travel and Tourism               | 103      | 3     | 0     | 0     | 124           | 3     | 0     | 0     |
| 09-Arts, Media and Publishing                | 376      | 108   | 194   | 345   | 420           | 141   | 259   | 435   |
| 10-History, Philosophy and Theology          | 0        | 28    | 43    | 89    | 0             | 30    | 48    | 103   |
| 11-Social Sciences                           | 0        | 0     | 5     | 0     | 0             | 0     | 5     | 0     |
| 12-Languages, Literature and Culture         | 101      | 90    | 64    | 142   | 124           | 149   | 65    | 160   |
| 13-Education and Training                    | 37       | 20    | 22    | 32    | 42            | 20    | 27    | 41    |
| 14.1-Foundation for Learning and Life        | 357      | 207   | 186   | 282   | 706           | 375   | 340   | 464   |
| 14.2-Preparation for Work                    | 365      | 108   | 50    | 60    | 396           | 124   | 59    | 70    |
| 15 - Business, Administration and Law        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 9     | 0             | 0     | 0     | 9     |

\* 18/19 Included for comparison as it was the last full year before covid

## Multiply – National Numeracy initiative

Evaluative sessions have been held with the Multiply providers contracted to deliver lower level numeracy skills and awareness in Year 1. The main improvement identified needs to be an uplift in the conversion rate of learners taking part in Multiply engagement sessions who then come forward and register for Community Learning provision with the Service.

The following table gives an overview of the first round of delivery, which was undertaken in under three months between January and March 23.

# Agenda Item 5

| Anticipated Project Outputs   | Anticipated Volumes | ACE | EXPANDING HORIZONS | PHOENIX | ROTUNDA | TLC | Actual | Shortfall |
|---|---------------------|-----|--------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|-----------|
| No of local residents participating in numeracy courses   | 150                 | 23  | 45                 | 9       | 35      | 13  | 125    | -25       |
| no of adult numeracy courses run in through Multiply  | 30                  | tbc | 7                  | 5       | 9       | 2   | 23     | -7        |
| No of courses developed in collaboration with employers   |                     | 0   | 6                  | 0       | 0       | 2   | 8      | 8         |
| <b>Anticipated project Outcomes</b>   |                     |     |                    |         |         |     |        |           |
| No of adults achieving maths qualification up to and including L2   | 13                  |     | 0                  | 0       | 0       | 0   | 0      | -13       |
| No of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to and including L2   | 44                  | 23  | 0                  | 0       | 0       | 0   | 23     | -21       |
| No of adults participating, acquiring and evidencing skills through non qualification provision, or towards a qualification including online learning | 44                  | 23  | 45                 | 9       | 35      | 13  | 125    | 81        |
| No of adults supported to increase their numeracy skills and improve their use of maths in their daily lives, at home and work                        | 46                  | 23  | 45                 | 9       | 35      | 13  | 125    |           |
| <b>Referrals</b>  |                     |     |                    |         |         |     |        |           |
| Starts  |                     | 11  | 1                  | 0       | 0       | 8   | 20     |           |

Our aim is to launch a second procurement call via the Chest as swiftly as possible to call for new tenders for Multiply. We expect the new delivery contracts to be valued under £20k and to cover delivery from July 23 to end December 23 to allow some time for evaluation/mop up before the year ends, with a clear expectation about the progression rates of people coming into provision with the Adult Learning Service. We believe that the additional time afforded to providers in this round will lead to better outcomes and many more opportunities for more meaningful engagement with the Service.

## NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service

### April 2023 Data

| Academic Age 16-17 Combined NEET & NK Indicator ( national requirement) |        |
|---|--------|
| Previous Performance April 2022   | 3.47%  |
| Current Performance April 2023  | 3.17%  |
| Difference  | -0.30% |
| Current NEET & Not Known Figure   | 181    |
| Current Total Cohort  | 5712   |

| Academic Age 16-17 NEET ( national requirement) |        |
|---|--------|
| Previous Performance April 2022                 | 3.01%  |
| Current Performance April 2023                  | 2.91%  |
| Difference                                      | -0.11% |
| Current NEET & Not Known Figure                 | 166    |
| Current Total Cohort                            | 5712   |

| Academic Age 18 NEET ( local requirement) |       |
|---|-------|
| Previous Performance April 2022           | 3.73% |
| Current Performance April 2023            | 3.92% |
| Difference                                | 0.19% |
| Current NEET & Not Known Figure           | 335   |

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Current Total Cohort | 8539 |
|----------------------|------|

We have seen a reduction of 17 young people move out of NEET into EET this month, mainly due to increased evening work being made available and intensive work with our 16-year-olds in Year 11. Tracking and Not Known rates continue to improve year on year, and Sefton has consistently tracked below the North West and England averages.

## Vulnerable Groups Spotlight

Career Connect are currently undertaking the final assessment of this year's current Year 11 vulnerable young people. In total, **24** of our **156 SEND** clients have still not received a formal offer for September. Staff will continue to seek engagement with these 24 young people to ensure they have an offer of learning before the new academic year begins.

There are currently **232 Risk of NEET (RONI)** young people who are being targeted through enhanced transition support to help them move into EET in September. This is a key element of the preventative element of the contract with Career Connect and has been identified as a crucial element in how we have improved our performance over the last few years.

The outcomes for young people supported by Youth Justice have been positive and since

| <b>Positive Progression Outcomes<br/>Young People supported by Youth Justice team– 1/4/22 – 31/3/23</b> |            |
|---|------------|
| Apprenticeships   | 8          |
| Employment with Accredited Training   | 9          |
| Employment without Training   | 31         |
| Full Time Education   | 38         |
| Other Training & Learning   | 18         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>104</b> |

April 2022 **104** have now successfully moved into EET, as follows:

The outcomes into employment gained for this group reflect a very effective collaboration between Youth Justice, Career Connect and Sefton@work which could be worthy of more concentrated evaluation to gain insights into this model of working and its potential to improve performance in other vulnerable groups.

## Current Activity

To raise awareness of the Sefton Caring Business Charter, Career Connect has agreed to commence tracking of care experienced young people from an earlier point this year, and this will include NEET and EET young people. The aim of this is to ensure that all young people are aware of the opportunities through the Charter and to encourage them to sign up to at least one opportunity.

In addition and as part of their Pledge to the Charter, Career Connect as a charter Employer will be holding 2 employability sessions over the summer for care experienced young people. This will include a visit to their Head Office in Liverpool city centre, with motivational talks, taster sessions, mock interviews and CV workshops.

**National Volunteer Week 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June** ( <https://volunteersweek.org/> )

# Agenda Item 5

Next week is National Volunteer Week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June), Career Connect has been working in partnership with the Volunteer Centre Sefton to deliver an introductory activity for our young people interested in finding out more about volunteering.

The Centre will be holding an informal session for 16–19-year-olds and the event will take place at Sefton CVS at 1pm Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The session will give young people an insight into opportunities in Sefton and how these can be of benefit for their future aims and goals, Career Connect will be promoting this to our NEET cohort 16+ through social media and Newsletter.

## **REGENERATION, GROWTH & INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Regeneration Service continue to lead and support the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme on delivery of a number of key Council priority projects and external partner projects as well as externally funded programmes. The current status of these is outlined below.

### **BOOTLE**

#### **Bootle Town Centre**

- The Council is progressing plans for a re-purposed Strand Shopping Centre and further work and development of Salt n Tar Canalside event space in Bootle.

#### **Salt and Tar: Made in Bootle:**

- Bootle's new food and drink event space is in its final stages of transformation. The site contractor has commenced work to construct scaffold-style platforms which will consist of a small stage and event viewing area and finalisation of work to open onto the canal, working alongside the Canal and River Trust.
- A detailed events programme started in May with the Comedy Weekender which was very positively received by both local residents and visitors to the area. Top comedians including Jason Byrne, Jo Caulfield and Scott Bennett performed at Salt and Tar on Sunday 28th May as part of the Spring Bank Holiday event.
- A further Music event has been scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> July. Tickets have already sold out for local band Red Rum Club who are headlining on Saturday 8th July but there are still tickets available for Sunday 9th July, when Cast top the bill. Further details can be found in the attached article :[Tickets still on sale for this month's Comedy Festival at Salt & Tar in Bootle \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/news/tickets-still-on-sale-for-this-months-comedy-festival-at-salt-tar-in-bootle)

#### **Strand Transformation Programme**

- Sefton has been successful in securing £20m Capital Levelling Up Funding to support the first phase of the re-purposing shared with members in January's Cabinet report, through the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). In May Cabinet considered a report to accept the capital levelling up funding being offered.
- The Council is now proceeding with development of the more detailed designs for phase 1 to enable a planning application to be prepared and submitted later this year and with a view to commencing partial demolition work on site in early 2024.
- Engagement with key stakeholders has taken place with those directly affected by this first phase of work and will continue throughout the project delivery phases.
- Discussions with highways and public protection regarding any potential road closures required to support delivery are ongoing to enable the demolition works in phase 1 to commence in early 2024.

## **SOUTHPORT**

### **Southport Town Deal**

- Work is ongoing in delivering the Southport Town Deal programme in accordance with the approved business cases agreed with the Towns Fund.

### **Marine Lake Events Centre**

- The largest and most significant project in the programme is the £73M Marine Lake Events Centre and Water and Light show. This secured the next stage of approval following planning approval in April 2023 and a programme of demolition and enabling work is planned to start in the summer. Once demolition and enabling works are complete, the main works will commence, this is planned for January 2024.
- ASM Global announced as operator.
- Construction project is still due for completion in late 2025 with ASM then doing final fit out.
- Kier Construction appointed to undertake the demolition and construction work. Article refers: [Sefton appoints leading UK construction group to work on MLEC project](#)

### **The Enterprise Arcade, Southport**

- Refurbishment of Crown Buildings in Southport's town centre for a new business hub is a key Town Deal project. This will be the first ever purpose-built workspaces for start-up creative and digital businesses in Southport and forms part of the Southport Town Deal.
- Design work is finalised for the construction contract element and project management consultant has been appointed and contract documents are in preparation to allow contractor tendering early summer 2023 with works starting on site later in 2023.
- In May Cabinet approved a report which agreed £224,000 toward work on the building's structure as well as the location of IT provision and connections. Article refers: [Cabinet to consider Southport's Enterprise Arcade update \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Les Transformation de Southport**

- The first phase of transportation improvements, focussing on the area around Southport Market – Kings Street, Market Street, East Bank Street – is progressing with detailed design work completed for the main programme of work commencing in the autumn after the summer season to avoid disruption. Consultation on the final designs work remains ongoing to ensure full account of all stakeholder views in the final elements of the design.

### **Building a Better Customer Experience**

- New learning modules have now been developed by Southport College and will be piloted amongst their existing learners.
- Southport College will utilise their existing resources in delivering the modules and, as it is still in its early stage of development, performance monitoring will take place once delivery is imbedded.
- In relation to Equality, Southport already has embedded a range of strategies in place to ensure equal access for all but will take up the offer from the Council to test out some of the modules with a range of focus groups.

# Agenda Item 5

- The focus groups will identify any diversity that may be flagged up within the modules in relation to physical, visual, hearing needs etc of the client group and also consider issues around cultural awareness within customer care and interaction.
- Southport are currently engaging with a range of employers and linking in with Invest Sefton, they are also keen to sign up to the Caring Business Charter.
- Regular meetings have been scheduled to track progress and performance.

## **CROSBY**

### **Crosby Town Centre Regeneration**

- Cabinet approval in May to progress to full business case along with further design work to be approved prior to project procurement and delivery.
- Work is continuing to prepare a planning application for highway and parking works linked to support access and accessibility in Crosby.

### **Crosby Lakeside**

- Practical completion for Crosby Lakehouse has been achieved with final checks ongoing.
- Bunkbarn construction has started. Completion is due in late summer with opening in September 2023.
- SHOL continue to offer improved hospitality offer for the site.

### **Carnegie Library, Crosby**

- Pre-planning consultation was undertaken in December 2022, returning a positive response from the local community. Planning Consent has now been approved for these proposals. More details can be found here :[Former Grade II Listed Carnegie Library reimaged as family restaurant and digital hub - My Sefton News Channel](#).
- The developer will now provide a programme for the proposed works linked to the lease requirements agreed with the Council.

## **AINSDALE ON SEA**

### **Ainsdale Coastal Gateway**

#### **Former Sands Public House, Shore Road, Ainsdale.**

- Sefton Council went out to the market for the former Sands Public House in Ainsdale (Opposite Pontins) in 2022, following soft market testing that indicated a sufficient level of interest to encourage a formal marketing of the site.
- Sefton is assessing responses and undertaking due diligence. Marketing will continue.
- Brochure can be seen here: [Former Sands PH Marketing Brochure](#)
- Marketing Website link: [Former Sands Public House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Ainsdale, PR8 2QD | Property to rent | Savills](#); and [Shore Road, Ainsdale, PR8 | Fitton Estates](#)

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

- In February Cabinet agreed the next stage of work to bring it into full Council ownership including ongoing negotiations with outstanding owners.



# Agenda Item 5

- Cabinet agreed to progress appointing agents to explore the market in the site in order to support the Council's ambitions for change. Appointed agents have completed seeking expressions of interest from the market and the results are being considered by officers and members.
- Details of the marketing brochure can be found here: [Sandbrook Way, Ainsdale PR8 3RW - Keppie Massie](#)

## TOURISM

### Business Tourism

- MLEC – with the demolition and enabling works commencing in July this presents an opportunity for local businesses to benefit. Details of Marketing Southport accommodation members will be shared with the construction contractor Kier for onward distribution to their sub-contractors.
- The priority for the conference Bureau is to build the sales pipeline for MLEC opening in 2026. Working with the preferred operator ASM Global and key stakeholders, information will be co-ordinated by the end of 2023 on important elements such as such as meeting room layouts, capacities, Audio Visual plans, capabilities to feed into sales collateral for promotion at exhibitions in 2024.
- Southport Conference Bureau is leading on behalf of the Sefton Client Team on Social Value alongside Project Management team Gardiner & Theobald. The social value schedule of activities with Kier has been agreed with reporting measures in place. The MLEC professional team took part in a Litter Pick around Marine Lake in April and partnered with Waterfront Hotel collected in excess of 40 Easter Eggs to donate to Cambridge Road Community Kitchen.
- Support of accommodation providers has delivered results with Sunnyside Guest House winning for the second year at the Liverpool City Region Tourism Awards, in the Guest House category. They have also qualified for Visit England Excellence Awards <https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/awards/visitengland-awards-excellence-2023-finalists> taking place in London on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Eden Warehouse Apartments won the self-catering category, the first time Southport has won in this category. Eden Warehouse is a newly recruited business to Marketing Southport last year. Efforts will continue for next year to support as many businesses as possible to submit an application. The awards help to raise the profile of quality accommodation to promote to conference organisers and is therefore an important piece of work.
- Feedback from accommodation providers for Eurovision highlighted that Eurovision did not deliver tangible business benefit into Southport. Many accommodation providers reported a 'quieter than usual' weekend. A full report of Southport accommodation is in the process of being co-ordinated.
- Aglow International held their first in person conference at The Prince of Wales 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May. Almost 500 delegates attended the first 'in person' event since 2019

# Agenda Item 5

staying in hotels and guest houses across the resort worth £467,000 to the local economy. The event has received positive feedback from both the organisers and delegates with provisional dates being discussed for 2024.

## Destination Marketing

**Summer Campaign** – agreed and signed off by the Board. It consists of radio (both FM and digital), Out Of Home (37 large format digital billboards across the northwest), website updates, e-newsletter and other digital activity (Facebook and Google PPC).

**PR** – Two journalist visits planned for June (Reach plc (Echo, MEN, Birmingham Mail) and Lancashire Life).

**Visitor Guide** – the 2023 guide has been completed and delivered to national, regional and local distribution points. Local stocks are all out with distribution points.

**Southport Restaurateurs Association** – The 2023 guide has been delivered and has, again, been delivered too all local stockists / distribution points.

**E-newsletter** - Database stands at circa 52,000 with the addition of 2022 data and regular newsletters are sent to this audience (the latest being for Easter).

**Travel Trade** – Advertising continues to be placed in key travel trade publications. Three pieces of editorial have been written and free additional space for this has been secured with all ads booked to date. A Southport Showcase was held on 24 April at The Waterfront Southport. The event was attended by 35 coach operators, Group Tour Operators' and tour planners. Feedback from the event was very positive.

**Golf** – We continue to work with England's Golf Coast and Southport Golf Tours to ensure better co-ordination between the three partners and a draft golf activity plan has been produced.

**Marketing Southport** – membership currently stands at 105, which has remained constant since last year after some movement. MerseyRail are now a member.

A Marketing Southport Board meeting was held on 6 June, with the next to take place in September.

A Member meeting took place on 23 May at which last year's annual report was covered along with this year's activity and an update on MLEC.

**VisitSouthport Website** – The new VisitSouthport website launched on 25 May.

**Familiarisation Visit** – a trip was organised for five of the Marketing Liverpool team on 25 May. Feedback was very positive.

## Events

Southport Air Show - 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September

- Tenders for infrastructure and services have been procured and orders are now being placed to secure these.
- We have received confirmation that the Red Arrows will only be appearing on the Saturday due to the dates clashing with the Great North Run.

# Agenda Item 5

- The Typhoon is not currently due to appear, again due to a clash with the Scottish Air Show but negotiations are taking place to try and secure a display for the Sunday only.
- The armed forces will be in attendance on the ground with their recruitment teams along with various assets yet to be confirmed.
- The Pier will be shut due to refurbishment meaning there will be no Pier Viewing tickets available this year.
- Trade bookings are picking up with 43 secured – it is hoped that more will be received in the coming months.
- Infrastructure quotes are in and orders are being placed.
- The catering concession tender is now on The Chest NW.
- Event plans are currently being updated and will be sent to the Sefton Events Safety Advisory Group for comments in due course.

## The British Musical Fireworks Championship – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September

- The event will be taking place over 2 nights with 3 competitors each night.
- Competitor lists have now been finalised.
- Infrastructure quotes have been received and orders are being placed.
- Pre-Event entertainment has been booked for each night.
- The presentation ceremony will take place at The Southport Market after the event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **Tourism Operations**

### MLEC

- Planning approval was achieved in April, which now allows the project to commence on site. There are several pre-commencement conditions that are currently being completed to allow demolition and enabling works to commence.
- As per the PCSA agreement with Kier Construction they will undertake all demolition and enabling works.
- Enabling and demolition work is planned to start in July, subject to discharge of conditions.
- Once demolition and enabling works are complete the main works will commence, this is planned for early 2022.

### Southport Pier

- The Pier remains closed due to health and safety concerns with further damage to decking after visual inspection.
- A full structural survey has been commissioned.
- External support has been appointed to lead on Cost Management, Project Management, and other key services.

### Seafront

- Work to revamp Southport Kings Gardens is almost complete, Victorian shelters, and benches have been brought back to new condition, work continues on the bins and lampposts.

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# Agenda Item 6

|                                |  |  |              |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>              | Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Communities)                    | <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                    | 27 June 2023 |
| <b>Subject:</b>                | Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People – Migration update | <b>Wards Affected:</b>                     | All          |
| <b>Report of:</b>              | Assistant Director of People (Communities)                       |  |              |
| <b>Is this a Key Decision?</b> | No   | <b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> | No           |
| <b>Exempt/Confidential</b>     | No   |  |              |

## Purpose/Summary

To update on the recent changes migration related schemes following the final report of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group that was submitted in September 2022.

## Recommendations: That

- (1) The report updating the recent changes to schemes be noted; and
- (2) That any other changes in future will be provided in additional updates.

## 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 previous report in September 2022.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be updated on the new and existing migration and resettlement schemes.

## 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

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:

# Agenda Item 6

|  |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|----|---|-----|
| <b>Financial</b>   |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| <b>Legal: Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012</b>  |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| <b>Human Resources</b>   |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| <b>Equality</b>  |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| 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"/>            |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| <p><b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> Children, Young People and Families that arrive in Sefton through resettlement schemes are supported to access health and education services. Families receive support to help them build a new life in the borough and are supported to help them integrate into the community. Multi-agency networks are in place to ensure that all children are offered the support they need.</p>  |                                     |                        |    |                       |     |                        |    |   |     |
| <p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b></p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report.</p> |                                     | 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 |
| 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

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Protect the most vulnerable:</b> 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. This approach will continue as part of the delivery of the listed schemes below.</p> |
| <p><b>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</b> Council officers from Community Safety, Housing and Investment and Migration service areas, as well as other community partners, work with the police to prevent such as instances of crime, including hate crime, anti-social behaviour and any community tensions. This work is imperative when considering future asylum accommodation procurement.</p>   |
| <p><b>Commission, broker and provide core services:</b> 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</p>   |

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. This approach will continue as part of the delivery of the listed schemes below.

**Place – leadership and influencer:** Information as contained in “Facilitate confident and resilient communities” section above

**Drivers of change and reform:** None directly associated with this report

**Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:** None directly associated with this report

**Greater income for social investment:** None directly associated with this report

**Cleaner Greener:** None directly associated with this report

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

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7269/23) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and notes that there are no direct legal implications arising from this report (LD5469/23).

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the meeting.

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## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

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. A key element was set out in the of reference as:

*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:*

# Agenda Item 6

- *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](#)

Several outcomes were achieved as result of the Working Group, one of which included providing a 6 monthly update.

This update focuses on different schemes that have been introduced to support the refugee and asylum seeker populations.

## **Migration Related Programmes**

The programmes listed below are predominately provided by the Home Office. Where Sefton is eligible for funding

1. **Local Authority Housing Fund** – Sefton was not in scope for the first round of this funding. However, there is a second round of funding which Sefton is eligible for and officers are currently working to collate the necessary information ready to submit the application in July 2023.

The purpose of this fund is to support the resettlement of refugees under the Home Office's Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Funding can be used to provide new accommodation, either permanent or temporary, to this cohort.

2. **Caseworker and relocation support funding** – This is new funding for local authority areas that have bridging hotels in their communities.

Sefton is not in scope for this funding as there are no such hotels in the borough.

3. **Find your own accommodation (FYOA) pathway** – This is designed to help Afghan households in bridging hotels to find accommodation. With bridging hotels due to be closed by the end of the year, other LAs may look to support households to move to other areas of the country.

Sefton has 'opted in' to this pathway. By opting into the pathway, other LAs are required to notify us if they are supporting a household to move to Sefton. In this



# Agenda Item 6

scenario Sefton would receive a tariff (per person) over 3 years to support integration. Additional funding is available for education, ESOL, healthcare.

4. **Flexible Housing Fund**– This is new funding. Where a household is supported to provide settled accommodation, local authorities can claim funding (per person) retrospectively. Funding can be used to including as capital for renovations or stock acquisition, or revenue for landlord incentives, deposits, rent top ups and furniture costs. Eligible for ARAP and ACRS families.
5. **Exceptional costs** – LAs can claim against this fund if there are exceptional costs when supporting refugees into settled accommodation. These claims have to be signed off by the Home Office and include:
  - a. Property Adaptations
  - b. Property Void Costs
  - c. Support for children with identified educational needs
  - d. Social Care provision
  - e. Universal Credit nominal top-up
6. **Homelessness Assistance Fixed Tariff** – This is new funding (per household) where Council's accept homelessness duties for households leaving bridging hotels.
7. **Temporary Integration Tariff** – This is new funding (per person per day) linked to above (6.) for a period of 6 months if temporary accommodation is required.
8. **Homes for Ukraine** – The Homes for Ukraine programme is established and although there are few new arrivals to Sefton currently the population of refugees are settled. Some have begun to find work and their own premises and are living independently.

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