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Sefton Council



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday, 19th September 2023

TIME: 6.30 p.m.

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor
Cllr. Liz Dowd (Chair)
Cllr. Christine Howard (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran
Cllr. Peter Harvey
Cllr. Gareth Lloyd-Johnson
Cllr. Christine Maher
Cllr. Daniel McKee
Cllr. Catie Page
Cllr. Sir Ron Watson C.B.E.
Cllr. Veronica Webster

Substitute

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

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer
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If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held 27 June 2023

4. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2023/24

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

5. Domestic Abuse Update

(Pages 13 - 62)

Report of the Assistant Director of People (Communities)

6. Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Programme

(Pages 63 - 72)

Report of the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)

7. Winter Maintenance Policy and Operational Plan

(Pages 73 - 80)

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

- 8. Executive/Scrutiny Protocol** (Pages 81 - 98)
Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
- 9. Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 99 - 132)
Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
- 10. Cabinet Member Reports - June 2023 to September 2023** (Pages 133 - 170)
Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Dowd (in the Chair)
Councillor Howard (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Corcoran, Harvey, McKee and
Catie Page

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Atkinson and Hardy

1. WELCOME

The Chair, Councillor Dowd, welcomed Members to the first meeting of Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) in the 2023/24 municipal year; and especially welcomed Councillors Harvey, Lloyd-Johnson and McKee as newly appointed members of the Committee; and expressed her thanks to Councillors Myers and Dodd and former Councillor Sathiy for their help and involvement on the Committee during the previous year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lloyd-Johnson, Christine Maher (and her Substitute Member Councillor Grace), Sir Ron Watson (and his substitute member Councillor Prendergast) and Webster (and her substitute member Councillor Anne Thompson).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views on the draft Work Programme for 2023/24; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or by informal meetings of the Committee; the identification of items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; sought a potential date

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

for an informal meeting of the Committee to consider a strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough; sought a date for a visit by Members of the Committee to the Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss; consideration of the views of the Assistant Director Place – (Highways and Public Protection) on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers; sought approval to cease the submission of update reports on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In respect of refuse and recycling, Councillor Dowd suggested:

- that this year the Committee continue with the arrangement of holding informal meetings to undertake short reviews of services; and that the first review be on the topic of refuse and waste recycling.
- suggested that a date in August 2023 be selected for the visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre; that the visit take place in the morning and that in the afternoon on the selected date, an informal meeting of the Committee be held to discuss issues associated with refuse and waste recycling. If agreed, then this informal meeting would negate the need to arrange the informal meeting about the strategic approach for waste containment/disposal across the borough as referred to in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.7 of the report.

In respect of pre-scrutiny Councillor Dowd highlighted the fact that often strategies and plans were included on the Forward Plan but that rarely were they submitted to Overview and Scrutiny for comment prior to their submission to Cabinet/Council; and suggested that Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fell within the remit of this Committee, should seek the views of the Committee on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it was not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committee to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.

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

- regarding the comments of the Assistant Director Place – (Highways and Public Protection) on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, information was sought on a breakdown of the different offences for which the 34,000 penalty charge notices had been issued; and explanation was sought on comments made in the report regarding the reduction in time civil

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

enforcement officers would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split

- pre-scrutiny and best practice employed by other local authorities
- the potential to hold more informal meetings to consider plans and strategies to meet dates imposed by report submission deadlines to Cabinet or Council

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme be approved;
- (2) the first review be on the topic of refuse and waste recycling and in respect of this matter a visit be arranged to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre in August 2023 and that an informal meeting of the Committee be held following the visit;
- (3) Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of this Committee, be requested to seek the views of the Committee on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committee to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon;
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (5) no further update reports be submitted on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group; and
- (6) the views of the Assistant Director Place – (Highways and Public Protection) on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers be noted; and
 - (a) a breakdown be provided of the different offences for which the 34,000 penalty charge notices had been issued; and
 - (b) explanation be provided on comments made in the report regarding the reduction in time civil enforcement officers would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split.

6. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - MARCH 2023 TO JUNE 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

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

Skills; and that provided an update on information requested at the last meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2023.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills presented her report and following a request from a Member provided additional information on a food trailer business primarily based in Southport that specialised in Caribbean food.

Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing presented her report and highlighted the following issues:

- Sefton Council recently winning the Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness category at this year's Northern Housing Awards for its Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Service
- the number of topics included on the Committee's work programme that fell within the remit of her portfolio
- Sefton's Culture Strategy

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

- the fully Integrated Community Domestic Abuse Service was welcomed
- the action being taken with local businesses and residents to tackle the consistently received complaints regarding black sacks being placed out along South Road on non-collection days. The on-going work was noted and that consultations were being undertaken with the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control regarding refuse storage facilities associated flat conversions; and the responsibility of both landlords and tenants as part of the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes was noted
- the potential inclusion of Crosby Leisure Centre and the Formby Pool Trust as part of the Holiday Activity Fund
- the consultation exercise to be undertaken regarding the new Crosby Library Project; and whether local groups could be involved in the consultation process. It was noted that extensive public/local Councillor consultation would be undertaken; and that the form of the consultation exercise would be determined by the Council's Public Engagement and Consultation Panel
- a recent New Beginnings LGBTQ+ Youth Group event held in Southport
- information was sought on the results of the proposals for stakeholder engagement, that were presented to the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel in early November 2022, in respect of the Council's walking and cycling network and the local cycling and the walking infrastructure plan that was being developed
- the disappointing response of schools to engage in the School Street pilot schemes was noted and what actions were being taken to improve interest in the pilot

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

- in respect of building cleaning operations, the problems being experienced with the very difficult recruitment of staff in certain parts of the Borough with some posts receiving no applications, causing operational difficulties
- the impact on the Highway Development Control team processing large numbers of planning applications, despite the 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
- problems experienced with external agencies not adequately undertaking their duties and the knock-on impact on the Council having to resolve such issues
- the detrimental impact on the environment due to National Highways not undertaking adequate cleansing operations on their major roads in the borough
- a review of the policy of grass cutting on the Formby by-pass was required
- whether the Winter Maintenance Policy should be submitted to the September or November 2023 meeting of the Committee
- additional information was sought on the grounds maintenance of the borough's cemeteries
- bye laws in respect of dogs in the borough's cemeteries and the recently introduced Public Space Protection Orders
- did Sefton have a Supplementary Planning Document in relation to telecommunications masts and associated equipment; and if so, could a copy be provided to all Members of the Council for information
- information was sought on the 6 conservation areas to be removed from the National Heritage at Risk Register

RESOLVED: 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;
- (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; and
- (3) the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) be requested to provide an update to Members on the proposals for stakeholder engagement, that were presented to the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel in early November 2022, in respect of the Council's walking and cycling network and the local cycling and the walking infrastructure plan that was being developed;
- (4) the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) be

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

requested to clarify whether the Winter Maintenance Policy should be submitted to the September or November 2023 meeting of the Committee; and the Work Programme be updated accordingly;

- (5) the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) be requested to provide an update on the provision of grounds maintenance of the borough's cemeteries;
- (6) the Chief Planning Officer be requested to advise whether the Council have a Supplementary Planning Document in relation to telecommunications masts and associated equipment; and if so, provide a copy to all Members of the Council for information;
- (7) the Chief Planning Officer be requested to identify the 6 conservation areas to be removed from the National Heritage at Risk Register;
- (8) the Assistant Director of People (Communities) be requested to submit a report on Sefton's Culture Strategy to the Committee prior to formal approval by Cabinet; and the Committee's work programme be accordingly updated; and
- (9) Councillors Atkinson and Hardy be thanked for their attendance at the Committee.

7. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE – MIGRATION UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of People (Communities) that updated on the recent changes to migration related schemes following the final report of the Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People Working Group that was approved by this Committee in September 2022.

The report provided information on the undermentioned different migration related programmes that had been introduced to support refugee and asylum seeker populations:

- Local Authority Housing Fund
- Caseworker and relocation support funding
- Find your own accommodation (FYOA) pathway
- Flexible Housing Fund
- Exceptional costs
- Homelessness Assistance Fixed Tariff
- Temporary Integration Tariff
- Homes for Ukraine

Members of the Committee praised the work of officers providing support to the migration related programmes and particularly relating to the Homes for Ukraine programme.

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 2023

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on the recent changes to migration related schemes be noted; and
- (2) reports on any future changes to migration related schemes be submitted to the Committee.

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Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 5 September 2023
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills)		Tuesday 19 September 2023
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding)		Tuesday 26 September 2023
Subject:	Domestic Abuse Update		
Report of:	Assistant Director of People (Communities)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities & Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update Overview & Scrutiny Members on the Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Members note the content of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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

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

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

Agenda Item 5

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The Council received £619,418 for 2023/24 to provide support to victims/survivors living in safe accommodation.

(B) Capital Costs

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

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
None at this time	
Legal Implications:	
The work of the board and commissioning of Domestic Abuse services is a statutory responsibility of the Council	
Equality Implications:	
The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated as part of the strategy and action plan process	
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes	
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines Children as being victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right. The Strategy has a large focus on protecting children and supporting them to recover from the impacts of Domestic Abuse. Representatives from Childrens Services are an integral part of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Domestic Abuse survivors/victims and their children are some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The work of the board will strive to ensure they have adequate support.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: We want to create communities where Domestic Abuse is not tolerated and viewed as abhorrent and that residents have confidence in Domestic Abuse support services and the support they need

Commission, broker and provide core services: It is the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to give effect to the Domestic Abuse Strategy by commissioning and decommissioning services for victims/survivors and their children.
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener; Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7326/23.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5526/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028
- Appendix 2 – Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2023-2028

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In September 2022 Members were provided with an update on the Domestic Abuse Act (introduced in April 2021), Sefton Council’s statutory obligations within this, and Sefton’s Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. Since then, work has continued to refresh Sefton’s Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy and to develop an action plan to take the prioritise within this forward.

Agenda Item 5

2. Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

2.1 Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was established in September 2021. It meets on a bi monthly basis and is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Sefton Council
- Merseyside Police
- Probation Service
- Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA)
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Partnership
- Liverpool University Foundation Trust (Aintree and Royal Hospitals)
- Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (Southport and Ormskirk Hospital)
- Venus
- Sefton CVS
- RASA Merseyside
- One Vision Housing
- Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board
- Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner Merseyside
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

2.2 Utilising the outcomes of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and learning from Sefton Domestic Homicide Reviews, the Partnership Board has refreshed and updated the Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. This was approved by the Partnership Board and adopted by Sefton Council in March 2023.

3. Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028 and Action Plan

3.1 The strategy outlines 3 priority themes:

1. Prevent
2. Protect
3. Repair

Further to this, an action plan has been developed which includes the additional themes of Leadership and Governance and Children and Young People. The action plan will be taken forward by two sub groups of the Board:

1. Leadership and Governance and Prevent
2. Protect, Repair, and Children and Young People

The Strategy and Action Plan are provided as Appendices to this report.

4. Cross partnership collaboration

4.1 The impact of domestic abuse cuts across all agency services. To tackle it successfully we need to work in collaboration across departments, agencies and strategic Partnership Boards. Over the past year this has included

- Clear links and sharing of related activity between the Board and the Safer Sefton Together partnership on the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda)
- Continued development of links with the Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board and Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Continued participation in and contribution to Liverpool city region partnerships such as the Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence & Abuse Group, the Merseyside Strategic Sexual Violence Group, Community Safety Leads meetings around domestic abuse and suicide prevention, DHR learning workshops and multi agency domestic abuse perpetrator work. Information and activities are fed into the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

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Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028



Authorised by

Agenda Item 5

Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 - 2028

Our partners



Contents

1. Foreword.....	4
2. Introduction.....	5
3. Governance	6
4. Our Vision	7
5. Objectives.....	7
6. What is Domestic and Sexual Abuse?	8
7. The Domestic Abuse Act.....	10
8. Links to Other Legislation, Strategies, Boards and Partnerships.....	14
9. Information and Data	15
10. A Coordinated Community Response.....	18
11. Strategic Themes	19
12. Outcomes.....	22
13. Monitoring and Measuring the Impact	22
14. Further Information.....	23
Appendix A	24

Agenda Item 5

Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 - 2028

1. Foreword by Councillor Trish Hardy Chair of Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board



Councillor Trish Hardy

Welcome to Sefton's 2022-2027 Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy. This is the third version of this strategy and it reiterates our commitment and priority for tackling domestic and abuse at all levels across Sefton. It builds on the previous partnership work we have been doing over the past 7 years and includes the duties outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021).

The issue of domestic and sexual abuse has rightly continued to grow in recognition both locally and nationally, including additional resources via the Government and the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner role. These resources are welcome but we know more needs to be invested in services to ensure those affected by domestic and sexual abuse get the support they need.

Sefton's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is responsible for overseeing Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic and sexual abuse. One of its key priorities over the past year has been to complete a local Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment so we have an up to date picture of what we already have in place and what areas we need to develop. This piece of work has helped inform the update of this strategy. An important part of the needs assessment was to hear directly from local victims and survivors of domestic abuse so their voice and experiences are an integral element within the development and delivery of all services and systems associated with tackling domestic abuse. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all the victims and survivors who took part and shared their views. We will continue to look at how we can develop the ways victims and survivors can continue to be involved in this work.

2. Introduction

The Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2022-2027 is a multi-agency partnership document developed by Sefton’s Domestic Abuse Partnership Board following the completion of a comprehensive local domestic abuse needs assessment which helped identify what we need in Sefton and builds on work of the previous local Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategies. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that all key stakeholders in Sefton have a consistent understanding of the issues surrounding domestic and abuse and their roles and responsibilities in addressing them. Domestic and sexual abuse cannot be tackled in isolation. It requires joint working across a wide range of departments, agencies, and partnerships, including those beyond the usual statutory and specialist organisations associated with domestic and sexual abuse.

At its core is the need to ensure the voices and experiences of domestic and sexual abuse victims and survivors shape Sefton’s approach to the development and delivery of services so that they provide what is needed. This includes ensuring there are a range of specialist support services available to address a wide variety of needs. It means really listening to what it feels like for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and understanding the challenges and barriers they face across all services and not just related to specialist domestic and sexual abuse support. It includes being able to challenge perpetrator behaviours safely and working to hold them to account.

This strategy sets out how we will do this in Sefton over the next five years. It outlines the key themes partners will focus on and identifies priorities which will be translated

into practical areas for action which will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The strategy is based around three strategic themes:

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

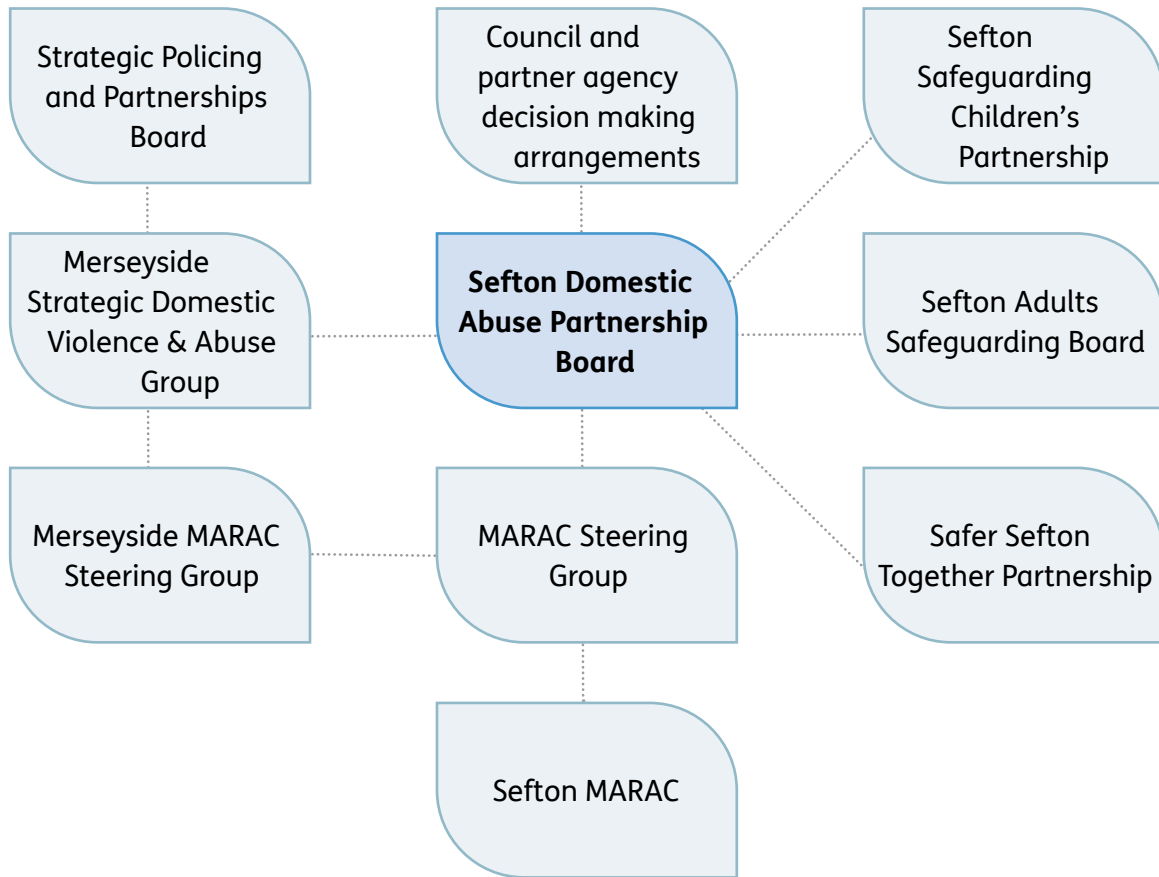
It also incorporates the elements of Sefton’s previous Safe Accommodation Strategy for victims of domestic abuse which the local authority is required to have as part of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act.

Domestic and sexual abuse is a key element of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWG) agenda. However, it is acknowledged that VAWG also includes a range of other linked but separate subjects, such as human trafficking and modern slavery, honour based violence harmful practices and child exploitation. These areas will be covered by Safer Sefton Together’s approach to VAWG.



Agenda Item 5

3. Governance



The links between the Partnership Board and other strategic partnership arrangements are maintained through joint membership, shared sub-groups established around specific subjects (eg training and workforce development) as well as shared action plans.

Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is made up of representatives from the following agencies:

- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Elected Member, Communities, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Public Health and Housing and Investment Services.)
- Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA)
- Rape and Sexual Assault Merseyside (RASA)
- Merseyside Police
- Probation Service
- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Partnership
- Mersey Care
- One Vision Housing
- Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)
- Venus
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue
- Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner Merseyside

4. Our Vision

That domestic and sexual abuse is viewed and challenged as an unacceptable form of behaviour by all our communities.

That victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and their families in Sefton feel safer in their communities, are protected from harm, and are able to move forward positively

with their lives as a result of receiving the support and interventions they need.

That the behaviour of perpetrators is effectively challenged, and perpetrators are fully held to account.

5. Objectives

- To prioritise a strategic partnership approach to the reduction of domestic and sexual abuse in our communities.
- To improve the prevention, early identification and response to domestic and sexual abuse.
- To increase the reporting of domestic and sexual abuse through awareness raising and access to support services.
- To work with commissioners to ensure a wide range of services are in place to support and protect victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, including children.
- To hold perpetrators to account through appropriate criminal justice sanctions and effective interventions that promote long term behaviour change.
- To safeguard children and vulnerable adults from the impacts of living within a household experiencing domestic and sexual abuse.



6. What is Domestic and Sexual Abuse?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides a definition of domestic abuse which is provided in full in Appendix A at the end of this document. In summary, it includes the following key points

The behaviour of a person towards another person is defined as “domestic abuse” if:

- both people are aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other
- and

- the behaviour is abusive

Behaviour is defined as “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a pattern of behaviour.

Two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies:

- they are, or have been, married to each other
- they are, or have been, civil partners of each other
- they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)

- they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- they are relatives

It should be noted behaviour considered as abusive towards a victim can also include conduct directed at another person eg the victim’s child/children

Children are also explicitly included within the Act as direct victims of domestic abuse. This includes circumstances where a child:

- sees or hears, or experiences the effect of, the abuse,

and

- is related to either the victim or perpetrator of the abuse

There is no one set definition of sexual violence or abuse; however, it is widely accepted as being any unwanted sexual act or activity. There are many different kinds of sexual violence and abuse, including rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by a stranger or by someone known.



7. The Domestic Abuse Act

In April 2021 the new Domestic Abuse Act was signed into law in England. The Act is designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and provide a range of further protections for victims/survivors of domestic abuse as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. This includes:

- the creation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse.
- the establishment in law of the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the functions and powers within this role.
- provision for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order (currently known as Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs).
- placing a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation based support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- prohibition of perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.
- the creation of a statutory presumption that victims/survivors of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- clarifying the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims/survivors.
- extending the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- extending the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the “revenge porn” offence) to cover threats to disclose such material.
- the creation a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.
- clarifying by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death.
- extending the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences.
- providing for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.
- Enabling domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody.



- placing the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing.
- providing that all eligible homeless victims/survivors of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance.
- ensuring that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy.
- prohibiting GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victims/survivor of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- providing for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes.

The Safe Accommodation Duty

Part 4 of the Act places a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. Local authorities must:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.

Refuge accommodation

Single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims, including their children, will have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.

Specialist safe accommodation

Single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, and the address will not be publicly available.

Agenda Item 5

Dispersed accommodation

1. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, due to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.

2. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.

Sanctuary Schemes

Provision of enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation.

Second stage accommodation

Accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation. Where second stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single gender or single sex.

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation

A safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g. 2-3 weeks) accommodation providing victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

Accommodation such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not considered relevant safe accommodation and for this reason are specifically excluded in the Regulations.

Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation

The Domestic Abuse Act statutory guidance describes Domestic Abuse Support within Safe / relevant Accommodation as:

- Overall management of services within relevant accommodation – including, the management of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority.
- Support with the day-to-day running of the service, for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
- Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services.
- Domestic abuse prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
- Specialist support for victims:
 - a) Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics (also known as by and for), such as faith services, translators and interpreters within BAME-led refuges, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims [not limited to].
 - b) Designed specifically for victims with unique and / or complex needs such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, including sign posting accordingly.
- Children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy.
- Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- Advice service – financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- Counselling and therapy (including group support) for both adults and children, including emotional support.



8. Links to Other Legislation, Strategies, Boards and Partnerships

In addition to the Domestic Act 2021, certain elements of domestic abuse are also covered by other existing Acts:

- both people are aged 16 or over and are The Serious Crime Act 2015: coercive control is an offence under Section 76.
- The Care Act 2014: local authorities are responsible for promoting individual wellbeing, including ensuring their freedom from abuse.
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012: Regulation 13 covers safeguarding service users from abuse.
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002: “seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another person” is a form of harm under Section 120. This clarifies the definition of harm in the Children Act 1989.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 outlaws causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.
- Housing Act 1996 Section 177
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

There are a number of local and national strategies, examples of practice learning evidence, research and guidance that also tie into this strategy. Locally, this includes the following:

- Safer Sefton Together Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Children and Young People’s Plan 2020-2025
- Sefton Integrated Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2020-2025

- Sefton Children and Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-26
- Sefton Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Strategic Plan 2022-24
- Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023
- Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027
- Working in partnership to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) across Merseyside. Delivery Plan 2022-2025. Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner.

Supporting the delivery of these strategies and the wider domestic and sexual abuse agenda are a number of multi agency partnerships. These are an integral link to the work of the Domestic abuse Partnership Board and this Strategy.

- Safer Sefton Together Partnership
- Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Sefton Safeguarding Adults Partnership
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence and Abuse Group (SDVAG) and Sexual Violence Group

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board supports the recognition domestic abuse is being given nationally by the government, as well as the ongoing work of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and will ensure this strategy is reviewed to incorporate any further new legislation, programmes, or best practice as required.

9. Information and Data

Domestic and sexual abuse are national issues that have an enormous impact on the lives of those it affects. Data does not accurately reflect the true scale of the issue and it is widely accepted that any figures will be an underrepresentation. However, they do provide some context on the extent and nature of the problem. Current statistics and research highlighted in Sefton's Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment include:

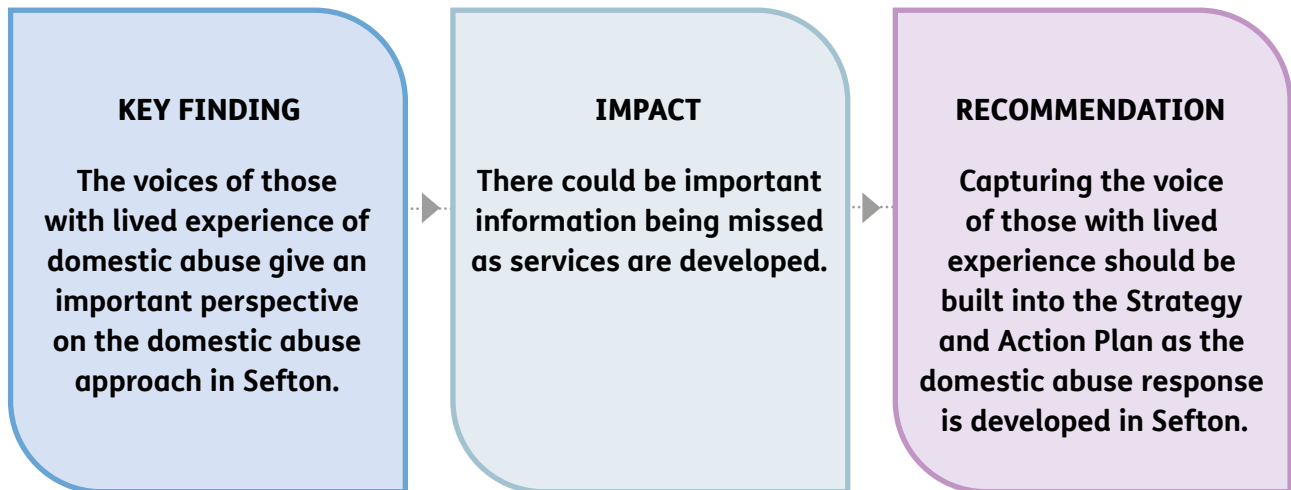
- It is estimated 5.5% of adults in England and Wales aged 16 to 74 years (2.23 million people) experienced domestic abuse in 2019/20 ([Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview November 2020, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)).
- In 2020/21, the police recorded 1,459,663 domestic abuse related incidents of which 845,744 were recorded as domestic abuse related crimes. This increased to 1,500,369 incidents in 2021/22 of which 910,980 were recorded as domestic abuse related crimes. ([Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview November 2021 and November 2022, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)).
- Female victims accounted for 73% of domestic abuse related crimes recorded by the police 2020/21 and 74% in 2021/22 ([Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview November 2021 and November 2022, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)).
- There were 373 victims of domestic homicide aged 16 and over in England and Wales between March 2019 and March 2021. 72% of these victims (269) were female. ([Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview November 2022, Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#)).
- Police in England and Wales made almost 245,000 referrals to social services for domestic abuse in 2020/21, with an average of 669 child protection referrals a day. ([NSPCC Record numbers of children and young people affected by domestic abuse | NSPCC](#)).
- The new Domestic Abuse Act has introduced compulsory Relationships Education for all primary school pupils and Relationship and Sex Education for all secondary school pupils in England ([Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#)).
- Rape Crisis England and Wales states 1 in 4 women have been raped or sexually assaulted as an adult, 1 in 6 children have been sexually abused, and 1 in 20 men have been raped or sexually assaulted as an adult ([rapecrisis.org.uk/get-informed/statistics-sexual-violence](#)).
- Rape Crisis England and Wales states 1 in 2 rapes against women are carried out by their partner or ex partner. 5 in 6 rapes against women are carried out by someone they know. [rapecrisis.org.uk/get-informed/statistics-sexual-violence](#).



Agenda Item 5

Survivor Voice

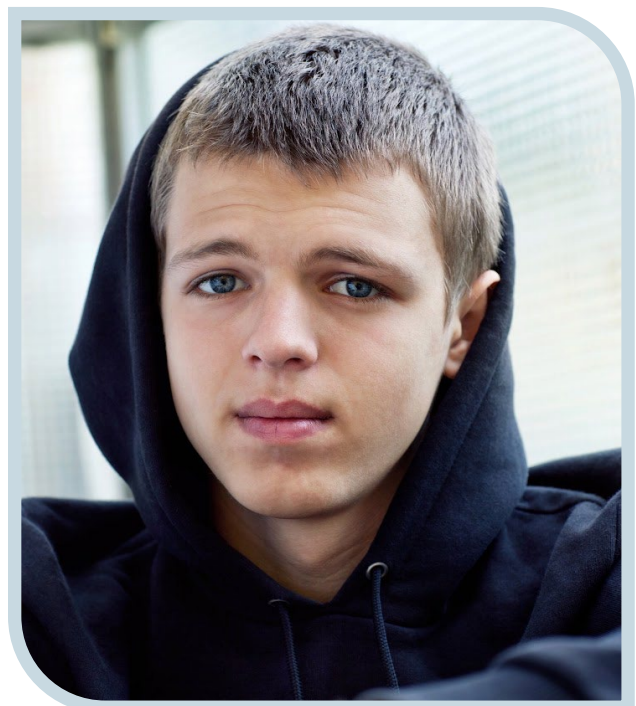
The most important element of this Strategy is ensuring victim/survivor voices and experiences are clearly captured, listened to, and enacted upon to ensure Sefton's response to tackling domestic abuse is based on their needs. This was clearly highlighted in Sefton's Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and is an area the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will continue to develop and work on.



The stories told by victims/survivors through the community survey and survivor interviews and group sessions highlight the difficulties and complexities involved in cases of domestic abuse and the importance of practitioners and first responders having an understanding of these complexities.

Some of the key findings from this consultation include:

- Experience of having an IDVA to provide support through the Court process was helpful, though earlier support would have been beneficial.
- Experiences of feeling unsupported by the police and the criminal justice process following reports of abuse meaning survivors felt let down and that there was no accountability for the perpetrator's actions.
- Experiences of feeling ashamed of what had happened, fear they wouldn't be believed if they told someone, and fear of what their abuser would do that stopped them from telling anybody.
- Experiences of there being a lack of support put in place for their children.



Initial findings from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Mapping of Domestic Abuse Services across England and Wales (August 2022) also highlights some of the challenges faced by survivors of domestic abuse. These include:

- Support services help victims/survivors to cope and to recover from the abuse they've experienced. Of those who expressed a view in the survey, there were significant differences between the two groups, with those who had accessed support more likely to report that they felt safer and more in control
- The majority of respondents stated that they wished to access a form of community-based service rather than an accommodation-based service, and it was forms of community-based services that victims/survivors were most likely to have been unable to access despite wishing to.
- The lack of support for children was particularly noteworthy. Almost all survivors who had children said that they would have wanted their children to have specific support, but just 29% said that their children had been able to access this type of support.
- Overall victims and survivors struggled to get help. Equally, they survey found significant regional variations and significant differences by sex and gender. People in the North West of England reported finding it most difficult to access help, with 45% of respondents saying it was 'quite difficult' or 'very difficult' to access help, Over two-thirds of men and over half of non-binary survivors found it 'quite difficult' or 'very difficult' to get help, in comparison to a third of women survivors.
- Victims/survivors with learning disabilities said often it was harder to recognise what was happening to them as domestic abuse, and that even where they did recognise this, they struggled to disclose



the abuse. It was difficult to know how to report it, know where to get information or advice, or understand that they could contact the police.

- Victims/survivors also talked about the lack of counselling services that had an understanding of how to work with autistic or neurodiverse domestic abuse survivors.

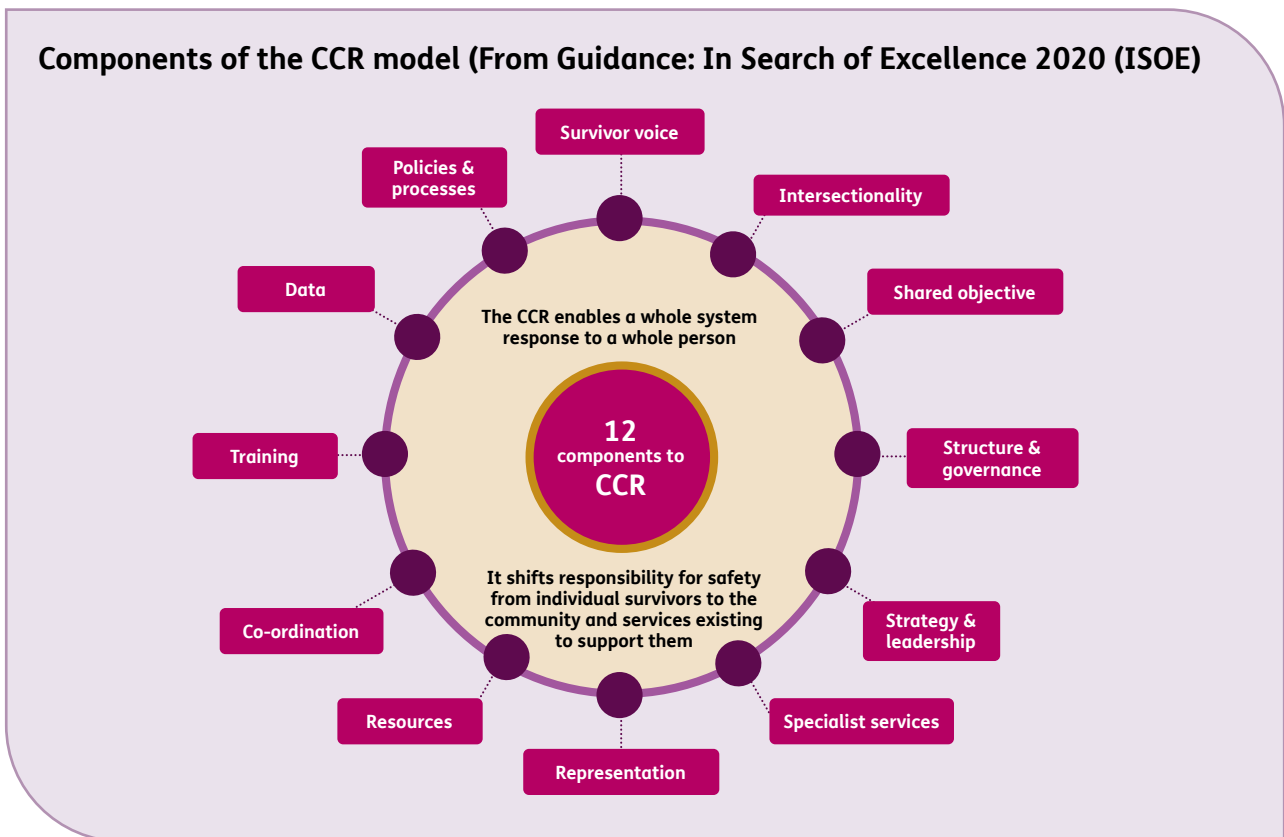
Agenda Item 5

10.A Coordinated Community Response

The co-ordinated community response (CCR) model encourages collaborative working with other agencies. The CCR is a collaborative multi-agency effort to change the culture of tolerance of domestic abuse by embedding practices and procedures which integrates victim/survivor safety and holds the perpetrator to account for abuse.

The CCR encompasses the broadest possible response to domestic abuse addressing prevention, early intervention, dealing with crisis, risk fluctuation, and long-term recovery and safety, working with a wide range of services, pathways, agencies, and systems. The fundamental premise of the CCR is that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a family or individual within that family, but all may have insights and can provide interventions that are crucial to their safety and wellbeing. The CCR enables a whole-system response to a whole person. It shifts responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the community and services existing to support them.

Victims/survivors of domestic and sexual abuse – adult or child – require a coordinated, multi-agency response with all agencies working collaboratively to provide a response that is effective in meeting their needs and making them safer. The model guides coordinators to build interventions within systems that are aligned with the lived experience of victims/survivors.



For the CCR to be effective, the responsibility for support and intervention must be spread across agencies, rather than held with a single agency or person. This approach is an integral part of this strategy and the key priority themes it includes

11. Strategic Themes

1. Prevent

Early intervention provision, including improving public knowledge on domestic and sexual abuse to drive a cultural shift, intervening earlier to prevent and reduce the impact of longer term poor outcomes, and breaking the cycle of abuse across generations.

- There is clear and consistent information is available to the public on domestic and sexual abuse, including practical tools, advice and the support services available.
- There is a need for all services and practitioners to be aware of the signs of domestic and sexual abuse, how to respond to these initially, and where to signpost to for more comprehensive specialist support.
- Promotional campaigns reinforce both what constitutes domestic and sexual abuse and what support services are available and ensuring links are made to appropriate regional and national campaigns.
- Educational programmes are available for children and young people focusing on healthy relationships and developing resilience to help prevent future abusive behaviours.
- There is a quality assured offer of support for children and young people causing harm to help prevent this behaviour escalating.
- Domestic abuse is considered as a routine enquiry by a wide range of agencies and practitioners across Sefton, using a trauma informed approach.
- Activities that focus on supporting positive mental wellbeing to help prevent self-harm and suicide.



Agenda Item 5

2. Protect

Keeping victims/survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and their children safe in a consistent and coordinated way, providing safe and quality assured support services, and challenging the behaviour of perpetrators whilst also offering opportunities to change.

- Victims/survivors and their families have a consistent and effective response from agencies to disclosures of domestic and sexual abuse that helps protect them from further harm.
- Agencies are consistent and effective in recognising and identifying risks associated with domestic and sexual abuse; workers proactively use professional curiosity and take action.
- Organisations have clear and easily accessible policies on domestic abuse to support their employees.
- There are a range of quality assured, evidence-based support services for victims/survivors to ensure work is delivered safely, responds to need, reduces risk and is in partnership with other agencies.
- This includes ensuring victims/survivors with additional vulnerabilities and specific needs can access support that meets their needs – specifically around those with protected characteristics, older people and those with complex lives.
- There is a range of specific support available for children and young people affected by domestic and sexual abuse.
- There is a range of safe accommodation options for victims/survivors of domestic abuse to enable them to leave abusive relationships safely and access the ongoing support they need.
- The behaviour of perpetrators is proactively challenged and held to account in a consistent and appropriate way and there are a range of interventions available to support behaviour change.

- There are effective and efficient multi agency risk management processes, including MARAC and MAPPA, that are regularly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose.

3. Repair

Supporting the development of resilience for families and individuals to move on and deal with future life challenges, providing ongoing support beyond crisis intervention.

- Provision of a range of ongoing support for victims/survivors and children to reduce the impact of abuse and to recover from trauma.
- Provision of wider support opportunities for perpetrators of domestic abuse to sustain positive behaviour change long term.
- Criminal justice interventions achieve positive outcomes for victims/survivors to support them to move on with their lives.
- A wide range of organisations that can provide ongoing community based support for individuals and families based on their needs.





Agenda Item 5

12. Outcomes

Based on the objectives outlined above, this strategy seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Service providers and front line staff are equipped to recognise and respond to domestic and sexual abuse.
- Information about the support available for domestic and sexual abuse victims/ survivors is clear, consistent, and accessible.
- Our community is educated as to what domestic and sexual abuse is, and what services are available in Sefton.
- Sefton residents feel confident and able to report incidents of domestic and sexual abuse.
- Consistent processes and systems are in place to respond appropriately to domestic and sexual abuse.
- Victims/survivors and their children are offered person centred support to address their specific needs.
- Perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse are dealt with appropriately.
- Repeat incidents of domestic and sexual abuse are reduced.



13. Monitoring and Measuring the Impact

Sefton's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will be responsible for the monitoring of the Strategy and will oversee the development of a Strategy Action Plan and Performance Framework which will set out the detail of how the priorities will be delivered. Service providers and front line staff are equipped to recognise and respond to domestic and sexual abuse.

- Information about the support available for domestic and sexual abuse victims/ survivors is clear, consistent, and accessible.
- Our community is educated as to what domestic and sexual abuse is, and what services are available in Sefton.
- Sefton residents feel confident and able to report incidents of domestic and sexual abuse.
- Consistent processes and systems are in place to respond appropriately to domestic and sexual abuse.
- Victims/survivors and their children are offered person centred support to address their specific needs.
- Perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse are dealt with appropriately.
- Repeat incidents of domestic and sexual abuse are reduced.

14. Further Information

Local Strategies and Plans

Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment August 2022

Safer Sefton Together Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Safeguarding Sefton's Children: Level of Need Guidance

Children and Young People's Plan 2020-2025

Sefton Integrated Early Help Strategy for Children, Young People and Families 2020-2025

Sefton Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-26

Sefton Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Strategic Plan 2022-24

Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023

Sefton Housing Strategy 2022-2027

Appendix A - Definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Section 1: Definition of “domestic abuse”

(1) This section defines “domestic abuse” for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are “personally connected” to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive.

(3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

(4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to —

- (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- (b) obtain goods or services.

(5) For the purposes of this Act, A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).

(6) References in this Act to being abusive towards another person are to be read in accordance with this section.

(7) For the meaning of “personally connected”, see section 2.

Section 2: Definition of “personally connected”

(1) Two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies —

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;

(c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);

(d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated); (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;

(f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));

(g) they are relatives.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(f) a person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if —

(a) the person is a parent of the child, or;

(b) the person has parental responsibility for the child.

(3) In this section —

“child” means a person under the age of 18 years;

“civil partnership agreement” has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004;

“parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989;

“relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

Section 3: Children as victims of domestic abuse (1) This section applies where behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is domestic abuse. (2) Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who – (a) sees or hears, or experiences the effect of, the abuse, and (b) is related to A or B. (3) A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if – (a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or (b) the child and the person are relatives. (4) In this section – “child” means person under the age of 18 years; “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act); “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted?msclid=de30bb11b4ea11ecab99844c5b3e2ec2>

Agenda Item 5

Authorised by

Sefton
Domestic and Sexual
Abuse Strategy
Action Plan
2023-2028

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Contents

Foreword	3
 Leadership & Governance	4
 Prevent	7
 Protect & Repair	11
 Children & Young People	16

Foreword by Councillor Trish Hardy Chair of Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board



Councillor Trish Hardy

Welcome to Sefton's 2022-2027 Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy. This is the third version of this strategy and it reiterates our commitment and priority for tackling domestic and abuse at all levels across Sefton. It builds on the previous partnership work we have been doing over the past 7 years and includes the duties outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021).

The issue of domestic and sexual abuse has rightly continued to grow in recognition both locally and nationally, including additional resources via the Government and the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner role. These resources are welcome but we know more needs to be invested in services to ensure those affected by domestic and sexual abuse get the support they need.

Sefton's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is responsible for overseeing Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic and sexual abuse. One of its key priorities over the past year has been to complete a local Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment so we have an up to date picture of what we already have in place and what areas we need to develop. This piece of work has helped inform the update of this strategy. An important part of the needs assessment was to hear directly from local victims and survivors of domestic abuse so their voice and experiences are an integral element within the development and delivery of all services and systems associated with tackling domestic abuse. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all the victims and survivors who took part and shared their views. We will continue to look at how we can develop the ways victims and survivors can continue to be involved in this work.

Leadership and Governance -

Ensuring that the Sefton Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership has an effective structure and membership that is fit for purpose and can develop and ensure delivery of the strategy.

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
1	To agree the structure of the Partnership with a Sefton Implementation Board and four 'Task and Finish' groups that are responsible for particular areas of the strategy.	DA Act 2021	Membership of the Implementation Group and Task and Finish groups are fit for purpose with appropriate representation and input from all agencies and groups including service users.	Chair of the Partnership to write to suggested representatives to invite them to sit on the Implementation Board. Board to then be established.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Implementation Group and Task and Finish Groups set up and appointed lead officer to report back to the partnership. Progress of the strategy escalated and reported to the DA Commissioner.	May-23	
2	Raise awareness of the Partnership led review of Domestic Abuse and establish a way forward with the recommendations.	DA Act 2021	All relevant Boards fully aware of the review and their role in taking forward the recommendations.	Lead Officer to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to attend various groups e.g. Community Safety Board, Children's young People Board, Adult Safeguarding Board, Children's Safeguarding Board, Health & Wellbeing Board, to highlight and take forward the recommendations from the Partnership led review.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Connectivity and regular reporting mechanisms between various boards is established. Comms strategy created	Sep-23	
3	Review the Terms of Reference for the Partnership.	DA Act 2021	Provide clarity around the role and purpose of the partnership and how it operates.	In consultation with all partnership members agree revised Terms of Reference document.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	TOR Document agreed at next Partnership Board in May 2023. All partners clear on the role and purpose of the DAPB	May-23	
4	Develop an annual reporting framework for the Partnership.	DA Act 2021	All stakeholders are updated on achievements and activities to date, and are able to plan activity for the next 12 months.	Produce an annual report for stakeholders on the partnerships membership, priorities, actions and activity to date based on the report developed by the LSCB.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Annual Report produced by September 2023. Comms Strategy in place. Partnership awareness of performance which is disseminated through the partner organisations.	Sep-23	
5	Develop and agree partnership branding.	Good Practice	The partnership has a clear and recognisable identity.	Agree a new partnership logo that can be used on all partnership documentation.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Branding established. Comms Strategy in place	May-23	
6	Develop a Victim Survivor focus group that helps shape DA survivors and ensures victims/survivors are at the heart of everything we do	DA Act 2021	An expert by experience group is formed that uses membership from previous resilience building programmes that will represent victims/survivors views on the LDAPB, help shape future services and deliver ongoing support for fellow victim/survivors.	Develop and support group.	Implementation Group	An expert by experience group is formed in 2023. Service User voice is embedded in strategy development	Dec-23	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
7	To develop a commissioning sub group for 3rd sector providers. This group will be informed and report to the DVA Implementation Group	Good Practice	Separate commissioning group which will support the implementation of the action plan. The group will gain best value whilst retaining measurable and effective outcomes for residents of Sefton	Work in partnership with Sefton's Executive Commissioning Group to develop a commissioning model for Sefton	Commissioning Group	Commissioning Group Set up and commissioning plan in place	May-23	
	To develop a reporting framework with the Health and Wellbeing Board and other relevant partners.	Good Practice	The Health and Wellbeing Board and other relevant partners receive reports on progress of the Action Plan within timescales and in a format that has been agreed with them.	Provide agreed reports within agreed timescales	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Health & Well Being Board assured of progress	Sep-23	
8	To ensure relevant links and cross overs are made with other strategies e.g. LSCB, Health & Wellbeing, , Child Poverty strategies.	Good Practice	On-going quarterly meetings and engagement with other Partnership Managers via the Partnership Managers Meetings.	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board representation on the Sefton's Partnership Group chaired by Yet to be established	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Work of DAPB visible across other Partnerships. Comms Strategy in place	Sep-23	
9	To review current arrangements within the SDAPB for the management and recording of all domestic abuse issues.	Good Practice	Recommendations to be produced that clarifies and strengthens the SDAPB reporting domestic abuse arrangements.	This will include the identification and review of established practices, such as attendance at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. As domestic abuse is not limited to any particular group or class, and is found to occur across the whole social spectrum, the report will seek to encompass issues arising for not only service users across the partnership, but also staff members.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	To be included in the SDAPB annual report. Assurance that emerging themes are identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity.	Sep-23	
10	To develop a Communications Strategy for the Partnership.	Good Practice	Awareness raised of the work of the partnership and the causes of domestic abuse. Increased reporting of domestic abuse and more responsible media reporting.	Utilise the press and other media to raise awareness of the causes of domestic abuse, encouraging responsible reporting and ensuring that press messages are not purely criminal justice focussed.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Communications Strategy and awareness raising plan produced	Sep-23	
11	To develop a Risk Register to monitor progress of the Action Plan.	Good Practice	Potential risks and threats to delivery of the Action Plan are identified and mitigating actions are put into place where required.	Develop a Risk Register and consult all Partnership members with their views on potential risks to delivery.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Risk Register produced and updated for each DAPB to provide transparency that risks to service delivery are being highlighted and mitigated.	May-23	
12	To undertake an biennial needs assessment for Domestic Abuse service provision.	DA Act 2021	All partners have a clear understanding of the level of need and resources required for services in Sefton The Partnership is able to plan the use of its resources effectively.	Update needs assessment submission biennially.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Needs Assessment updated biennially. Services will meet need effectively	Apr-24	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
13	To arrange a peer review of Sefton partnerships approach to DVA.	Good Practice	The Partnership receives an independent perspective on how the Partnership operates including its strengths and areas for possible improvement.	Peer Review to be carried out by December 2023 by other LA or identified 3rd Sector agency	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Peer Review completed and reported back by December 2023. Our services will have a clear view of performance and areas for development.	Dec-23	
14	The Partnership has adopted the Home Office definition of domestic violence and abuse	DA Act 2021	Partnership using the Home Office definition.	Partnership adopts Home Office definition and ensures there is a common understanding of it across agencies. The partnership report back to the O&S Committee	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Testing to see if definition included in training materials and has a common understanding and clarity across the partnership	Apr-24	
15	The Chair of the domestic violence and abuse partnership Implementation Group should periodically report progress made in tackling domestic abuse to the O&S Committee.	Good Practice	Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular comprehensive updates on the progress made in tackling domestic abuse.	Produce reports on progress every 6 months.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Reports produced to O&S to ensure effective scrutiny of the work of the partnership.	Sep-23	
16	Where commissioning opportunities arise, the Partnership will look to do this jointly to extract maximum value from limited resources. A pooled budget will also be established to facilitate and provide a focus for joint working.	Good Practice	Pooled budget established and held by the partnership.	The partnership will highlight any gap in provision for discussion at the Implementation board. The pooled budget to be held with new commissioning sub group	Commissioning Group	Commissioning undertaken using pooled budget. Partnership resources are used effectively	Apr-24	
17	Partners will develop common data standards and ensure that these are adopted, monitored and managed.	Good Practice	All partners agree a minimum data standard to collect, share and report on their own data.	The partnership will identify those agencies not currently reporting and highlight this to the O&S Committee.	Implementation Group	Consistent data collection and sharing established across the partnership. Data collected will be meaningful and used to develop services.	Sep-23	
18	The Partnership will investigate ways of domestic abuse and sexual violence collecting data about the overall success of interventions from the victims perspective.	Needs Assessment	An understanding across the partnership of the effectiveness of interventions.	Initial Scoping exercise to be done with the new health IDVAs on how this information could be captured. This could then inform how to collect this information from other services.	Health IDVAs	Test of concept around data collection completed by Health IDVAs. Service user feedback and voice is embedded in service design.	Sep-23	
19	Implementation board to review the Action Plan and prioritise actions for delivery.	DA Act 2021	All actions are appropriately prioritised and all partners are clear on which actions to work on delivering first.	Implementation Board to review and prioritise all actions and inform all other Task and Finish Group Chairs of the order of priorities.	Implementation Group	Action plan reviewed and reported at each SDAPB meeting. The strategy is successfully implemented.	May-24	

Prevent -

Early intervention provision, including improving public knowledge on domestic and sexual abuse to drive a cultural shift, intervening earlier to prevent and reduce the impact of longer term poor outcomes, and breaking the cycle of abuse across generations.

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
1	There is clear and consistent information is available to the public on domestic and sexual abuse, including practical tools, advice and the support services available	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of information both written, online and e-learning modules and helpline are available for all that live or work in Sefton.	A blended, building block, learning approach with a resource available and accessible to everyone that works and lives in Sefton. IT offer needs working up.	T & F Group 1	An increase in people's awareness of DA and the support services available. Biennially needs assessment data and feedback from experts by experience group, surveys, as proof.	Dec-23	
2	There is a need for all services and practitioners to be aware of the signs of domestic and sexual abuse, how to respond to these initially, and where to signpost to for more comprehensive specialist support.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of information both written, online and e-learning modules and helpline are available for all that live and work in Sefton. Staff are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence in what to do when receiving a DA disclosure	A blended, building block, learning approach with a resource available to enable workforce development across the partnership and further. Workforce Development project to be delivered in conjunction with SSAB Sub Group.	T & F Group 1	An increase in staff across the partnership and further, have differing levels of knowledge of Domestic Abuse dependent on their role. A reduction in the common themes being apparent in DHR learning	May-24	
3	Promotional campaigns reinforce both what constitutes domestic and sexual abuse and what support services are available and ensuring links are made to appropriate regional and national campaigns.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	Linked to Item 1 & 2	Develop our own local campaigns via the various PR & Comms Teams across the partnership and promote/ take part regional and national campaigns. LDAPB & Sefton Comms Team	T & F Group 1	An increase in engagement linked to priorities 1 & 2		
4	Educational programmes are available for children and young people focusing on healthy relationships and developing resilience to help prevent future abusive behaviours.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of educational sessions using a variety of programmes such as Expect Respect Toolkit, Recovery Toolkit, Hope to Recovery and Freedom Flowers as a free offer to all schools and colleges in Sefton.	Commission a provider to work in schools and with pastoral teams to roll a blended learning offer out as a free offer to all schools and colleges in Sefton. New service provider	T & F Group 1	A reduction in children progressing from Level 1 through to Level 4 with DA prevalent in their case	May-24	
5	There is a quality assured offer of support for children and young people causing harm to help prevent this behaviour escalating.	Needs Assessment	A scale up of current CoPVA programme in order to reach more households. Design clearer referral/access pathways and awareness raising of the subject	Place current commission on a longer term more secure financial footing and allow for scale up. New service provider	T & F Group 1	A reduction in repeat cases referred through to CoPVA services	May-24	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
6	Domestic abuse is considered as a routine enquiry by a wide range of agencies and practitioners across Sefton, using a trauma informed approach.	Needs Assessment	Linked to Item 1 & 2 - ensure that selective or routine enquiry are established across the partnership and beyond and that frontline practitioners adopt a trauma informed approach to practice	Trauma informed practice becomes the norm across the partnership.	T & F Group 1 & SSAB SSCP Training Sub-Groups	Increase in individuals accessing DA services at an earlier stage.		
7	Activities that focus on supporting positive mental wellbeing to help prevent self harm and suicide.	DHR Learning	Recognition round the linkages between DA and suicide. Equip frontline professionals with the skills, knowledge and confidence to recognise risks. Develop a risk stratification model to identify those at risk. Develop a number of tools including self help tools to support those at risk	Complete this work as part of a wider approach to suicide prevention with suicide prevention group.	T & F Group 1 and Suicide Prevention Group	More individuals accessing help, reduction in DA related suicides	Sep-24	
8	To ensure that service users inform the development and delivery of awareness material and campaigns. (links to action 1.6 of this Plan)	DA Act 2021	Service user engagement and input in developing materials.	Work with Fully integrated commissioned provider	T & F Group 1	Experts by experience group co-design, co-produce and co-deliver materials	May-24	
9	To agree a framework for targeting work that ensures information reaches diverse groups Travellers, Learning Disabilities, Older People, LGBT+ and other ethnic groups, and identified hidden groups.	DA Act 2021	Vulnerable and diverse groups identified, targeted and awareness in these groups raised - 'hidden groups' cease to be hidden.	Work with relevant agencies and services to identify who the hidden groups are. Audit current publicity materials to ensure are available and accessible to all diverse groups. Research range of material available from Government, charities and voluntary organisations. Write new material for dissemination as applicable. Carry out public survey to ascertain current attitudes. Setup and launch a DV helpline and website to be investigated. Timely awareness campaigns run. Appropriate telephone support available. Website developed to provide accessible and up to date information. Use by and for groups for service delivery.	T & F Group 1 , specialist services, by and for groups	Hidden Groups cease to be hidden	Sep-25	
10	Develop a reduction of harm pack for GP surgeries across Sefton	DHR Learning	All GP safeguarding leads have received reduction of harm pack.	Harm reduction pack includes awareness and care pathway materials from IDVA, SWACA, IFD and MARAC	T & F Group 1 - GP Safeguarding Leads	Reduction in harm packs provided	Dec-23	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
11	Develop the Domestic Violence and Abuse pages of the Sefton's website.	Needs Assessment	SDAPB Microsite developed hosted on the Sefton website containing relevant information and contacts to enable visitors to the site to access the most up to date and useful information.	Research relevant and appropriate information to be added to the website including production of a Sefton wide Domestic Abuse Directory of Services and include relevant links.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Microsite and content developed and kept up to date	Sep-23	
12	To adopt a tool to help the non-specialist workforce with screening/ identification/ referral/ advice/ signposting.	DHR Learning	Tool available and disseminated to identified non-specialist workforce. Linked to 2.2	Research and disseminate appropriate tools for use by non specialist workforce. Update and utilise the Sefton Council website as a source of information.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Microsite and content developed and kept up to date containing tools and advice for non-specialist workforce	Sept 23 and ongoing	
13	Concise information on support services for domestic abuse and sexual violence distributed across Sefton	Needs Assessment	Partner agencies have a clear understanding of support services available across Sefton	Existing A5 laminate on support services available across Sefton is updated and distributed across partner agencies.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Easily printable pdfs contained within the microsite	Sept 23 and ongoing	
14	To audit current training packages for domestic abuse resulting in a plan regarding which standardised packages to use for which audience. (Inc. training to universal, targeted and specialist workforce)	DHR Learning	Current training packages audited and DVA trainers forum established linked to 2.1 and 2.2	Domestic Abuse Prevention Education & Training Coordinator to scope all Sefton DVA training and establish and chair DVA trainers forum.	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Audit completed and forum established	Dec-23	
15	To introduce and implement a modular training package across the Sefton to ensure that delivery is consistent.	DHR Learning	Foundational DVA Awareness training in situ with specialised modules available as need identified e.g. for sexual violence, health, for police, for drug & alcohol services, MARAC, early years, education etc. Linked to 2.2	DV trainers forum established to work in line with identified strategic aims. Training plan delivered to Cabinet and Children's Service Management Team etc.	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	
16	To deliver an agreed number of training sessions throughout Sefton to a consistent, measurable standard.	DHR Learning	Agreed number of training sessions delivered and evaluated.	Develop foundational awareness training and modular specialist add-ons. Standardised evaluation and assessment tool developed for trainers to use to assess training delivered.	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	
17	To implement a framework for auditing training outcomes on workforce/ agency performance following training.	DHR Learning	Training outcomes audited	Framework established & follow up surveys re effectiveness developed and use of identified tools completed and submitted monitored	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
18	To consider the development of a 'Brief Intervention' training e.g. e-learning	DHR Learning	E learning package available to all front line staff sefton wide	Work in partnership to agree package. Package sourced/commissioned	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	
19	To encourage managers of non specialist services to prioritise training within their agency and ensure that training is refreshed periodically and new staff are trained in a timely manner.	DHR Learning	Increased uptake of training by diverse/wide range of non-specialist services	Liaise with identified agencies to promote, encourage and raise awareness of need for induction & periodic refresher training	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	
20	To increase the knowledge base of members of the Partnership on domestic violence and abuse	DHR Learning	All Partnership members have a good general awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and sexual violence in order for them to make more informed decisions.	Utilise and expand a future Partnership Implementation Board to run training sessions for all members on domestic violence and abuse	DVA Trainers Forum linked to SSAB & SSCP Learning & Development Sub groups	Building Block approach to training for workforce developed in place and a programme/calendar of sessions in place	Dec 23 and on going	
21	To draft a Strategy on engaging local businesses with the domestic violence and abuse partnership.	Needs Assessment	A clear Strategy in place for the Sefton and local businesses engaged.	The Strategy will aim to encourage employers to act on domestic abuse and sexual violence incidents. Support them with any necessary training and with writing policies. Utilise them to cascade out information. Offer volunteering opportunities for survivors to support this work.	T & F Group 1 & Integrated service provider	Engage with business to support in DA training and policies and procedures	May-24	
22	Explore how twitter and other media opportunities work and how the partnership could utilise this. Investigate any other information portals used by GPs / health professionals.	Needs Assessment	Increased awareness of domestic abuse issues and support through utilising this site. Linked to 2.11 and 2.12	Explore with Comms	T & F Group 1	Develop communication streams using Social Media and possibly an App	May-24	

Protect -

Keeping victims/survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and their children safe in a consistent and coordinated way, providing safe and quality assured support services, and challenging the behaviour of perpetrators whilst also offering opportunities to change.

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
1	Victims/survivors and their families have a consistent and effective response from agencies to disclosures of domestic and sexual abuse that helps protect them from further harm.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A fully integrated offer for all victims/survivors is available irrespective of risk rating. The offer should include risk assessment, safety planning, needs assessment and be led by the victim/survivor. The offer should include therapeutic counselling and resilience building support and be delivered from a trauma informed practice perspective	Commission a new service	Commissioning Group	There will be positive feedback from service users and reduced repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse as resilience and understanding is created	Sep-23	
2	Agencies are consistent and effective in recognising and identifying risks associated with domestic and sexual abuse; workers proactively use professional curiosity and take action.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	Staff are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence in what to do when receiving a DA disclosure	A blended, building block, learning approach with a resource available to enable workforce development across the partnership and further. Workforce Development project to be delivered in conjunction with SSAB Sub Group.	T & F Group 1	An increase in staff across the partnership and further, have differing levels of knowledge of Domestic Abuse dependent on their role. A wider range of appropriate source referrals from partnership organisation are received at MARAC and into DA services.	May-24	
3	Organisations have clear and easily accessible policies on domestic abuse to support their employees.	Needs Assessment	Advice and guidance to roll out effective DA HR Policies across the partnership, organisations and beyond	Create a baseline offer with SSAB workforce development group and roll out across the partnership	T & F Group 1	HR DA policies are in place across Sefton organisations.	Dec-23	
4	There are a range of quality assured, evidence-based support services for victims/survivors to ensure work is delivered safely, responds to need, reduces risk and is in partnership with other agencies.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of support, including safety planning, risk reduction, therapeutic counselling and resilience building support and should be provided as part of an integrated approach to Domestic Abuse	Commission a new service - Sefton Council	Commissioning Group	There will be positive feedback from service users and reduced repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse as resilience and understanding is created	Sep-23	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
5	Ensuring victims/ survivors with additional vulnerabilities and specific needs can access support that meets their needs – specifically around those with protected characteristics, older people and those with complex lives.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of support, including safety planning, risk reduction, therapeutic counselling and resilience building support is provided as part of an integrated approach to Domestic Abuse. The offer should be made irrespective of who the victim/survivor is and any protected characteristics. The Victim should be at the heart of everything that happens to them.	Commission a new service - Sefton Council	Commissioning Group	There will be positive feedback from service users and reduced repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse as resilience and understanding is created. Victims with additional vulnerabilities or protected characteristics are supported.	Sep-23	
6	There is a range of specific support available for children and young people affected by domestic and sexual abuse.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of support, including safety planning, risk reduction, therapeutic counselling and resilience building support is provided as part of an integrated approach to Domestic Abuse	Commission a new service - Sefton Council	Commissioning Group	There will be positive feedback from service users (children and Young People) and reduced repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse as resilience and understanding is created. Children and Young people access services and receive support.	Sep-23	
7	"There is a range of safe accommodation options for victims/survivors of domestic abuse to enable them to leave abusive relationships safely and access the ongoing support they need."	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of accommodation options is available to victims/ survivors of domestic abuse that are covered under the safe accommodation criteria of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Work with RPs across Sefton and possibly LCR to develop a range of accommodation offers including Refuge, dispersed accommodation and sanctuary schemes. Sefton Council Housing Strategy Team	T & F Group 2	A wider range of accommodation offers are available than currently. Homelessness due to Da is reduced	Sep-24	
8	The behaviour of perpetrators is proactively challenged and held to account in a consistent and appropriate way and there are a range of interventions available to support behaviour change.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	A range of perpetrator programmes and behaviour change programmes are available for those that are willing to change their behaviour. A range of support measures for current partners and ex-partners are put in place throughout attendance on these programmes as risk increases.	Develop a range of Behaviour Change and Perpetrator programmes. These in addition to the statutory programmes managed by the Probation Service.	T & F Group 2	A range of programmes both statutory and voluntarily are available	Dec-23	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
9	There are effective and efficient multi agency risk management processes, including MARAC and MAPPA, that are regularly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose.	Needs Assessment & DHR Learning	MARAC & MAPPA are an effective risk management process and are quality assessed regularly. Consideration should be given to developing MATAAC (linked to item 8) and other ad-hoc problem solving risk management meetings.	MARAC regularly reviewed by MARAC Steering Group & T & F Group 2. MAPPA regularly reviewed by Ministry of Justice Investigate whether MATAAC should be developed Implementation Group	Implementation Group T & F Group 2	Annual reviews undertaken and reported back to Implementation Group / LDAPB	Sep-25	
10	Provision of a range of ongoing support for victims/survivors and children to reduce the impact of abuse and to recover from trauma.	Needs Assessment DHR Learning Ofsted Inspection	A range of support, including safety planning, risk reduction, therapeutic counselling and resilience building support is provided as part of an integrated approach to Domestic Abuse	Commission a new service - Sefton Council	Commissioning Group	A new service is commissioned in 2023. That will provide a range of support mechanisms to reduce impact and recovery.	Sep-23	
11	Provision of wider support opportunities for perpetrators of domestic abuse to sustain positive behaviour change long term.	Needs Assessment	A range of perpetrator programmes and behaviour change programmes are available for those that are willing to change their behaviour. A range of support measures for current partners and ex-partners are put in place throughout attendance on these programmes as risk increases.	Develop a range of Behaviour Change and Perpetrator programmes. These in addition to the statutory programmes managed by the National Probation Service. Sefton LDAPB	T & F Group 2	A range of programmes both statutory and voluntarily are available	Sep-23	
12	Criminal justice interventions achieve positive outcomes for victims/survivors to support them to move on with their lives.	Needs Assessment	Use a range of enforcement powers available to the partnership in order to protect victims/survivors wherever possible	A blended approach of support for victims/survivors and enforcement against perpetrators of harmful behaviour that is victim centred. LDAPB	T & F Group 2	An increase in enforcement action with more innovative use of enforcement powers taken. An increase in DA convictions for perpetrators	Sept 23 and ongoing	
13	A wide range of organisations that can provide ongoing community based support for individuals and families based on their needs.	Needs Assessment	A network of community based support organisations that provide support to increase resilience once DA interventions are complete	Develop a network of organisations that provide generic family support once DA interventions are complete. LDAPB	T & F Group 2	Resilience of families is increased and repeat referrals are reduced.	Sept 23 and ongoing	
14	To hold an annual specialist domestic violence and abuse practitioner and interested professionals forum.	DHR Learning	Front line workers and interested professionals meet to share information and effective practice.	Organisation of an annual forum.	Steve Martlew as Lead Officer to the Partnership	Annual Festival of Practice is held	Apr-24	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
15	To increase the delivery of support and interventions for victims and offenders by Health providers.	Good Practice	Embed 2 full time health IDVAs in Southport & Ormskirk Hospital and develop clear referral pathways	Roll out of health IDVAs project across wider hospital footprint	Implementation Group T & F Group 2	Establish Health IDVA network	Dec 23 and on going	
16	To collate, promote and embed best practice on addressing domestic abuse and sexual violence.	DHR Learning	Partnership is more innovative and informed of best practice.	Gather and disseminate case studies. Utilise the Sefton microsite as a tool for sharing best practice examples. Include best practice as a standing agenda item on all T&F Groups.	Implementation Group	Good Practice briefings are disseminated	Sept 23 and on going	
17	To develop the opportunity for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence to come together and benefit from mutual peer support.	DA Act 2021	Survivors build up support networks and feel less isolated.	Set up network of support groups across Sefton - led by Experts by experience group	Experts by experience and new Commissioned provider	Network established	Dec 23 and on going	
18	To explore the support options to victims attending court.	DA Panel	Increased support to victims going to court (criminal, county and Family Court).	Identify the support options currently available and ensure that victims can access the support. Embed DA Support at IFD	Implementation Group T & F Group 2	Establish current support mechanisms and increase support offer. Reduction in failed (cracked) court hearings	Dec 23 and on going	
20	To identify appropriate domestic abuse champions in relevant agencies.	DHR Learning	All relevant agencies have a single point of contact to champion the issue of domestic abuse and to disseminate information across their agency as required.	Produce a role description of an effective domestic abuse champion and provide support to them as required. Produce a map of all domestic abuse champions across the Sefton	Implementation Group T & F Group 2	Champion Network established	Dec 23 and on going	
21	Explore the possibility of getting local businesses to become Safe Places e.g. pharmacies and dentists.	Good Practice	Increased support for domestic violence and abuse by local businesses becoming Safe Places.	Explore getting local businesses on board with this action. Offer training and support where required on domestic abuse awareness and zero tolerance. Utilise them as a place to disseminate information on available support services across Sefton	T & F Group 2	Network of safe places established	May-24	
22	Raise awareness of domestic abuse across faith based groups.	Needs Assessment	Faith based groups are aware of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Sefton and can help to promote their availability and contact details.	Offer volunteering opportunities to survivors to support this work. Disseminate information to faith groups. Explore ways for front line services and faith based groups to work together.	T & F Group 2	Faith Groups linked into the Champion network	May-24	
23	To extend prevention work by the use of outreach services	Good Practice	Greater prevention of domestic violence and abuse and fewer victims of these crimes.	Outreach services will meet and produce a plan to develop preventative work and build capacity in our communities to combat domestic abuse.	T & F Group 2	Number of DA incidents reduces	Dec-24	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
24	To develop a process to monitor the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes across Sefton and to encourage its use by all agencies operating perpetrator programmes.	Ofsted Report	An understanding gathered of the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes in Sefton. Evaluation of these programmes to assist in gathering effective practice and identifying any need for improvements.	Develop and evaluate the process via monitoring of the Caring Dads pilot	T & F Group 2	Linked to 3.8 a range of evaluated perpetrator programmes exist	Sep-23	
25	To develop and embed clear thresholds for support and intervention (in line with the Threshold Document) for children and young people at risk of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence across all tiers of need for children and young people aged 0-18.	Ofsted Report	That there is a coherent range of preventative interventions and an appropriate and protective safeguarding response to children affected by DVA or That assessment and interventions with children/YP at risk of domestic abuse are embedded within the wider context of safeguarding and early intervention in Sefton	Mapping of all services for children and young people at risk of domestic abuse across Sefton at preventative level schools; localities; community health; CAMH.	T & F Group 2	A reduction in children progressing from Level 1 through to Level 4 with DA prevalent in their case	Sep-23	
26	To set up a voluntary sector forum to support the work of the partnership.	Good Practice	Voluntary sector given an opportunity to engage with the work of the partnership.	To recognise the value of the voluntary sector and to seek their engagement in delivery of the action plan. Explore the potential of the voluntary sector to bring in funding.	T & F Group 2	Linked to 3.22 and Faith network	May-24	
27	To pilot the Whole family approaches to DVA	DA National Panel	Delivery and evaluation of a whole family approach	Source relevant resources, deliver pilot in areas of highest need and evaluate	T & F Group 2	Carry out pilot and evaluate Whole Family Approach	Dec-24	

Children and Young People:

Improving and extending support and interventions for children and young people affected by domestic abuse / sexual violence. (Stated as a gap in the 2008/11 strategy and highlighted in the JSNA).

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
1	To map across Sefton the responses and interventions offered to Children and young people effected by to DVA by schools; localities; children's social care; health visiting; school nursing; CAMH and the voluntary sector	Ofsted Inspection	That there is a clear picture of this which will inform service planning and identify any gaps		T & F Group 2	Audit Completed	May-23	
2	Creation of a multi-agency DVA team to support better practice with those affected by DVA	Ofsted Inspection	New team will lead on practice improvement and implementation of new ways of working. This is in response to practice gaps highlighted in recent OFSTED inspections	T&F group to co-ordinate the structure and membership of the team. This will include IDVA, Mens worker and other relevant services.	T & F Group 2	Team in situ	May-23	
3	To ensure there are clear protocols and practice guidance in place to enhance understanding of process and support multi-agency work of all those working with adults and children/ YP at risk of domestic violence and abuse	Ofsted Inspection	That operational staff are supported in making appropriate referrals, assessments and interventions with CYP at risk of DA and Violence by clear up to date practice guidance and protocol.	Review of LSCB DV protocol. Embedding of use of CAADA risk and Barnardo's risk assessment tool in the IFD. Review of all procedures and protocols by LSCB PPP sub-group post Working Together revision. Revision to MOSI and CSC thresholds document.	T & F Group 2	Review and recommendations completed	May-23	
4	To develop and deliver flexible service provision for C&YP which facilitates engagement (i.e. location/ opening times/ method and approach) through awareness-raising activities and training of staff.	Ofsted Inspection	That children and YP received effective support and intervention, and that the impact of this can be measured. That there is an increase in CYP that can access either individually or in groups.	Gaining feedback of service users – ongoing development by LSCB Communication and Engagement T and F Group. Mapping exercise and LSCB QEG DA audit to measure existing services and gaps. Considering work in different communities e.g. children from Eastern Europe. DA training T and F Group – new DA training framework.	T & F Group 2	Mapping exercise completed and training framework established	Sep-23	

No.	Priority	Why is this a priority?	What will we deliver?	How will we deliver it?	Who is responsible?	How will we know we've been successful?	What are the key milestones & Completion Date?	Progress RAG Rated
5	To foster a commitment to multi-agency working across all partner agencies working with children and young people at risk of domestic abuse/ sexual violence.	Ofsted Inspection	That information/intelligence is shared consistently and appropriately across the multi-agency network at all stages of agency involvement so that partnership work is consistent across Sefton	LSCB multi-agency training and procedures. CAF framework – ongoing review. Audit activity – LSCB/ CSC ‘step-down’ audit. LSCB QEG DA Audit to reflect 'journey of DA cases.	T & F Group 2	Audit activity underway and recommendations made	May 23 and on going	
6	To work with all schools (including academies) to promote preventative interventions and approaches in the curriculum (this may be covered in the ‘awareness’ or ‘training’ strategic aims) This needs to include a focus on safe relationships including appropriate sexual behaviour. There should be a standardised training package for teachers Linked to 2.4	Ofsted Inspection	That there is a consistent and agreed Sefton response to CYP at risk of domestic abuse and violence in all schools in Sefton .	Mapping exercise as per 4.1	T & F Group 2	Consistent approach with Sefton schools in place as per 2.4	May 24 and on going	

Agenda Item 5

Authorised by

Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	19 September 2023
Subject:	Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Programme		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities & Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

In June 2022 this committee considered a paper relating to the Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Project Pilot. A request was made for a follow up report on the project and this paper provides an update for committee on work which has taken place since June 2022.

Recommendation(s):

That the contents of this report be noted and the approach which is being taken be endorsed.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing has recommended that the successful outcomes of this project be presented to this Committee for scrutiny.

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The current pilot is being funded primarily via Flexible Homeless Support Grant.

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

(B) Capital Costs

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

Implications of the Proposals:

Agenda Item 6

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): If this model were to be mainstreamed this would require a budget to be identified in order to fund the delivery of it.</p>								
<p>Legal Implications: None</p>								
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</p>								
<p>Impact on Children and Young People: Yes</p> <p>The impact on children and young people is a positive one as the project looks to provide and sustain housing for a complex family, with various agencies and services linked into that support the children of these parents housed by Riverside.</p>								
<p>Climate Emergency Implications:</p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </table> <p>The project has a neutral impact on the climate through the use of Riverside's existing stock rather than new build.</p>	Have a positive impact	N	Have a neutral impact	Y	Have a negative impact	N	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
Have a positive impact	N							
Have a neutral impact	Y							
Have a negative impact	N							
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y							

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Those who are homeless, and those at risk of becoming homeless are among the most vulnerable in society.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Through the intervention by the Council and its partners at the most critical moment when residents are homeless or at the risk of becoming homeless in order to prevent further reliance on public sector support in the future.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The delivery of a service which is based on the needs of some of the most vulnerable in society.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: Through the creation of settled sustainable communities</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: Through the understanding of the needs of the most vulnerable in society and change and reform of services in order to meet those needs.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Help to relieve rough sleeping and homelessness in Sefton has a wide-ranging positive impact for those most vulnerable in society by providing residents with the most basic form of need; housing.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment:</p>

The initial pilot was partly been funded from social investment funding but this contract is now fully funded through the Flexible Homeless Support Fund.

Cleaner Greener

N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7330) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5530/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Cabinet Member - Communities & Housing has been briefed continually regarding both the pilot and contract award.

(B) External Consultations

Riverside have consulted with Officers of the Council and a consultation with the families involved in this pilot was undertaken as part of the pilot's Evaluation Report

Contact Officer:	Graham Parry
Telephone Number:	0151 934 3927
Email Address:	graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

No Appendices

Background Papers:

The following background papers are available:

[Decision - Dispersed Temporary Accommodation pilot project with Riverside HA](#)

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 One of the actions within Sefton's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-23, is to undertake a strategic review of temporary accommodation in Sefton to ensure that the provision is suitable. At present Sefton's temporary accommodation for families is based in one location, Lonsdale Hostel. However, the provision of just hostel type accommodation for this purpose is now considered out of date, with many councils attempting to provide dispersed supported temporary accommodation models as well as or instead of hostel provision.
- 1.2 On 26th July 2019, Cabinet Member approved the delivery of a service to provide dispersed temporary accommodation and support services for vulnerable households, particularly for those who struggle to access tenancies. The service proposal was for an initial 2-year pilot and was to be funded through the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant up to a maximum cost of £150,000. The scheme went live on 2nd December 2019.

Agenda Item 6

- 1.3 The pilot project a Housing First-style approach to preventing homelessness by providing person-centred support for families to help them sustain a tenancy and prevent them from falling into temporary accommodation or shelters.
- 1.4 The pilot was initially part funded by the Riverside Impact Fund – which aims to provide opportunities to test outcomes-based commissioning models – its mission was to find a new approach to protect and support some of the most vulnerable families in the borough, whilst reducing council expenditure on costly bed and breakfast and other private rented sector accommodation.
- 1.5 The service targeted families with a history of failed tenancies who would benefit from intensive homelessness prevention support.
- 1.6 Families taking part in the pilot were matched with a suitable 2-3 bedroomed home in Sefton, initially on a supported licence agreement (a type of contractual tenancy) with Riverside Housing.
- 1.7 If the family successfully met the conditions of their temporary supported licence agreement, they were able to transition to a regular social housing tenancy with Riverside, at the same property, 12 months later.
- 1.8 As part of the pilot, each family also received twelve months of intensive support from a specialist Riverside support worker. With a minimum of weekly contact including doorstep visits, the support worker helped families to develop the skills they needed to sustain their tenancy, including support around benefits, debt, rent arrears, utilities, health, domestic abuse, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.

2. Evaluation Report

- 2.1 An evaluation of the pilot was carried out by an independent company, Impact Limited, to assess the impact of the pilot.
- 2.2 The Evaluation concluded that without this service, customers' progression to living in independent accommodation would have been much slower. This could have consequences relating to health, wellbeing, family cohesion, etc. The Council believe that customers would, eventually, have secured private rented accommodation if the service had not been available, however, the relative insecurity of the private sector would not have provided the kind of stability families with complex needs require in order to live productive and independent lives. In addition, the relative higher rental costs in the private sector would have created additional challenges for these families because of the cost of living crisis.
- 2.3 The evaluation of the pilot project concluded that it had a profound effect on the stability, wellbeing, and independence of the families taking part.
- 2.4 Of the 37 families involved, only one failed to successfully progress to a regular social housing tenancy with Riverside in Sefton, due to a preference for being housed in a different borough.
- 2.5 Among the 36 families who completed the pilot, all have successfully maintained their tenancies, and there have been no repeat homeless presentations.

2.6 The Evaluation also concluded that the return on investment for every £1 which Sefton Council spent was £3.36. This represents potential public spending costs savings associated with homeless families of £24,394 per family. These reasons were the main drivers for the Council wanting to commission the project for a period of two years.

3. 2-Year Commissioned Service

3.1 Following the successful completion of the project pilot the Council commissioned the Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Project for a further two years from September 2022.

3.2 The Housing Options Team continue to see their Temporary Accommodation costs increase yearly, so a project which represents a positive return on investment, as this does, and also potentially help reduce budgetary spend would be welcomed. As the previous evaluation of the pilot stated, the vulnerable client group that this project helps to rehouse and support, would have experienced an extended stay in temporary accommodation and would not have received the intensive support that has been so transformational.

3.3 The project would see twenty 2/3 bed properties as temporary accommodation with support for 6-12 months, as an alternative to B&B. The service is designed to be a 'step down' from hostel accommodation by providing dispersed accommodation within the community.

3.4 The service supports families with a variety of needs including those who may be considered to have complex needs. These needs may include those who have a chaotic lifestyle, a history of offending, substance misuse problems and mental health problems. The service works in partnership with other agencies, including; Social Services, local landlords and other local statutory and non-statutory services, ensures the family receives the tailored support needed to meet the needs of each family member, making resettlement more achievable and providing a more stable future for the children and entire family unit.

3.5 Ten families would be supported within the first year, with a further ten supported in Year 2 of the contract.

Family	Move In date
Family 1	3.2.2022
Family 2	11.11.2022
Family 3	1.12.2022
Family 4	21.12.2022
Family 5	21.12.2022
Family 6	16.1.2023
Family 7	28.2.2023
Family 8	28.2.2023
Family 9	17.4.2023
Family 10	26.5.2023

Second 10 properties

- Bibby's Lane L20 – family moved in

Agenda Item 6

- Kilburn Street L21 – family moved in
- Ash Grove L21 – family moved in
- Knowsley Road L20
- Riverside Close L20
- Bibby's Lane L20
- Jubilee Road L23
- Falconer Street L20

Two more to be identified as soon as they become available.

- 3.6 Ongoing support is put in place, where needed, to ensure the family's needs are met even when a family has been transferred to a general needs tenancy. This is another factor making the project so successful. Ongoing support can include:
- Money advice
 - Affordable warmth
 - Employment and training
 - Sefton's Floating Support Service and other local partners
 - Riverside Intensive Intervention Service (under 30's)
 - Riverside's Keeping in Touch service.

4. Northern Housing Awards 2023

- 4.1 Following a very successful pilot and recommissioning of the service the project was put forward for the Northern Housing Awards 2023 in the Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness category.



- 4.2 The Northern Housing Awards is a prestigious event supported by the Northern Housing Consortium, and sees entries from a range of housing organisations operating in the north of England, primarily from Local Authorities and Housing Associations.

- 4.3 We are pleased to report to committee that Sefton Council won the Best Initiative for Tackling Homelessness category at this year's Northern Housing Awards for its Riverside Dispersed Accommodation Service and received the award at a ceremony at Old Trafford Cricket Ground on 2nd May 2023.

- 4.4 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.”

- 4.5 Cllr Trish Hardy, Sefton Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing said: “I am delighted that our Sefton Families Service has won this award, it is a

tribute to everyone who has been involved in its development and ongoing management.

“But I am even more delighted that 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.



“We set up the Sefton Families Service in late 2019, as part of our Homelessness Strategy, when there was only temporary hostel accommodation available for

families. People were having to move away from their existing support networks and could face several moves before stable accommodation was offered.

“Now, thanks to the Service, those families can be settled into a potentially permanent home with the support they need around them. This results in a range of tangible benefits, including in terms of health, and provides a stability that helps them put down roots.”

5. Case Studies

- 5.1 The case studies for a selection of six families supported by the Support Worker through this initiative detailing the types of work and support provided are highlighted below:

Family A –

XX and her children moved into our dispersed accommodation on the 3/10/22. XX returned to the UK from Poland after a relationship breakdown with her ex-partner. Since moving in, I have supported with finding suitable schools for the children and successfully applied to Sefton Welfare Team for school uniforms. XX has been in and out of part time work, I referred her to Sefton at work and she is actively looking for work. Whilst she has been out of work, I have supported with applying for fuel vouchers, foodbank parcels and also delivered donations from Farm foods. Also applied for funding from radio city cash for kids, Family Action and a Christmas food hamper. This enabled the family to get food, clothing, and household items. I have been doing budgeting sessions with XX and she is starting to manage her finances better.

Family B -

XX and her 4 children moved into our accommodation on the 11/11/22. The family fled their One Vision property due to ASB. XX has high mental health needs and being anywhere near the property can trigger her PTSD. Children’s Services were involved and said it was unsafe for her to live in the property. I have supported with resettling into a new area- finding new

Agenda Item 6

schools for the children and applying for new school uniforms. XX needed support with applying for benefits for her disability and she is now in receipt of the correct amount. There are some rent arrears with One Vision, I am working with the housing options team to access funding to reduce these, once reduced by 50%, One Vision will write off the arrears. XX left all of her belongings in the previous property as she felt it was too distressing to return for them. I have secured funding for clothing, toys and household items for them, through the Family Action Fund. Also applied for presents from Radio City cash for Christmas fund. XX still needs budgeting support, and we are working on this at my fortnightly visits.

Family C –

XX and her 2 children moved in on the 1/12/22. XX fled DV from her ex-husband. XX has needed a lot of support due to always relying on her ex-husband and also a language barrier. I have supported with registering for utility bills, foodbank vouchers, supermarket vouchers and presents for the children at Christmas, through funding from Radio City. The whole process has been overwhelming for XX and she still needs weekly budgeting support. I have referred her to Asylum Link and will be attending the appointment with her for advice on her visa, extra ESOL classes and activities for her to meet new people. Her daughter has mental health issues, so I have been working closely with the school and social worker on how best to support her.

Family D –

XX and her 2 children moved in on the 21/12/22, after living in temporary accommodation for 8 months. The children are on child in need plans due to previous neglect issues. XX has worked well with children's services and the improvement in her daughters has been praised by professionals. XX is vulnerable due to mental health and has never had her own property before. She needs a lot of support with budgeting and managing a property. I have been visiting weekly, we have set up all her utility bills and applied for a reception place for her daughter for September. I have accessed funding from Radio City Christmas appeal, Radio City cost of living grant and delivered a Christmas food hamper off for the family. I have also given the children toys/clothing from donations to our service.

Family E –

XX and his son moved into our dispersed accommodation on the 21/12/22. XX only got full access to his son 8 months ago, as the child was removed from his mother. This has been overwhelming for XX and he has had to change his lifestyle as a result of this. Knowsley Children's Services are still involved. XX has lived in and out of hostels and supported accommodation in Liverpool and Sefton for most of his adult life. He requires a lot of support due to never paying utility bills and managing a property. When he moved in, he was on a benefit sanction and was relying on a hardship payment and lending money from friends. At sign up, our service topped up his gas/electric meter and provided him with supermarket vouchers to buy food. I also delivered a Christmas food hamper. Due to XX not receiving his UC payment until mid-Jan, I applied

for fuel vouchers from Energy Projects Plus and gave him foodbank vouchers, as well as delivering donations from Farm Foods. I have supported with registering him for utilities, a GP and advising on managing the property (keeping property to a good standard, emptying bins, health and safety within the home). I will continue to monitor this at weekly visits. I have accessed funding from Family Action Fund for household items and toys/clothing for his son. I have completed a budgeting plan for XX to follow when he receives his monthly UC payment.

Family F –

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

6. Summary

- 6.1 The learning gained from commissioning the pilot with a model of dispersed supported accommodation has been a valuable lesson as Sefton looks to find better ways of assisting the most vulnerable families approaching its Housing Options Team for assistance.
- 6.2 The commissioned project continues to assist both Sefton's Housing Options Team by being able to place a family who they would struggle to accommodate into a property close to their support networks that has the support that the family requires in order to make the placement a success and being offered the property as a general needs tenancy after the 12 months has passed.
- 6.3 Of the first ten families placed into service since September 2022, none of them have left the service showing the ongoing success of this service to those families and the wider homelessness and wider services.

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Agenda Item 7

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 19 September 2023
Subject:	Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Locality Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To consider the revised policy document for 2023/24

Recommendation(s):

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

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve a revised policy, following consultation with Elected Members during the summer of 2023.

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

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

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

Agenda Item 7

(B) Capital Costs

None.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None.								
Legal Implications: Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980 places a statutory duty on Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, as follows:- 'In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice'.								
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.								
Impact on Children and Young People: No.								
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>No</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> The current vehicles are the latest models, which are fuel efficient and more environmentally friendly than previous models. Officers are continuing to explore options for an electric or hydrogen fleet, however, there is currently nothing on the market that meets our requirements.	Have a positive impact	Yes	Have a neutral impact	No	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
Have a positive impact	Yes							
Have a neutral impact	No							
Have a negative impact	No							
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes							

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: This is a universal service for the benefit of all.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This is a universal service for the benefit of all. The Winter Service Policy helps to ensure that safe passage is maintained for our communities along the identified routes.

Agenda Item 7

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

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7352/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5553/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Merseytravel

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

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

Appendices:

Annex A – Consultation letter to Elected Members.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Agenda Item 7

1. Introduction/Background

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

2.0. Consultation

- 2.1 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is subject to an annual review, reassessment, and consultation.
- 2.2 In accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member and a copy is attached as Annex A. The closing date for responses was 28th July 2023.
- 2.3 Merseytravel were also contacted and asked if there have been any revisions to their bus routes since last year.

3.0 Revisions to the Policy

- 3.1 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is based on guidance provided by the government in a document entitled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure'. Guidance relating to practical issues and delivery of the service is now contained within the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) Practical Guidance Documents.

Agenda Item 7

- 3.2 A number of enhancements have previously been made to the winter service policy to ensure that we are compliant with this guidance. These include a new purpose-built salt storage facility, capable of holding 3500 tonnes of rocksalt and new gritting vehicles with the latest technology to allow for optimum spread rates.
- 3.3 Officers will review any revised and updated guidance, as and when it is released, to ensure that we are kept fully compliant with the latest recommendations.
- 3.4 To date, there has been no response from Merseytravel. Officers will continue to work with them to ensure that we do treat all designated bus routes, as per our policy.
- 3.5 We had one response from an elected member requesting to grit a location which is currently not part of the designated routes. As the location does not meet the criteria to be included, we are not intending to include this location into the policy.
- 3.6 A request was received in January this year from a member of the public, via a Councillor, to grit all school locations in the Borough. A previous exercise, undertaken in 2010, estimated the additional costs for this would be £220,000 per year. Based on the revised legislation in 2013, including more stringent requirements for gritting vehicles, the updated costs would now be approximately double that figure at £440,000 per year. This is based on estimates of gritting activity which does fluctuate each year, depending on weather conditions.
- 3.7 Officers have discussed the analysis and findings of gritting all schools with Cabinet Member – Locality Services. Current funding does not allow for implementation at this time. Members are therefore requested to note the report with a view to future consideration should the financial situation change.
- 3.8 Other minor amendments have been made to the policy to reflect the updated age profiles of equipment and also job title changes.

Agenda Item 7



Highways & Public Protection

Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle
Merseyside L20 3NJ

Councillors

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

Dear Councillor,

Winter Service Review 2023

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

As an overview of last season, we treated the carriageways on 57 occasions and the footways on 31 occasions. To give you a comparison, the gritting figures for previous years were- 34 carriageway and 9 footway routes in 2021/22, 50 Carriageway and 22 footway routes in 2020/21, 34 carriageway and 8 footway routes in 2019/20.

The increased gritting figures for last season were mainly due to the prolonged cold spell in December when we had to grit the carriageways on 18 occasions in 2 weeks. Whilst we didn't have any issues with salt supply and the main routes were kept clear throughout, we did receive requests to treat locations that are not part of the agreed policy locations which, unfortunately, we were not able to respond to.

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

Whilst officers are confident that the policy remains fit for purpose, Councillor Fairclough has requested that all Elected Members be contacted to seek their views on the service during the winter of 2022/23, ensure that any issues can be addressed during the summer period and any further revisions considered before the commencement of the winter season 2023/24. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could advise me of any issues you would like to raise regarding the policy and the provision of the winter service. I would be grateful to hear from you by 28th July 2023 to allow sufficient time to revise and present the policy for approval.

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

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

Following receipt of any issues raised by Elected Members, the policy will be revised as appropriate and presented to Cabinet Member for approval and adoption for the coming winter

Agenda Item 7

season. The finalised policy and operational plan will then be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills) on 19th September 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Jordan', with a horizontal line above the name.

Gary Jordan
Highway Asset Manager

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Agenda Item 8

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	5 September 2023
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)		12 September 2023
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		19 September 2023
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		26 September 2023
Subject:	Executive/Scrutiny Protocol		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Adult Social Care Children's Social Care Communities and Housing Education Health and Wellbeing Locality Services Planning and Building Control Regeneration and Skills Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek formal approval of changes to the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for submission to Cabinet.

Agenda Item 8

Recommendation

That Cabinet be requested to approve changes to the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol in relation to:

- (1) Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, being requested to seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon; and Section 6 of the Protocol relating to pre-scrutiny be amended accordingly; and
- (2) reference being made to informal meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review topics in Section 8 of the Protocol.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with a decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

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

No alternative options have been considered. The purpose of the report is to comply with a decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(A) Revenue Costs

See above.

(B) Capital Costs

See above.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes. There is a potential that topics

considered by informal meetings; and plans and strategies submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) will have an impact on children and young people. Such impacts will be described in more detail at the informal meetings or when plans and strategies are considered.

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 associated with this report. However, matters considered at informal meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees; or when plans and strategies are discussed may have positive or negative impacts. Such impacts will be described in more detail at the informal meetings or when plans and strategies are considered.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The development of an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol should improve the quality of relationships between Cabinet and Scrutiny Members; clarify respective roles; and contribute towards more effective scrutiny in Sefton.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above. It is also considered that an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol could be utilised as a training tool in Sefton, particularly for newly elected Members.
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 Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7302/23) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report. The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5502/23) is the author of the report.

(B) External Consultations

Agenda Item 8

Consultation has taken place with other local authorities that have previously adopted an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol. Findings indicate that the existence of a Protocol improves the quality of relationships between Cabinet and Scrutiny Members; clarifies respective roles; and contributes towards more effective scrutiny.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meetings.

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

Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to the report:

Appendix A - amended Executive/Scrutiny Protocol if recommendations are approved by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Following consideration of guidance published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny during February 2020 entitled "Taking Scrutiny Seriously" the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 30 July 2020, resolved (Minute No. 27) that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be requested to develop an Executive/Scrutiny protocol for use in Sefton.
- 1.2 The meeting of the Management Board held on 8 September 2020 agreed a draft Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for consideration by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.3 The draft Protocol was considered and approved by the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees during October and November 2020.
- 1.4 The draft protocol was subsequently approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 December 2020.

2. Suggested Additions to the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol

- 2.1 At its first meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year, held on 20 June 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.
- 2.2 The Management Board suggested two additions to the Protocol and these are set out in Paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

3. Pre-Scrutiny - Submission of Plans and Strategies to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- 3.1 The Management Board noted that often strategies and plans were included on the Forward Plan but that rarely were they submitted to Overview and Scrutiny for comment prior to their submission to Cabinet/Council; and suggested that officers should plan more time into the process for formulating plans and strategies to enable Overview and Scrutiny to have an input and provide comments to Cabinet/Council.
- 3.2 The Management Board resolved that Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fell within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, should seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it was not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) at its meeting held on 27 June 2023 also agreed a similar resolution to that detailed in paragraph 3.2 above.

4. Working Group Reviews/Informal Meetings

- 4.1 Section 8 of the Protocol refers to the arrangements to be adopted by Overview and Scrutiny Committees when establishing topics for review by Working Groups.
- 4.2 The Management Board noted that a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2022/23 established informal meetings, rather than Working Groups, to undertake reviews of services.
- 4.3 Accordingly, the Management Board agreed that the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol should be updated to reflect the operation of informal meetings.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Members views are sought on the proposals detailed above for submission to Cabinet.
- 5.1 For illustrative purposes, an updated version of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol is attached highlighting the changes if ultimately approved by Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet.

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EXECUTIVE / SCRUTINY PROTOCOL



ONECOUNCIL Working Together

Agenda Item 8

APPENDIX A

PROTOCOL ON EXECUTIVE & OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RELATIONS IN SEFTON

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Aims of the Protocol
3. Functions of Overview and Scrutiny
4. The Conduct of Meetings
5. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
6. Pre-Scrutiny
7. “Call-In” of Decisions
8. Working Group Reviews
9. Public Participation in the Overview and Scrutiny Process
10. Specific Duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) – Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements

APPENDIX A

1. Introduction

- 1.2 This Protocol applies to all Members of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees, co-opted members who sit on O&S Committees, all Members of the Cabinet and senior officers.
- 1.3 The Protocol is not intended to replace *Chapter 6 – Overview and Scrutiny of the Council's Constitution*, nor is intended to replace *Chapter 2 – Members – Code of Conduct*, rather it is intended to enhance and supplement the requirements of the Constitution and set out guidance for good practice.
- 1.4 Scrutiny should be a strategic function of the authority. It should be central to the organisation's corporate governance; a crucial cog in the decision-making machine.

2. Aims of the Protocol:

- 2.1 Clarify Relationships
- 2.2 The aim of the Protocol is to clarify relationships between O&S Members and Cabinet Members, to ensure an efficient O&S function, including holding the Cabinet to account on behalf of the electorate, and to encourage good communication between O&S and the Cabinet.
- 2.3 Positive Interaction
- 2.4 The Protocol refers to the respective powers, roles and responsibilities for both O&S Members and Cabinet Members. Guidance is set out on the way in which both O&S Members and Cabinet Members should interact, in order that Members maximise their roles and for the Authority to have an effective O&S function for the benefit of the Council as a whole. It also offers guidance to senior officers who support this process.
- 2.5 Promote a Culture of Mutual Respect
- 2.6 The Protocol aims to promote a culture of mutual respect, trust and courtesy in the relationships between O&S Members, Cabinet Members and senior officers, and to foster a climate of openness leading to constructive debate and communication, with a view to ensuring service improvements for the benefit of Sefton citizens.
- 2.7 Parity of Esteem
- 2.8 "Parity of esteem" means that the scrutiny function of the Council deserves the same respect, and has the same importance in the governance system, as

Agenda Item 8

APPENDIX A

executive decision-making activities. Requests from scrutiny to engage with, and recommended changes to, policies, plans and activities should be treated with the same respect and consideration as if they came from a Cabinet Member.

3. Functions of Overview and Scrutiny

3.1 The general role and specific functions of the O&S Committees can be found within Chapter 6 of the Council's Constitution. The key responsibilities of O&S are to:

- (a) Hold the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and senior officers to account for their decisions, on behalf of the electorate;
- (b) Review Council policy, the way policies are implemented and their impact on local citizens;
- (c) Scrutinise Executive decisions before they are made and before they are implemented; and
- (d) Contribute to the development of policy by investigating issues of local concern and making recommendations to the Cabinet, to the Council and to partner organisations.

4. The Conduct of Meetings

4.1 Cabinet Members are actively encouraged to attend meetings of O&S Committees relevant to their Portfolio, in order to present their Cabinet Member Update Reports and to respond to questions/comments from O&S Members.

4.2 Cabinet Members may be required to attend meetings of O&S Committees in particular circumstances, e.g. the consideration of "called-in" items.

4.3 The principle of the "critical friend" should always be adhered to between Scrutiny Members and Cabinet Members, senior officers and any external partners.

4.4 All Members should promote an atmosphere of openness at the O&S Committee meetings and should strive to ensure that questioning and debate takes place within a climate of mutual respect and trust.

4.5 O&S Committee Members should be prepared to ask searching questions and where necessary, provide constructive challenge to Cabinet Members on issues that fall under their Portfolio.

APPENDIX A

- 4.6 Cabinet Members should be willing to respond to any question put. However, it should be noted that that Cabinet Members may not necessarily be in a position to answer every question immediately or in detail. In such circumstances the matter may be referred to a senior officer in attendance or a written answer may be sought.
- 4.7 Cabinet Members should value the contribution of O&S Committee Members who raise issues and respond in an appropriate and manner, in order to make a positive contribution to Scrutiny meetings.
- 4.8 Cabinet Members should, with the permission of the Chair, be permitted by the O&S Committee to speak upon any item on the agenda under discussion and may at any time offer to assist the Committee by the provision of factual information or advice in relation to the matters under discussion.
- 4.9 The Chair, supported by senior officers, shall provide leadership and guidance to the Committee on all scrutiny matters and shall promote the Committee's role in improving services and monitoring the effectiveness of Council policies, through effective scrutiny.
- 4.10 Party politics and the use of the Party Whip shall be avoided during O&S Committees.
- 4.11 Senior officers shall liaise and agree their attendance at meetings of O&S Committees during the Municipal Year.

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

- 5.1 The Council's Strategic Leadership Board, comprised of the Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Heads of Service, shall be invited to identify any appropriate items for inclusion in the Work Programme of O&S Committees.
- 5.2 The Work Programme of items submitted to O&S Committees at the beginning of each Municipal Year shall be drafted in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 5.3 A manageable number of items should be identified in order to demonstrate that the scrutiny function "adds value" to the Council.
- 5.4 The O&S Committees will be responsible for setting their own work programme.
- 5.5 O&S Members are reminded at each meeting that they are able to request other items for inclusion within the Work Programme, provided such items fall within the terms of reference of the Committee.

Agenda Item 8

APPENDIX A

- 5.6 A Member of an O&S Committee is entitled to give notice to the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that they wish an item relevant to the functions of the Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee.
- 5.7 The Cabinet and/or the Council may refer a matter to one or more O&S Committees.
- 5.8 The Chair of the O&S Committee may consider alternative methods of dealing with items in order to avoid over-loading Committee agendas. These may include informal presentations, visits to front-line services, site visits / informal discussions with external partners, etc.

6. Pre-Scrutiny

- 6.1 The Key Decision Forward Plan sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the following four-month period. The Forward Plan is updated and published each month. The Forward Plan appears on the Council's website and an email alert is sent to all Members of the Council when a new Forward Plan is published.
- 6.2 A summary of the latest Forward Plan, setting out the Key Decisions that fall under the remit of each O&S Committee, is submitted to each meeting of the O&S Committees and appears under the Work Programme item, a standing item on each O&S agenda.
- 6.3 O&S Members should peruse Decisions to be taken and may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan that fall under the remit (terms of reference) of the O&S Committee.
- 6.4 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. Pre-scrutiny can be used to resolve potential disagreements.
- 6.5 Any items agreed for pre-scrutiny will be included within the O&S Committee's work programme.
- 6.6 Where O&S Committees request to pre-scrutinise a Key Decision, the relevant Cabinet Member should endeavour to attend the meeting concerned, in order to respond to questions, and consider the views put by O&S Members.
- 6.7 Relevant senior officers shall attend an O&S Committee meeting where a Key Decision is pre-scrutinised by O&S Members, in order to respond to questions, and consider the views put by those Members.

APPENDIX A

- 6.8 Cabinet Members may wish to seek views from Scrutiny Members on a Key Decision, particularly on policy development and review, before it is taken. The relevant senior officer will be responsible for forwarding the details through to the Scrutiny Manager for inclusion on the agenda.
- 6.9 The O&S Committee may express views or make recommendations in relation to Decisions to be taken.
- 6.10 The Cabinet will consider any recommendations or views expressed by the O&S Committees and to take such action it sees fit.
- 6.11 Utilising the option for pre-scrutiny does not exclude the Decision from being subject to “call-in”. However, it will allow the Cabinet Member(s) the ability to consider different views and perspectives of a Decision, before it is taken and avoid potential conflict and a requirement for “call-in”.
- 6.12 Heads of Service shall be requested to identify any policy/strategy items for pre-scrutiny by the relevant O&S Committee.
- 6.13 Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, should seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.

7. “Call-In” of Decisions

- 7.1 Decisions taken by the Cabinet appear within the Minutes of Cabinet Meetings. The Minutes indicate the “call-in” period for the Decisions made.
- 7.2 Decisions taken by individual Cabinet Members are subject to “call-in”, are published on the Council’s website, and an email alert is sent to all Members of the Council.
- 7.3 “Call-in” can occur when three non-Executive Members have reasons/evidence to challenge the Decision, based on the guidance set out within Chapter 6 of the Council’s Constitution.
- 7.4 A decision shall only be the subject of one “call-in” by non-Executive Members.
- 7.5 Non-Executive Members shall refer to a specific Decision and in instigating the “call-in”, are required to provide as much information, detail, explanation, evidence and/or facts as possible, within the requisition. This will enable appropriate officers to determine whether the “call-in” is valid or not.

Agenda Item 8

APPENDIX A

- 7.6 Non-Executive Members shall trigger the “call-in” electronically, using the Council’s Modgov system. This will alert the relevant officers and prevent the Decision from being actioned.
- 7.7 During 2017/18, the O&S Management Board developed a [Call-In Procedure](#) to be used at O&S Committees when dealing with “called-in” items. This was agreed by the four O&S Committees and shall be adhered to at all meetings held to consider “call-in items”.
- 7.8 The following are required to attend the O&S Committee meeting to consider the “called-in” item, in order to address O&S Members on the item and respond to questions / comments raised by O&S Members:
- (a) the lead “call-in” Member;
 - (b) the Leader of the Council and/or relevant Cabinet Member; and
 - (c) relevant senior officer representative(s).
- 7.9 Only the lead call-in Member shall be permitted to:
- Address the O&S Committee, explaining the reason for “call-in”;
 - Respond to questions put by Committee Members; and
 - Sum up the case for “call-in”.
- 7.10 Subject to the agreement of the O&S Committee, a representative of the public may make representations in relation to the “called-in” item, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure previously agreed by O&S Committees.
- 7.11 The “call-in” procedure should not be abused. It should not be used as a substitute for early involvement in the decision-making process. Its use as a party-political tool should be avoided.

8. Working Group Reviews/Informal Meetings of Committees

- 8.1 Heads of Service will be requested to consider potential topics for review via the Strategic Leadership Board and these will be submitted to O&S Committees for consideration, along with any other suggestions from O&S Members. The Committee shall approve any topics to be reviewed.
- 8.2 The [Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review](#) shall be considered in approving topics to be reviewed.
- 8.3 If a topic for review is to be considered by a Working Group at least 3 Members of the Committee shall be required to sit on a Working Group and one Member will be appointed as the Lead Member. Co-opted Members may sit on a Working

APPENDIX A

Group. If a topic for review is to be considered at an informal meeting of the Committee then all Members of the Committee will be invited to attend; and the Lead Member shall be the Chair of the Committee unless decided otherwise by the Committee. Informal meetings do not have decision making powers and are best suited to situations where members wish to be briefed on a subject by officers.

- 8.4 Heads of Service have a valuable role to play in the review process in terms of suggesting appropriate topics for review, possibly contributing to the scope for the review, the provision of factual evidence, and identifying suitable witnesses. Officers involved in the review shall be open and honest in their discussions with Working Group Members.
- 8.5 The role of the Lead Officer for the review will be to assist in drafting the scope for the review, to provide professional advice and to ensure access to relevant information and personnel for Working Group Members.
- 8.6 Further to a report on Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities being agreed by O&S Committees during October/November 2019, Working Groups shall consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration and, if so, how this should be carried out.
- 8.7 Working Group meetings shall be conducted in the manner outlined within paragraph 4 above. Working Group Members shall adhere to the principle of the “critical friend” during the course of a review. Constructive challenge may be adopted during discussions with Council officers, external partners, key stakeholders, etc. However, a culture of mutual respect shall be maintained at all times.
- 8.8 A final report, including any recommendations from the Working Group, will be drafted by the relevant officer from Democratic Services to reflect the views and wishes of the Working Group concerned, subject to any legal and/or financial implications provided by Legal and Finance officers.
- 8.9 Recommendations may be produced that impact on the Council or external partners.
- 8.10 The final report will be presented to the parent O&S Committee, the Cabinet, and finally to full Council.
- 8.11 The Lead Member of the Working Group concerned will normally present the final report to the Cabinet and to the Council. Where this is not possible, an alternative Member of the Working Group will be asked to present.

Agenda Item 8

APPENDIX A

8.12 The relevant senior officer shall ensure that an update on the implementation of recommendations is presented to the parent Committee approximately six months following approval of the final report by the Council. Actions taken since approval of the recommendations should be outlined within the update, together with progress on any implementation required. Where actions have not been carried out, reasons should be given, together with an anticipated timeline for implementation.

9. Public Participation in the Overview and Scrutiny Process

9.1 O&S Members should represent the voice of the public.

9.2 As outlined in paragraph 3.1 above, key responsibilities of O&S are to:

- (a) Hold the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and senior officers to account for their decisions, on behalf of the electorate; and
- (b) Review Council policy, the way policies are implemented and their impact on local citizens;

9.3 The Constitution indicates that O&S Committees allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern.

9.4 Citizens may contribute to Council considerations by participating in question time at Council meetings, making representations to the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member or a Committee and may be asked to contribute to O&S Working Group reviews.

9.5 The Council's petitions scheme, detailed within the Constitution, allows citizens to address O&S Committees.

9.6 As outlined in paragraph 7.11 above, subject to the agreement of the O&S Committee, a representative of the public may make representations in relation to the "called-in" item, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure previously agreed by O&S Committees.

9.7 As outlined in paragraph 9.5 above, O&S Working Groups shall consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration and, if so, how this should be carried out.

9.8 Senior officers may advise O&S Committees of particular matters of public concern, with a view to the possible establishment of a Working Group review to address such matters.

APPENDIX A

10. Specific Duty of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) – Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements

- 10.1 Local authorities may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in its area.
- 10.2 The NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) places a statutory duty on commissioners and providers of NHS / health services to consult local authority health overview and scrutiny committees on any proposals for significant development or substantial variation/reconfiguration in health services.
- 10.3 Section 30 of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provides that where more than one local authority is consulted on proposals for significant development or substantial variation in health services, a joint overview and scrutiny committee may be established to comment on the proposals for change.
- 10.4 The Council has delegated its duties relating to health services to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health).
- 10.5 At its meeting on 3 June 2014, the Council approved the [Protocol for the Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements for Cheshire and Merseyside](#).
- 10.6 The Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) shall adhere to the Protocol in relation to substantial variations and joint health scrutiny arrangements.

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Agenda Item 9

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	19 September 2023
Subject:	Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2023/24; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to confirm the date for a visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre; to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; providing information on the breakdown of offences for which penalty charge notices had been issued; and information on the reduction in time civil enforcement officers would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split.

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) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above;
- (3) the Committee determines whether the date of 9 October 2023 for a visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre and informal meeting of the Committee is agreed;
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (5) the information on the breakdown of offences for which penalty charge notices had been issued; and information on the reduction in time civil enforcement officers

Agenda Item 9

would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split be noted; and

- (6) In respect of the implementation of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group:
- (1) bearing in mind the views of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) and the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) that it is unlikely that their comments will change on the implementation of such recommendations for the foreseeable future then no further update reports be submitted on this matter; and
 - (2) however, if circumstances do change in due course, then the Assistant Directors be requested to provide updates to the Committee; and

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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.
Impact on Children and Young People: There are no direct implications for impacting on children and young people arising from this report. Any impact on 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
<p>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.</p>	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. However, any 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.
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

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

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

(B) External Consultations

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 9

Contact Officer:	Paul Fraser
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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2023/2024 – Appendix 1
- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review – Appendix 2
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Appendix 3
- Breakdown of the different offences for which the 34,000 penalty charge notices had been issued – Appendix 4
- Table of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group – Appendix 5

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

- 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. The Work Programme was approved by the Committee on 27 June 2023.
- 1.2 The Work Programme has been produced based on items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.3 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2023/24 and updated, as appropriate.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2023/24

- 2.1 It is usual practice for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 At its meeting held on 20 June 2023 the Committee agreed that any future reviews during the year be dealt with by informal meetings of the Committee rather than via Working Groups.
- 2.3 The Committee agreed that the first review be on the topic of refuse and waste recycling and in respect of this matter a visit be arranged to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre in August 2023 and that an informal meeting of the Committee be held following the visit. The date of 21 August was selected for the

visit and informal meeting but due to holiday commitments this had to be postponed due to a small number of Members being able to attend the visit.

- 2.4 Contact has again been made with the MRWA and they can facilitate a visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre on the 9 October 2023.
- 2.5 Members are requested to consider the suitability of this date select a date for the visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre and informal meeting of the Committee.
- 2.6 The Committee's views are sought on the selection of a topic(s) for consideration by an informal meeting(s) of the Committee.
- 2.7 A criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at Appendix 2.

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

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 3 for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 3.6 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.
- 3.7 In respect of pre-scrutiny the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting held on 20 June 2023 noted that often strategies and plans were included on the Forward Plan but that rarely were they submitted to Overview and Scrutiny for comment prior to their submission to Cabinet/Council; and suggested that officers should plan more time into the process for formulating plans and strategies to enable Overview and Scrutiny to have an input and provide comments to Cabinet/Council. This Committee at its meeting held on 27 June 2023 raised similar concerns.

Agenda Item 9

As Members will be aware, there is a report elsewhere on the agenda containing a recommendation that Cabinet be requested to approve changes to the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol and that Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, be requested to seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon; and Section 6 of the Protocol relating to pre-scrutiny be amended accordingly.

4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

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

4.4 Role

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

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

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

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.

4.6 **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be Members of the majority group. Councillor Steve Radford, a Liberal Party Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Chair for the 2023/24 Municipal Year; and Councillor Pat Moloney, a Liberal Democrat Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Vice-Chair.

4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

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

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

4.8 **Meetings**

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

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

4.9 A meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 5 July 2023. The Committee considered the following items:

- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Work Programme 2023-24
- Appointments of Scrutiny Members to the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Corporate Plan 2021-24: Quarter 4 2022-23 Performance Update
- Update on the Liverpool City Region Bus Franchising Consultation

4.10 A meeting of the Committee will be held on 6 September 2023. At the time of writing this report the Committee has not met but it is anticipated that the following items will be considered:

- LCR Investment Zone Update
- Development of the Next LCR Place-Based Pipeline
- Work Programme 2023-24

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

Agenda Item 9

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

- 5.1 The Work Programme report considered at the last meeting detailed the Committee's deliberations throughout 2022/23 on issues associated with the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group.
- 5.2 The information on this culminated (paragraph 6.4) by providing details of the views of the Assistant Director of Place - Highways and Public Protection upon consideration of the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers.
- 5.3 The Committee resolved (Minute No. 5. (6)) that the views of the Assistant Director Place – (Highways and Public Protection) on the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers be noted; and
- (a) a breakdown be provided of the different offences for which the 34,000 penalty charge notices had been issued; and
 - (b) explanation be provided on comments made in the report regarding the reduction in time civil enforcement officers would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split.
- 5.4 Appendix 4 to the report provides information on the breakdown of the different offences for which the 34,000 penalty charge notices had been issued.

The Assistant Director Place – (Highways and Public Protection) has advised that Members should note that the total number (31,493) in this exert is slightly different to that previously stated, as it covers a slightly different, more up-to-date time period (10/07/22 – 09/07/23). In summary, this shows that the five main reasons for issuing a PCN were: parking on double/single yellow lines; failing to display a valid pay & display ticket or voucher, in an on-street parking area; failing to display a valid pay & display ticket, voucher, or parking clock, in an off-street parking area; parking in a Residents Privileged Parking area without a permit; parking in an area covered by a loading ban. These accounted for almost 70% of the PCNs issued in this time-period.

- 5.5 The Committee, at its meeting held on 27 June 2023 referred to 2 paragraphs (contained in the information referred to in paragraph 5.2 above) which indicated that:

“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” and

“A possible further impact of a reduced number of CEOs for each function, and for parking control in particular, could be reduced visibility, compliance,

Agenda Item 9

enforcement, income, and therefore funding for the service, thereby further impacting the effectiveness of the service”.

Members considered that the information contained in the 2 paragraphs was contradictory, in that one paragraph indicates that all officers are deployed to enforce all functions; whilst the other paragraph indicates that a split in enforcement functions would have a detrimental impact in relation to reduced visibility, compliance, enforcement, income and the effectiveness of the service.

The comments of the Assistant Director of Place - (Highways and Public Protection) providing an explanation such comments are as follows:

“the first paragraph referenced, sets out the current arrangements for deployment. Namely, that all Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) are employed and deployed in a joint enforcement role. Under the present contract, this provides for 3000 CEO hours per month, typically deployed as 12 officers per day Monday to Saturday, and 10 officers per day Sundays/Bank Holidays. During these hours, all officers are simultaneously monitoring and enforcing parking and environmental offences. For example, if a CEO observed the driver of a car without a properly displayed parking ticket also drop and fail to pick up a cigarette, they could simultaneously issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for the parking offence and a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for the littering offence.

Within the funding available to the service, officers consider this dual enforcement to be the most effective approach.

Far more PCNs are issued than FPNs, and therefore more income is derived from parking offences/PCNs than from environmental offences/FPNs. This income supports the delivery of this service. The visibility of the CEOs helps to encourage compliance, and in the case of parking, this includes the payment of parking fees, which, although reduced since the Covid pandemic, remains a significant income stream for the Council, supporting the wider delivery of services.

The second paragraph referenced, addresses the impact of the alternative means of deployment that the Committee asked officers to consider, i.e., “the separation of parking offences and environmental offences, currently undertaken in a dual enforcement role by Civil Enforcement Officers”. Without additional funding, separating the roles would result in a smaller number of officers/hours separately deployed to monitor and enforce each group of offences (e.g. 6 enforcing parking offences and 6 enforcing environmental offences). It is considered that this method of deployment could result in a reduction in the number of both PCNs and FPNs issued, and resultant income. In the case of parking, it is felt that it might also increase the number of drivers “taking a chance” and either not paying or under-paying parking fees. Even if there was an increase in the number of FPNs issued, it is not considered that this would be of sufficient scale to counteract the reduction in PCN-derived income and income from compliant parking. Hence the comment that this could further impact the effectiveness of the service”.

Agenda Item 9

5.6 **Recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group**

In accordance with the Committee's work programme an update report on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group should be submitted to this meeting of the Committee. A report on this matter was last considered by this Committee in September 2022. The table attached to the report as Appendix 5 identifies the recommendations arising from the Working Group and the comments of officers on their implementation.

5.7 Contact has again been made with colleagues seeking an update on the implementation of recommendations.

The Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) has suggested an addition to the recommendation that "a high-profile publicity campaign be introduced to highlight the increased enforcement activity to be undertaken".

This is as follows:

"Officers will continue to seek to make these messages and campaigns impactful".

This information is highlighted in red on Appendix 5.

5.8 It is the view of colleagues that other than the above, there is nothing further to add and that furthermore, without additional funding, it is not considered that their views will change in the foreseeable future.

5.9 Accordingly, it is recommended that:

- (1) bearing in mind the views of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) and the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) that it is unlikely that their comments will change on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group for the foreseeable future then no further update reports be submitted on this matter; and
- (2) however, if circumstances do change in due course then the Assistant Directors be requested to provide updates to the Committee.



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.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
7.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 7 November 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
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

Tuesday, 16 January 2024, 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.	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

Criteria for Selecting Items
▪ 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

Potential Criteria for Rejecting Items
▪ 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 9

APPENDIX 2

SCRUTINY CHECKLIST DO'S AND DON'TS

DO
◆ Remember that Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Is about learning and being a "critical friend"; it should be a positive process◆ Is not opposition
◆ 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

◆ DON'T
◆ 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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APPENDIX 3

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN****FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2023 - 31 JANUARY 2024**

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, Oriol Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: www.sefton.gov.uk

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

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 3

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:-

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

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

NOTE:

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

Phil Porter
Chief Executive

APPENDIX 3

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Extension of Highway Maintenance Contracts	Gary Jordan gary.jordan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4731
Bootle Regeneration Strategy	Heather Jago heather.jago@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4619
Business Case for Proceeding with Phase 1 of The Strand Re-purposing Programme	Nicky Owen nicky.owen@sefton.gov.uk
Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - Business Plan	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029	Graham Parry graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3446
Southport Business Improvement District	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Extension of Highway Maintenance Contracts To agree extension of existing contracts			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Oct 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/09/2023 to 05/10/2023. Reason: work is ongoing on the preparation of the contracts			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	None			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Extension of Highway Maintenance contracts			
Contact Officer(s) details	Gary Jordan gary.jordan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4731			

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Bootle Regeneration Strategy Update and review Bootle Regeneration Strategy (Strand transformation related)			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Oct 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/09/2023 to 05/10/2023. Reason: work is on-going on the proposal			
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			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Business Case for Proceeding with Phase 1 of The Strand Re-purposing Programme Cabinet report detailing the proposals for proceeding with delivery of Phase 1 of The Strand Re-purposing Programme, which is being funded by £20m Capital Levelling Up Funding (“CLUF”) awarded to the Council by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”). The report includes the Business Case for the development, including an updated Business Plan for the Strand’s operating costs and income over the coming 3 years, fully accounting for proceeding with the development project.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Oct 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/09/2023 to 05/10/2023. Reason: To allow further development of negotiations with funders and potential occupiers to underpin the business case for proceeding with delivery of Phase 1 of the Programme and the use of the £20m DLUHC funding.			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Paragraph 3)			
Wards Affected	Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Commercial Development)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members, officers, LCR Combined Authority, Strand tenants, statutory consultees (Utility companies, police, fire brigade) local community groups and residents.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails, letters, meetings, a dedicated website and a unit in the Strand Shopping Centre.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Business Case for Proceeding with Phase 1 of The Strand Re-purposing Programme			
Contact Officer(s) details	Nicky Owen nicky.owen@sefton.gov.uk			

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Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - Business Plan Updated business plan for 2023-26 for SHOL			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Oct 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director - Place			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Led by company with input from board and council officers			
Method(s) of Consultation	Led by company with input from board and council officers			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - business plan			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk			

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires every Local Authority to publish a Homelessness Strategy at least every 5 years. This Strategy seeks to tackle all forms of homelessness and end rough sleeping.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Dec 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Public Consultation and Engagement Panel; key agencies linked to homelessness			
Method(s) of Consultation	Presented to the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel in July 2023 with a large number of key agencies linked to homelessness engaged with as well as interviews with lived experience.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029			
Contact Officer(s) details	Graham Parry graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3446			

Agenda Item 9

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Southport Business Improvement District Southport Business Improvement District Business Plan for 2024-2029 and ballot approvals.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Dec 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Cambridge; Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director - Place			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Officers, Members and Businesses			
Method(s) of Consultation	The BID will undertake extensive consultation with all businesses within the BID area. The outcomes of this consultation will be included within the report.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Business Improvement District			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315			

APPENDIX 4

For Period 10/07/22 to 9/07/23 inc. This is a different Period to that mentioned in previous discussions and over this same period 540 Fixed Penalties for Environmental Enforcement were issued

Explanation of Columns

Code All contraventions are issued under a contravention code
 Level Higher Level Contaventions are set at £70 / £35 discount, Lower at £50 / £25 discount. Some of the Higher level contraventions such as 02, 45, 47, 48 allow Penalties to be issued instantly, for 01 and Lower level contraventions an observation period is normally allowed
 Description As set in legislation
 Clarification A simplification of the Description - where required

<u>Code</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Clarification</u>
<u>On-Street Contraventions</u>				
1	H	6982	Parked in a restricted street during prescribed hours	Double / Single Yellow Lines
2	H	1952	Parked or loading / unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading / unloading restrictions are in force	Loading Ban signified by kerb blips
5	L	1443	Parked after the expiry of paid for time	Overstaying P&D ticket
6	L	5857	Parked without clearly displaying a valid pay & display ticket or voucher	
12	H	3208	Parked in a residents' or shared use parking place or zone without a valid virtual permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit or voucher or pay and display ticket issued for that place where required, or without payment of the parking charge	In an RPP without a permit
16	H	708	Parked in a permit space or zone without a valid virtual permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit where required	Disabled Persons Parking bay (outside House, or permit bay)
19	L	147	Parked in a residents' or shared use parking place or zone with an invalid virtual permit or displaying an invalid physical permit or voucher or pay and display ticket, or after the expiry of paid for time	In RPP with an invalid Permit
21	H	50	Parked wholly or partly in a suspended bay or space	
22	L	18	Re-parked in the same parking place or zone within one hour after leaving	Returning to Limited Waiting Bay
23	H	1754	Parked in a parking place or area not designated for that class of vehicle	Other than HGV parked in Loading Bay
25	H	252	Parked in a loading place or bay during restricted hours without loading	HGV parked in loading bay and not loading
27	H	639	Parked in a special enforcement area adjacent to a footway, cycle track or verge lowered to meet the level of the carriageway.	Parked on a dropped kerb, either for a house, business, or pedestrian crossing point
30	L	846	Parked for longer than permitted	Overstaying in a Limited Waiting Bay
40	H	598	Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without displaying a valid disabled person's badge in the prescribed manner	In Blue Badge Bay without Blue Badge
42	H	6	Parked in a parking place designated for police vehicles	
45	H	1156	Stopped on a taxi rank	
47	H	570	Stopped on a restricted bus stop or stand	
48	H	96	Stopped in a restricted area outside a school, a hospital or a fire, police or ambulance station when prohibited	on Zig Zags eg Outside school
61	H	135	A heavy commercial vehicle wholly or partly parked on a footway, verge or land between two carriageways	HGV parked on footway
99	H	218	Stopped on a pedestrian crossing or crossing area marked by zigzags	Pedestrian Crossing Zig Zags
<u>Off-Street (Car Parks) Contraventions</u>				
81	L	39	Parked in a restricted area in an off-street car park or housing estate	In a restricted area (eg hatched out area)
82	L	589	Parked after the expiry of paid for time	Overstaying P&D ticket
83	L	3588	Parked in a car park without clearly displaying a valid pay & display ticket or voucher or parking clock	
85	H	57	Parked without a valid virtual permit or clearly displaying a valid physical permit where required	Parked in Permit only car park without a permit
86	L	194	Not parked correctly within the markings of a bay or space	Parked out of bay
87	H	359	Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without displaying a valid disabled person's badge in the prescribed manner	Parked in Blue Badge Bay without Blue Badge
91	H	32	Parked in a car park or area not designated for that class of vehicle	Parked in a Coach Bay on a Car Park
<u>Total</u>		<u>31493</u>		

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APPENDIX 5

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

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

APPENDIX 5

made for storage of refuse generated in the property and that occupants use receptacles provided by Sefton Council for storage prior to collection. (wheeled bins or refuse sacks)

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

The licence holder must:

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

APPENDIX 5

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

APPENDIX 5

	<p>in the Peel Road area of Bootle to address a number of issues, including fly-tipping and dumping in rear entries. In this area the RP's and the council are working together in a coordinated way, including through regular multi-agency inspections, to address this issue.</p>
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Agenda Item 10

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee -(Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	19 September 2023
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – June 2023 to September 2023		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period June 2023 to September 2023.

Recommendation:

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

Reasons for the Recommendation(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)

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.

Agenda Item 10

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):								
Legal Implications:								
Equality Implications: There are no 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.								
Impact on Children and Young People: No 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.								
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will <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> 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.	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:

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
- Assistant Director of Place – Regeneration and Housing

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

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

Background Papers:

Agenda Item 10

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.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration & Skills) report		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Trish Hardy	Communities and Housing	19 September 2023

Cost of Living / Welfare Reform

Foodbank

4th April 2023 - 31st June 2023	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	1,804	485
Adults Fed	2,287	656
Children Fed	1,292	356
Total Fed	3,579	1,012
Crisis Type	Low income –28 vouchers presented 53 people fed	Cost of living rise: 98 vouchers presented 201 people fed
Family Type	Single 692 vouchers presented 61.73%	Single 348 vouchers presented 71.75%
Age group	Adults Age not specified: 1,399	30-44: 197

Sustainable Affordable Living Coordinator

The first meeting of Sustainable Affordable Living Network (SALN) has taken place. Reception has been warm, and although there have been several networks, groups and forums that already exist or have existed, members agree that being included in the network will be beneficial.

The network has been informed about the Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund that has been released by Central Government. There is £76m available with bids being accepted between £10,000 - £75,000. Due to the differing capacity and volunteer nature of a lot of organisations contained within the network, the Sustainable Affordable Living Project Coordinator is currently collating opinion about the potential for a network-facilitated bid.

Holiday Activity Fund

This year's programme is our biggest to date with 46 organisations offering funded HAF places. The team has commissioned 790 sessions creating 28,413 individual sessions and expect over 2000 young people to engage with the programme throughout the holidays.

There are four new clubs delivering sessions this summer: Community Multi Sports Academy, Little Sunshine Yoga, Angling for All and The Inclusion Hub. The new clubs have further expanded the breadth of the programme offering new activities including yoga and fishing and The Inclusion Hub is our first specialist SEND provision.

The HAF coordinator and officers from the Leisure service will continue to offer free swimming lessons for children eligible for free school meals during the summer holidays. Eligible young people are entitled to five free swims across the holidays with under 8's entitled to a free accompanying adult.

Agenda Item 10

Community Safety

A multiagency walk about has taken place on Netherton Park Estate as part of Merseyside Police' Clear Hold Build (CHB) initiative. The walk about was specifically to look at ways to design out crime on the estate, however, several environmental issues were noted and fed back to internal Council departments to address.

The Second Operational Delivery Group meeting for CHB took place on 27th July at the Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre. Partners agreed the Terms of reference and shared information on progress on actions since the last meeting. The group then visited the suggested site for new CCTV cameras and the site for a proposed community garden.

A community walkabout of the Carr Meadow Hey area took place with Police and Crime Commissioner & Ford Ward Councillors on Friday 28th July. ASB Officers from Sefton Council and OVH and the housing officer for OVH also attended.

Hate Crime

The Hate Crime JAG (formerly MARAC) meetings continue to take place monthly. The group are aware of increasing reports of far-right graffiti in different parts of the borough and are looking at ways of addressing this. Police have increased patrols and Graffiti is removed as soon as reported.

The Srebrenica Memorial Day this year was marked with messages to staff and the public online via social media and the flying of the Srebrenica Memorial Flag at Bootle Town Hall.

Equalities

The first Sefton Pride event took place on the 16th of July. The event was organised through a new CIC and included a parade down Lord and Church Street and a succession of artists performing at the event space inside Southport Market. The event was originally due to take place at Victoria Park but was moved to the market due to the unfavourable weather forecast. Feedback on the day has been extremely positive.

The Navajo reassessment took place over two days, 16th and 24th August. The assessor was happy with the Councils progress against its Action plan, with fuller and formal update to follow in early October.

Moreover, the first meeting of the Race Equality Monitoring Group took place in August, with terms of reference for the group agreed and the next meeting of the group scheduled for October.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Recruitment to the new Anti-Social Behaviour officer post has been successful and Raphael Munroe has joined the team. Raphael will be working across the south of the Borough. Street drinkers at the Strand, Southport Town Centre and South Road in Waterloo are an ongoing issue. The ASB team has taken part in two "Days of Action" with the Police and Police Licensing in June & July 23. The next "Day of Action" is being arranged for Waterloo and will also include colleagues from the street cleansing team.

Youth Service

One of our Youth Team, Sue, has completed her Level 3 Youth Support Worker Apprenticeship with a distinction. Sue was observed delivering an element of the new ASB Program that has been commissioned via the Safer Sefton Together partnership, which received some useful feedback from the young people and has informed delivery going forward.

LIBRARIES

Crosby libraries update

The Council has stated its commitment to progressing both the innovative new Crosby Village project and to the retention of the existing library in Waterloo. Given our aspirations for Waterloo and Crosby the Council has issued a statement to confirm that it is continuing to pursue both separate schemes.

Engagement with partners and detailed design work for the Crosby Village project continues at pace, and a updated Business Case will be presented to Cabinet in due course. The reports of the Cabinet meeting of 7th September 2023 include asking Members to note the procurement of an updated stock condition survey for the existing library.

Municipal Journal Awards success

At this year's Municipal Journal Awards Library Assistant Lizzie Todd beat off all rivals shortlisted to be named MJ Rising Star of 2023. This is a great achievement for her and for Sefton as a whole. The judges noted the huge impact Lizzie had made in the community with her innovative and unusual library projects. They commented on her dedication to the service and on the humble way she approached and delivered her work. At the awards ceremony, the host Huw Edwards also praised the unsung impact of libraries following budget cuts and the effects of the pandemic.

Update on the Colour of Pomegranates project

Using funding from the Future Prosperity Fund, the Colour of Pomegranates project has delivered further support to refugee women based in Sefton. The ladies group of approximately 20 women, plus children, meet fortnightly at Bootle library. They have been working with artist Jessica el Mal and two translators on various creative projects which have helped their conversational English improve. The culmination of these activities has been that the group have created a book of poetry, sayings and songs from their home countries. The ladies have been involved in all aspects of creating the text, which was produced in Farsi, Arabic and English with a book launch in July. A bid to fund this project for a further 3 years has been submitted to the National Lottery.

Further funding success

A new funding stream became available for public libraries to bid for called the Library On Fund. This is a British Library funding stream with a funding pot of £1.1 million available for projects which improve the digital presence of libraries. Most library services applied for funding, and Sefton submitted 2 bids. Both Sefton's bids made it to the second round of assessment, and 1 of the bids was ultimately successful. This was for £30,000 to create a digital advert for Sefton's Libraries which can be used on digital billboards, on social media and on screens in the libraries themselves. Only 30 library services in the country were successful and Sefton's bid was the only one in the LCR to achieve success.

New service innovation being rolled out in Libraries

During lockdown the library service subscribed to PressReader, which provides 7000 digital daily newspapers, published on PressReader before they go to paper print. Library members can access these digital newspapers via the library service website and the service has proved popular with a limited number of users. Some paper copies of newspapers are still provided and are still popular with a certain type of customer, often digitally excluded by choice. However, newspapers are becoming increasingly expensive to purchase in hard copy form and in some places they are no longer delivered. It would be beneficial for the customer and the library service if they all used the digital version.

To encourage our reluctant customers to become digitally included, some large screen tablets have been purchase using external funding, to provide a virtual newspaper reading experience in each library. The tablets are locked down PressReader can be accessed via them. The paper copy readers will be targeted and shown the benefits of PressReader and how using

Agenda Item 10

the tablets mean they can increase font size and have access to significantly more newspaper titles than in paper form.

Funding bids make it to round two

The Libraries latest funding bids have both successfully made it to round two of the bid stage. The bids were for £75,000 to National Lottery Reaching Communities fund to support sanctuary seekers work at Bootle Library and extend the work to Netherton Library. The second bid was for £75,000 to the Library Improvement Fund to improve access for children to Bootle Library and improve the outside space, both identified as a need by library users.

Most bids don't make it past round 1, and a full bid for round 2 of the assessment process will now be submitted.

THE ATKINSON

Theatre Programme

The performance spaces went 'dark' for most of August to enable cleaning, repairs and maintenance to the theatre and studio in preparation for the autumn season. From September the programme relaunches with its usual mix of music, comedy, talks and family shows. Highlights include comedian Rhys James' *Spilt Milk* (9 Sept) and Townsend Theatre's production of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (27 Sept).

Exhibitions Programme

Colourscape

The Atkinson's Landing space currently features an exhibition from Carole Dawber, a multi-disciplinary artist who creates colourful and abstract landscapes. Experimentation and evolution are important features of her process and the catalyst behind 'Colourscape' came during lockdown excursions along the coast. Constructing an abstracted narrative Carole captures the tones and textural details of the region to induce both feelings of nostalgia and escapism. A practising artist ever since graduating from Liverpool College of Art in 1978 Carole was subsequently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. The exhibition continues until 23 September 2023

Quilt/Grid/Pattern

A new multimedia exhibition commences from 16 September. Artists Kevin Laycock and Christopher Harris have reinterpreted historic quilt making through abstract painting and mixed media artworks. The exhibition also showcases examples of British 19th century quilt making and the artists' responses to the patterns and structures contained within them. Gawthorpe Textiles Collection provided the touchstone for Harris and Laycock's latest work. Housed at the National Trust's Gawthorpe Hall, the collection includes over 11,000 items of textile history.

Make It! Creative Sessions

This was the second year of Young Curator Summer activities. The programme included weekly Make It! Sessions starting with a science workshop linked to the galleries' Herbert Ponting Exhibition. Sixteen young people aged 14-18 participated with a further four returning Young Curators joining the group. The group has contributed to the planning for Heritage Open days in September.

Other news

Pocklington Trust

To review its offer to customers with visual impairments the Atkinson met with representatives from The Pocklington Trust. Training sessions will be arranged with staff to raise awareness and a couple of 'mystery shopping' sessions will take place. They will provide feedback on

the approach to the building, accessibility within the building, and movement between the galleries and museum. <https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/>

The Atkinson – 10th Birthday Celebrations

The 10th anniversary of The Atkinson's re-opening is a perfect opportunity to celebrate The Atkinson's achievements, and to re-introduce ourselves to our local community across Sefton and West Lancs.

Communications around The Atkinson's 10th anniversary began in May 2023 with an introduction in The Atkinson's Apr-Jun quarterly listing guide. This was followed by a bespoke video created in collaboration with Southport BID, a sponsored article in Lancashire Evening Post (online & print), and a feature on Stand up for Southport.

An ongoing digital campaign across The Atkinson's social media channels and e-newsletters asks audiences to share their memories and photographs. There is also an ongoing digital campaign celebrating The Atkinson's team, with professional portraits taken and personal statements written. Inside the Centre, digital screens have been animated with visitor comments and historic photographs.

A publicity campaign will focus on the 10th anniversary date of 28 November 2013. It will celebrate the Atkinson's continued value to the local community, its impact on the cultural landscape and contribution to the growth of Sefton's visitor economy.

Imagine Bamboo is Everywhere

This cultural project took place as a series of free events across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) throughout August, with the Sefton event delivered on Saturday 26 August at King's Gardens in Southport.

Strong and flexible, bamboo is used internationally in a range of ways, from small domestic utensils to significant construction projects. It has tremendous carbon absorption properties and as such offers many ecological benefits. This project used a non-invasive bamboo species, called Borinda, which has been harvested from Ness Gardens on the Wirral.

Activities included family craft workshops, dance, circus skills and music performances featuring Liverpool-based Pagoda Arts. Bamboo featured as a core material for all the activities, as well as the creation of original and striking sculptures by local artists, inspired by different places in Merseyside. This included local fabricator Julian Taylor, who runs a studio in Bootle. His construction was a bamboo stage entitled 'Under the Sea' with rotating components to reflect the rhythms of Sefton's coast.

The project was supported with funding from the Arts Council and was delivered in partnership between the LCR authorities. The Sefton event was a great success. With a constant stream of visitors, we estimate that over a thousand people engaged in the activities across the day.

Agenda Item 10

HOUSING

Property Pool Plus Implementation Update

The revised Property Pool Plus policy and associated updated IT system is due to be introduced later this year, with a scheduled implementation date of Monday 6th November 2023.

In advance of the implementation there is a need to undertake marketing and communication activities with existing customers and the wider public to raise awareness of the forthcoming changes.

This marketing and comms activity began on Wednesday 2nd August 2023, across the region with a planned schedule of messaging which has been developed into a PPP Toolkit and which will be sent to all Councillors before the launch of the marketing activity.

A fully Accessible Frequently Asked Questions document will be placed onto the Property Pool website. This clearly explains the changes people will see as a result of the new PPP policy.

Pause In Activity

To assist with the transition to the revised scheme there is a planned closure of the existing scheme to new applications from 7th October 2022.

There will also be a short pause in property advertising for two weeks from 23rd October 2023. This will allow time for all of the administration teams across the region to undertake the required preparations for the implementation of the new scheme.

Details of the planned closure will be clearly communicated to customers including clear information on the website providing detail to assist with preparation for submitting a new application when the scheme reopens on 6th November 2023.

Anyone who is homeless will be advised to contact the Housing Options Team for emergency assistance.

Affordable Housing Delivery

Affordable Housing delivery in the borough remains good with 159 properties completed in 2022/23 against a target set in the Local Plan of 150. In addition, the pipeline for new affordable properties looks positive.



However, facilitating Affordable Housing delivery in the borough remains a priority for the service for a number of reasons:

- Interest rate rises, construction cost inflation and a shortage of skilled trades is making the development market extremely challenging and we cannot assume that pipeline schemes will be delivered as planned.
- The trend of increasing private rents seen over the last few years has accelerated in the last 12 months, partly due to rising mortgage interest rates, further increasing the cost-of-living pressures on residents. The Council has no powers to regulate private rent levels in the borough.

In some cases rising mortgage interest rises, along with forthcoming changes to Capital Gains Tax regulations and propose regulation of the sector has led a number of landlords to exit the market. This has led to an increase in homeless presentations from tenants issued with Section 21 'no fault' Eviction Notices by their landlords.

As colleagues will know this Council has already taken steps to directly intervene to deliver new housing in the borough through the creation of Sandway Homes which is in the process of completing the development of two sites in the borough, at Meadows Lane in Ainsdale, and Barton's Close in Crossens. Both sites are approaching the end of their development programmes and in addition to 53 new homes for sale, both sites will provide an additional 25 new high quality Affordable Homes for residents of the borough. As outlined to Cabinet in May on each of the next three Sandway sites the Council intends to retain the Affordable Homes for use as Council Housing, providing approximately and additional 47 further affordable homes in the borough.

I am happy to report that the Council's arrangements to provide high quality management of these properties is also progressing. Following a comprehensive tender exercise a local provider of social housing, who is registered with the Regulator for Social Housing has been selected as the Council's Managing Agent.

A very positive Inception Meeting has been held and work is now underway to get them into contract and to action a number of tasks that need to be done before properties can be onboarded:

- Regulator approval to the appointment
- Policy Development – as a Registered Social Housing Provider Sefton Council is required to hold a suite of relevant policies relating to the management of socially rented housing. Because of the close alignment in values between our Managing Agent and the Council it is hoped that this process can be quickly achieved by adopting their existing policies. However, these need to be reviewed and formally adopted by Cabinet
- Procedures – we are currently working with the Managing Agent to map the 'customer's journey' to ensure that Sefton tenants get the best possible service. Branding of correspondence and standard customer letter templates also has to be developed
- Tenancy Agreement – a new Sefton Council Tenancy Agreement needs to be developed and adopted by Cabinet
- Governance – as a local authority with less than 1000 units in management there is no requirement to have a separate board/committee to provide governance for the stock. The council's existing governance arrangements are more than satisfactory for Page 143 However, there is still work to do to document and share with Cabinet how both decision making will be

Agenda Item 10

managed and how customer's will be able to engage in the management of their homes

I have discussed with officers the need to meet all housing need in the borough, including providing aspirational housing for those who wish to own a stake in their homes and I am happy to report that the first purchase through the low cost home ownership initiative First Homes is progressing in the borough. Officers continue to work with a range of providers to maximise the amount of affordable outright rental properties and those for low-cost ownership and the Strategic Housing Team is working with colleagues in Property Services to review Council owned land in the Phase IV Disposal Schedule to see what opportunities there might be to develop affordable housing rather than simply disposing of sites to the market individually.

Housing Standards Team

The new 5 year Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes commenced on 1st March 2023. Since the start of the new scheme over 1,000 licence applications have been submitted processing of the applications and compliance visits are being carried out. In the first quarter of the municipal year 65 compliance visits, and 242 inspections were undertaken by the team, 142 hazards were removed from rented properties.

The team have been successful at a Housing Tribunal appeal mediation session, where the Landlord appealed against their Civil Penalty Fine for failing to licence 2 properties during the 2018-2023 scheme. The Civil Penalty was upheld at the mediation session with an agreed reduced fine. There are a further 3 appeal cases and 1 criminal prosecution pending for failure to licence properties.

The service has recently prosecuted a private landlord who failed to licence their privately rented property in Bootle. The fact that the property was being rented came to our attention following a fire which occurred in the property in late 2022, caused by a number of safety issues in the property. The Court Hearing took place on the 25th July and the judge ruled in the council's favour. A fine of £35k was granted, the application to include the council's costs was approved in full, as well as a victim surcharge payment.

Where landlords fail to comply with informal action, the team continue to take formal enforcement action. During June & July this has included the service of 2 x Emergency Prohibition Orders, 4 x Improvement Notices and 3 x Intention to Serve Civil Penalty Notices for breaches of Additional (HMO) Licencing conditions and failure to comply with an Improvement Notice.

Work to reduce the number of long-term vacant homes has continued, and in the first quarter of the year 25 actions were taken by the team against owners of empty properties in the borough.

Management of the Council's Gypsy and Traveller site continues. There have been 3 Unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampments in Sefton during June & July.

Sandbrook Road Extra Care scheme

I am happy to report that disposal of the former Adult Education Centre in Ainsdale to Riverside Housing to develop 90 Extra Care Homes, 40 for Affordable Rent and a Short-Term Assessment Unit (STAU) has been approved by Cabinet. The STAU will be retained by the Council and will be a valuable asset to assess adults with learning difficulties. Construction is expected to commence before the end of the month.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	19 September 2023

Overview

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

It is clear that several areas of the service are struggling to meet expectations / basic standards within resources available and efforts are being made to address this. This has resulted in further increase in complaints, and negative press coverage for several areas of the service into the peak season of 2023.

To start to address this, an increase in revenue budget was approved by Full Council as part of the budget setting process for an additional £200k into the management of play areas / facilities from 2022/23 onwards (increasing the budget from £45k per year), and for several of the actions from the Coast Visitor Action Plan for the delivery of those actions on a permanent basis with a further £300k annual uplift – to include additional daytime and evening ranger staff, a full time Community Ranger for the Coast, increased litter management at key gateways, ongoing provision of temporary toilets at beach entrances, and a communications plan to encourage appropriate visitor behaviour. Further, the unachievable income targets were removed from April 2023, which allows the service to present a balanced budget for 23/24.

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

- the 500k Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier funding for conservation works over the next 5 years along the coast was accepted in February 2022, and the first years work have proved successful attracting regional media attention
- a major bid for Botanic Gardens is in early development, with a Task Group set up (chaired by Cabinet Member, and with ward councillors and community reps), and approval to consult publicly given at the Consultation and Engagement Panel in March 2022. Further, a successful pre-development bid to the HLF has provided resource and capacity to lead and deliver this consultation in Winter 2022/ Spring 2023, and to undertake the required surveys and analysis etc, all in order to be able to make a bid some time afterwards (whenever match funding has been

Agenda Item 10

secured). In the last quarter, this consultation has completed and a design workshop is now planned to develop and understand the scale and scope of the project, with the outcome of the consultation in mind

- consultation has been completed for the allocation of 'legacy' monies left for Hesketh Park in a residents will, and cost estimate / details for priority projects have been developed and a contract drafted with the trustees to formalise this suite of projects to be developed and delivered. Approval to proceed was confirmed at Cabinet in May 23, and the contract is now with the trustees for signing
- the Ainsdale Beach gateway schemes have reached various blockages, and so a paper was presented which agreed to pause all, and to seek resources for development of an overall masterplan for the area instead. This is being explored at the time of writing, together with a public statement to be shared to explain the apparent delays
- Cabinet gave formal approval to seek tenders for the future investment in Southport Golf Links in March 2022. The White House Café reopened in May 23 (with SHOL operating), and the course tender itself remains in abeyance, awaiting capacity and resources to proceed
- the FCERM team continue to work with the Environment Agency and other partner agencies on seeking capital monies to reduce flood risk.

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

What is performing well

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

This has led to the refresh and launching of the Service Vision in April 2023.

Highlights from the last quarter include:

- The service continues to work in partnership with many other organisations, partner agencies, and of course fundamentally our communities – supporting around 40 'Friends of', In Bloom and other volunteer groups, together with 300+ sports clubs and leagues that utilise our facilities;
- The service co-ordinated the In Bloom competition again this year, with 37 entries being made, and judging is ongoing at the time of writing
- The delivery of the Coast and Visitor Areas PSPO was added to the services work programme this year – approved at Full Council in July 22, this will enable better management of visitor behaviour, and address anti social behaviours in the designated locations. Officers are now in

discussion with other land owners and the emergency services to ensure a 'one coast/ one sefton' approach to rolling this out, incl engagement (and are discussing enforcement approaches, which has included a special Multi Agency Group meeting in June 23 to discuss the disruption and approaches to be taken to address 'unauthorised events').

- Bootle Driving Range is now operational and exceeding initial expectations, albeit with some operational challenges that the service are learning from (including an international shortage of range balls). Officers need to prioritise seeking a professional partner, to offer lessons, and explore seeking sponsorship too as part of the year 2 business plan
- The suite of short term improvement works to Ainsdale Gateway have been delayed as explained above, but a project management consultant has been engaged to deliver a full refurbishment of the toilet block (including the reintroduction of shower and drinking water facilities, together with the creation of a Changing Places unit within the improved building. Following procurement challenges, officer remain keen to see this element through to delivery and so are exploring alternative options at the time of writing.
- The Visitor Action Plan for 2023 is being enacted. The Multi Agency Group with other landowners and emergency services etc. continue to meet fortnightly, which will again include a pre, mid, and post season briefing will all coastal ward councillors, together with the special meeting mentioned above regarding unauthorised events

What requires improvement and what action is being taken

Overall work programming

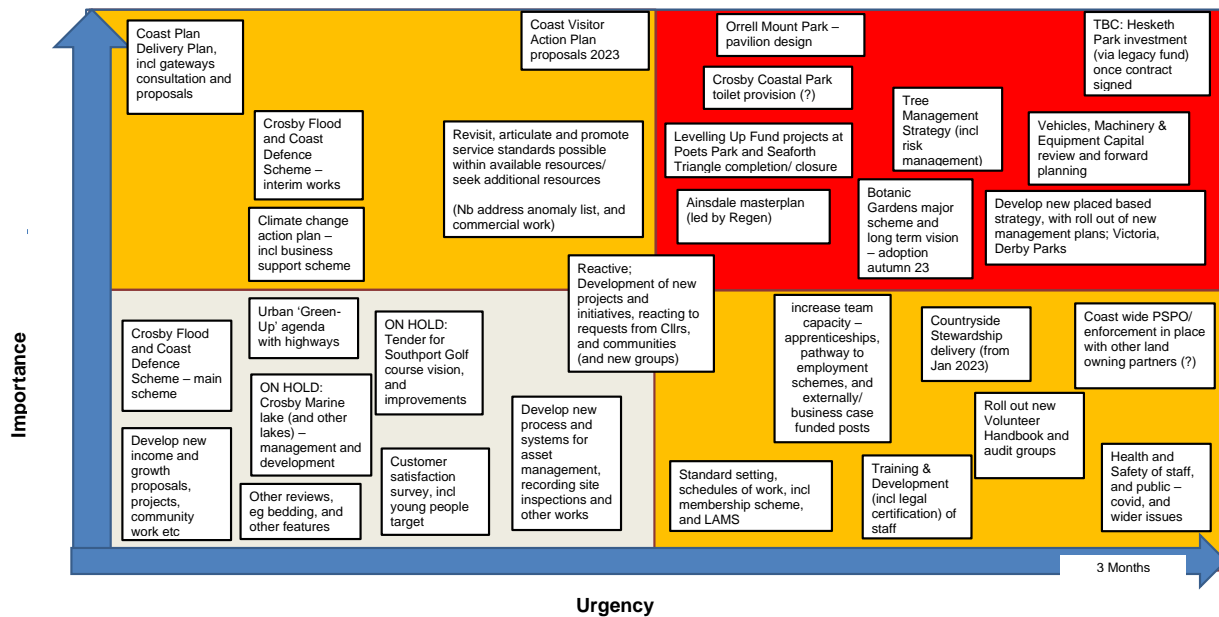
The Annual report highlighted the tracking of the services overall performance against the actions contained within the Service Plan which has been RAG rated over the last two years. This clearly shows that many actions have slowed down or stalled since the pandemic started due to a reduced staffing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

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

Agenda Item 10

GREEN SEFTON STRATEGIC WORKLOAD MATRIX – as presented to O+S Oct/ Nov 22, and updated 25.11.22, 10.2.23, 10.3.23, 25.7.23

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



Working with Volunteers

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

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

Following discussion with Cabinet Member during 2022, and comments received (including those from CVS, legal and personnel colleagues), the final version was approved in September 22. This has since been shared with all volunteer groups, with a request that the sign up to the updated document, and expectations contained therein.

Defining Standards

As part of addressing some of the frustrations from the community referred to above, we have also instigated a piece of work to define our maintenance service standards

Agenda Item 10

that we are currently resourced to provide. This is initially being prioritised on the inland parks and greenspaces maintenance aspects of the service, but team leaders are working up thoughts on defining standards across wider areas too. The first draft of this new document was shared with Cabinet Member at the April 2022 meeting, and final amendments are being made before releasing this wider in the coming months.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (Regeneration and Skills)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Date
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	19 September 2023

Highway Asset Management

Winter Maintenance

- The winter maintenance annual consultation has now been completed and any comments have been noted for inclusion in the report which will be presented to O&S (regeneration & skills) on 19th September.
- Salt is being ordered to bring us up to maximum capacity before the start of the next winter season which commences on Monday 30th October 2023.
- Pre-season calibration and checks will also be completed in advance of the new season.

Street Lighting LED retro fit scheme

- Work is continuing with the replacement of the high – wattage bulbs to maximise the energy savings. This is still on track for completion by the end of the calendar year.
- Officers are continuing to work with colleagues in finance to discuss the on-going 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.
- A report is scheduled to go to cabinet on 5th October to extend the current street lighting contract to align with the conclusion of the LED scheme. This will ensure continuity of works and also ensure consistency when dealing with any warranty defects that are discovered.

Traffic signals LED retro fit scheme

- The 1st phase of the traffic signals LED scheme has now been completed providing further energy savings to the Authority.
- This is a 2-year programme with the remaining stock due to be replaced within the next 12 months.
- This project is being externally funded through the Combined Authority.

Agenda Item 10

Highway Maintenance

- Planned maintenance operations are progressing well and in accordance with allocated programming timeframes.
- Officers are continuing to monitor expenditure, due to increased inflation costs, to ensure the programme is delivered within the available revenue budgets.
- Works undertaken using CRSTS funding is being reported to the CA on monthly dashboards in accordance with the funding requirements.
- 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

The service continues to perform well both financially and operationally.

Schools continue to support the service despite the increased costs of the service and the fact school budgets are under significant pressure.

We have one school leaving the service in September. The school is part of a wider academy trust with schools in Lancashire and for financial reasons, the Trust has chosen to move all its cleaning requirements to one private sector contractor.

However, a school which currently provides its own cleaning service, is returning to our service from September.

The service continues to support events in Southport such as the British Musical Fireworks Championships, The Southport Food and Drink Festival and The Southport Flower Show.

Fleet Services

Following the recent recruitment of the new Transport and Fleet Manager, the Office of the Traffic Commissioner has stipulated that as a requirement of issuing Sefton's Operator Licence, the Authority must now have two named holders of the CPC Transport Manager Road Haulage qualification on the Operator Licence.

Whilst this requirement has never been applied previously, the change is due to the size of Sefton's fleet and the concerns the Traffic Commissioner has regarding a national shortage of resource and resilience throughout the HGV Haulage Industry.

The service is considering a number of options to define how to proceed and meet the requirements stipulated to ensure continued compliance with the Office of the Traffic Commissioner.

The service recently received notice from the DVSA of its intent to inspect our MOT Nominated Testers and standards. They requested that one of the MOT registered mechanics attend an inspection at Long Lane in Liverpool of a vehicle that had passed for MOT at Hawthorne Road Depot 2 months earlier.

The Authorised Examiner Designated Manager (AEDM) for our MOT testing station was the mechanic who had carried out this particular MOT and he duly attended. His work was scrutinised by 3 Inspector Engineers for over 2 hours whilst he was present in an observational capacity.

The result was that his work was deemed acceptable of DVSA standards. Whilst the experience was quite daunting, it proves that the service provided by our staff can be held up to scrutiny at the highest level with success.

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 Patrol

The service has a total of 7 vacancies at present. Work has continued during the summer break with recruitment and the service has identified 2 new applicants who are awaiting medicals.

The annual requirement for all Patrols aged 65 and over to have a medical is currently being processed via our Occupational Health Unit. Staff within this group find the annual medical extremely beneficial as it also highlights any potential early-stage health issues that staff may have, particularly around blood pressure, eyesight and general health. Whilst the medical is a condition of service, staff do find it beneficial in general.

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.

A large number of our schools have contacted the service requesting an increase in hours for the Patrols. This is as a result of Government introducing a non-statutory expectation of a 32.5 hour minimum core school week by September 2023.

In July 2023 the deadline to meet this expectation was deferred to September 2024 at the latest, in recognition of the pressures facing schools.

This will have a direct impact upon the School Crossing Service, not only in the request for additional Patrols but also a budget pressure due to a potential increase in hours.

Work is currently underway to identify those staff and locations affected and to begin start the transformation process. The service will provide updates of on-going developments.

Agenda Item 10

Sefton ARC and Careline

The service has recently undergone a restructure which became effective from 1st August 2023. The restructure has provided a refreshed management structure and produced a financial saving.

The service has recently agreed to a trial of moving the process for providing CCTV footage to the Police via their platform "NICE" rather than providing it via disc/dvd. This will be funded through Merseyside Police and will realise efficiencies for both Sefton ARC and Merseyside Police. This will be trialled during September.

After meeting with Merseyside Police regarding the effectiveness of CCTV across the borough, they have provided funding for 8 new cameras. Additionally, the BID team have provided funding for an additional 4 new cameras throughout the Southport area. Discussions with Merseyside Police are ongoing to seek any further funding that is available to upgrade existing cameras on the CCTV network.

Waste Management

Officer attendance at the LCR Strategic Waste Partnership and Senior Officer Working Group continues. Sefton, along with all LCR districts have endorsed the LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework.

The recycling rate across Sefton is currently around 35%. The Government target for 2020 was to reach 50% of all household waste generated to be sent for recycling so Sefton continues to fall short of this. By 2035, the Government target is 65% of household waste to be recycled.

The service is reviewing the current recycling provision to ensure that the offer is available to all households as there continues to be low participation from properties who currently receive a sack collection style service.

Additionally, the service is exploring resource availability to improve education, engagement and participation with the aspiration of delivering targeted communication and behavioural change campaigns.

A route optimisation of the collection rounds is currently taking place, this will enable the Service to remove inconsistencies across waste collections, presenting balanced rounds which and provide greater resilience across the service. Route optimisation is a regularly evolving process as house building in the Borough continues.

Street Cleansing

The Street Cleansing Service has adopted a zonal approach to weed removal with teams deployed in a similar way to the leaf fall programme. This method has proven to be productive and provide greater ownership amongst the staff of their work area.

Feedback from residents has been positive. The external contract continues to be closely monitored for compliance. The season has seen optimum growing conditions with warm and wet weather.

Agenda Item 10

Fly tipping continues to be a blight on the Borough with significant resource being deployed on a daily basis to address the issue.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE		
Marion Atkinson	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills	September 2023

INVEST SEFTON

External funded programmes

Growth Hub

InvestSefton is one of the Liverpool City Region Growth Hubs working alongside the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (CA), Growth Platform, other local authorities, Chambers of Commerce and The Women's Organisation. The total value for delivery in each of the LA areas is £20,000 compared to the £50,000 of previous years. **Government has announced that Growth Hub funding has been extended until September 2023. InvestSefton will continue the delivery of the Sefton growth hub.**

ERDF Business Growth Programme (BGP) In Sefton, Growth Hub activity is merged with the ERDF Business Growth Programme (BGP) to help provide a more cohesive service to businesses. The team is focussed on supporting business growth and new job growth through business advice, diagnostics, and brokerage.

The team has submitted its final expenditure claim up to 30th June which includes the following performance outturn:

Output	Target -June 2023	Actual	% variance
C1Businesses receiving support	460	445	-3.26
C5 New businesses supported	72	72	0
C8 Jobs created	309	336.16	+8.79

The team met its C5 target and surpassed its C8 targets and was within the 5% EU tolerance rate set for the programme which was reviewed to take account of the economic downturn during the Covid-19 pandemic.

UKSPF Shared Prosperity Funding

Place Based Business Support- Sefton's allocation is £782,414, which includes c.£23k top-sliced monies for central co-ordination and website development via Growth Platform.

Business Start-up support- This will now be delivered by the Place Based Business Support programme. InvestSefton is to commission support for start-ups via competitive

Agenda Item 10

tender for a £80,000 contract, an extract from the Request for Quotation (RfQ) is shown below:

The commissioned service will include activities to support the establishment of new business start-ups in any sector and from a wide range of legal entities that include sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, and social enterprises. New businesses that have been trading for up to 12 months will also be eligible for support.

The requirements of this commission are to:

- *Provide 1:1 information, advice and guidance to individuals and businesses who meet the specified criteria (to be defined)*
- *Provide a programme of events and workshops including a structured programme and additional themed workshops focusing on specific sectors.*
- *Establish networking groups for newly formed businesses*
- *Provide business support to newly trading businesses (less than 12 months) to ensure that they are embedded in the local economy and achieve greater survival rates*
- *Manage the referral of all individuals who start a business to InvestSefton*

Both the commissioned supplier and businesses assisted will be expected (where applicable) to sign up to and participate in Sefton's Caring Business Charter.

Special consideration should be given to how the service will target people in protected characteristics groups including ethnic minorities, disabled people and women.

NB. All activity is to be delivered in a range of locations across the borough to be agreed with InvestSefton including key town centres.

Town Centres business support-Similarly, the team is also going to market for a business support sustainability commission worth £60,000. An extract from the RFQ is shown below:

Specific support will be made available to businesses in key town centre locations, including (but not restricted to) Bootle, Crosby, Maghull and Southport. In essence, the Council is looking to support the sustainability of businesses through direct 1:1 support.

The benefits of sustainability are wide reaching. According to the World Economic Forum, businesses are faced with increasing pressure to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting into their practices and business models. The pressure comes from multiple stakeholders. A 2022 poll showed that 88% of institutional investors put ESG on par with operational and financial considerations when making investment decisions; 60% of employees choose a place to work based on their beliefs and values, while 58% of consumers buy or advocate for brands that match their beliefs. (Edelman Trust Barometer)

*[*Harnessing power of SMEs can shape the future of sustainability | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org)*

Sustainability can also help businesses to improve operational efficiency and reduce their costs, leading to increased profits and growth.

The requirements of this commission are:

- *Delivery of activities including events, workshops and 1:1 advice and support that raise awareness and understanding of sustainability, offer practical advice and guidance on how to become more sustainable and the development of a sustainability policy and action plan.*

- *Delivery of activities including the following (but not limited to) themes; carbon footprint reduction, buying local, reducing energy consumption, reducing energy costs and waste minimisation.*
- *At the end of the support each business that has participated will have a sustainability policy and action plan in place.*
- *Supported businesses will take part in marketing campaigns that showcase how they have become more sustainable.*

While there are no restrictions on location, it is envisaged that this support will be delivered to clusters of businesses from the following town centres, Bootle, Crosby, Maghull and Southport with the business cohort coming predominantly from the following types of businesses:

- *Accommodation providers*
- *Cafes, Bars and restaurants*
- *Independent Retailers*

The supplier will work in partnership with InvestSefton to deliver engagement activities, raise awareness and interest in the programme and identification of businesses that are suitable for support.

Both the commissioned supplier and businesses assisted will be expected (where applicable) to sign up to and participate in Sefton's Caring Business Charter.

NB. While there is no restriction on location, priority will be given to Southport, Bootle, Maghull and Crosby town centres.

The closing date for both tenders is 22 August 2023, selection will take place during September with a view to having appointments for an October 2023 start.

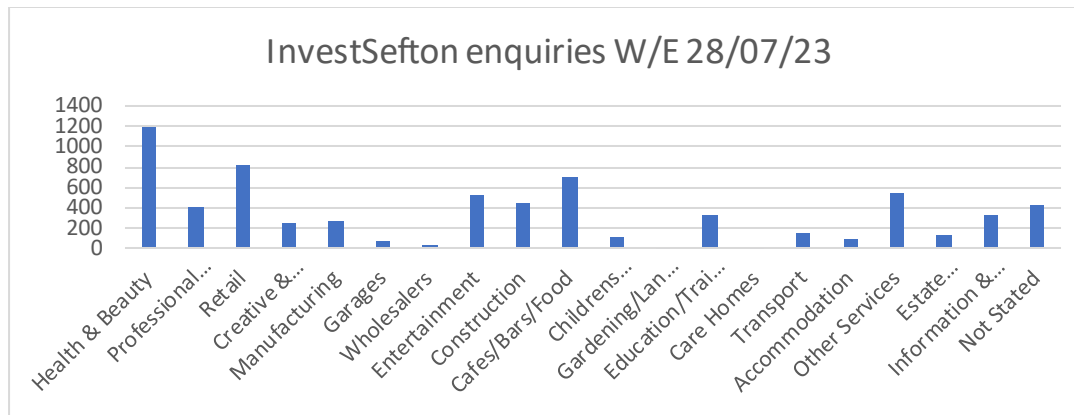
Business engagement Website

- From Friday 21st July to Thursday 27th July 2023, the website had 126 unique sessions
- The most visits this week was on Tuesday 25th July.
- Since the new website went live on Monday 30th March 2020 until Thursday 27th July 2023, the site has had a total of **68,633** unique sessions.
- Posts on the website and twitter this week have included promoting the recruitment to the cluster boards for the LCR Combined Authority Business & Enterprise Board, also promoting the new cohorts for the Help to Grow Programme from the University of Liverpool Management School.
- InvestSefton twitter page has 1613 followers
- The Sefton Huddle Facebook page has 23 members.

Business enquiries

Since March 2020 InvestSefton has handled 6,911 enquiries from a wide range of businesses. Breakdown by type of business is provided as of 28 July 2023:

Agenda Item 10



Total enquiry numbers from 13th March to date:

Year	Total Enquiries
13 th March 2020- 31 st March 21	3740
1 st April 21- 31 st March 22	1325
1 st April 22- 31 st March 23	1413
1 st April 23 – to date	433
Total	6,911

Case studies

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

Electrical contractors based in Maghull and specialise in solar panels as well as undertaking general electrical works both commercial and domestic. The business plans to establish themselves in the Northwest and North Wales for solar panel installations and battery storage, working with an increasing number of developers and local councils through tender opportunities. InvestSefton supported the business by undertaking a website audit and content review to improve the customer experience when visiting the website and to enable the business to provide a clear message of the services it provides.

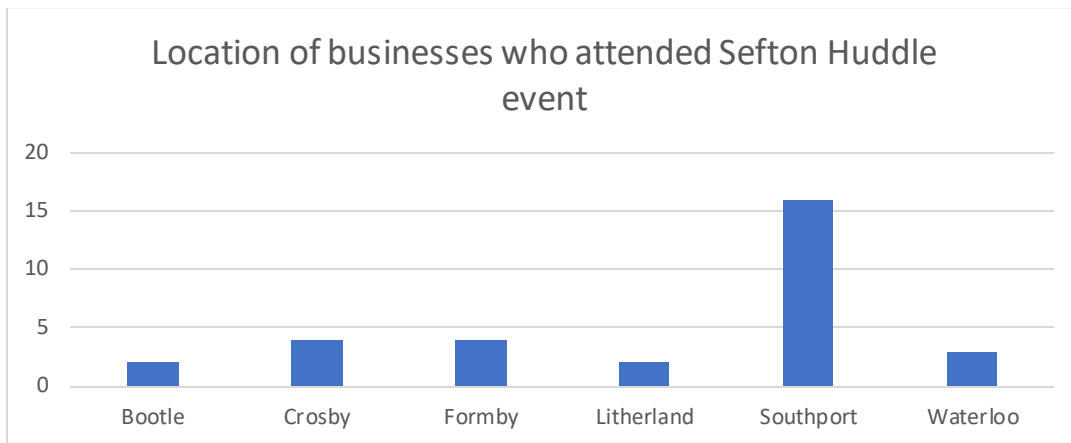
Property Management & Property Service business based in Southport. The business works with private investors looking to make money in the short and longer term. This includes renovating and refurbishing large period properties for resale. The business is Growth orientated and is looking to expand its services for landlords by working with Eco Energy schemes to implement works that will make the premises more attractive for resale/rental. InvestSefton Programme supported the business by researching Eco Energy schemes and helping the business to develop a Net Zero plan.

Chauffeur driven limousine and prestige vehicle hire business based in Aintree. The business has been trading for 20 years and provide services for wedding, airport transfers and corporate clients, as well as prom nights for schools. The business is looking to supplement its services with minibuses which will be used for school contracts. They are also looking to apply for an Eco Stars fleet recognition accreditation. InvestSefton assisted the business with the process of tendering and bidding for schools' contracts as well as supporting them with the application for Eco Stars fleet management for a green fleet accreditation.

Webinars/Events

InvestSefton’s webinars and events have become a useful vehicle for engaging with businesses on a one-to-many basis. The most recent event was Sefton Huddle-the digital and technological business forum which met for the second time on 29th June at Marine Football Club.

Presentations included an update on business support for digital and tech Sefton businesses and a presentation from Innovate UK EDGE on AI, Chat GPT and raising funding in the creative sector and tackling cybercrime. A total of 31 businesses attended (35 delegates) of which 9 were women business owners.



Feedback included:

“Great and valuable event as always, met lots of new people and the speakers were highly informative. Unmissable event and thanks for continuing to support and champion the DCT sector in Sefton.”

“Back to basics in marketing and GDPR and trends. Lovely to work with your team – yet again! Thank you for this opportunity”

“Great talks, information delivered in short but informative presentations”

Businesses were also asked how they would like to develop the group and ideas included ‘speed networking meetings and engaging more women through various specialist groups/networks. The team has also set up a Facebook group called Sefton Huddle and 23 members have already joined.



The Cyber resilience presentation has also led to two new workshops both from 10am-12pm with networking from 9.30am on:

Agenda Item 10

-Weds 20th September, The Lake House Waterloo

- Thursday 21st September, Formby Hall

REGENERATION : GROWTH & INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Regeneration Service continue to lead and support the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme for Sefton by helping to deliver a number of key Council priority projects across Sefton including external partner projects. In addition, the team help to manage the monitoring for a number of externally funded capital projects.

The current status of these projects is included below:

BOOTLE

Bootle Town Centre

The Council is progressing plans for next phase of re-purposed Strand Shopping Centre and including use of the Salt n Tar Canalside event space established in Bootle.

- The Salt and Tar Music Weekend event took place between the 7th and 9th July 2023
- The Event was the first major event to take place on Salt and Tar, even though the site was not 100% complete. The event was deemed as a major success attracting over 6,000 people over the weekend, visitors came from all over the region with many coming from Bootle, Sefton, Liverpool City Region and much further such as Cumbria.
- Due to the high profile of the event the social media interaction on the salt and tar channels grew rapidly leading up to and during the event. Also, many of the visitors from outside The City Region had not been to Bootle before, this demonstrates the power of events to attract and change perception.
- The weekends weather was extremely unsettled for the Saturday and Sunday, the event health and safety team made decisions on both days to delay gates opening to ensure that it could go ahead safety. The rain did cause around 10% of ticket holders not to attend.

Strand Transformation Programme

- Following consideration by Sefton Cabinet in May to accept DLUHC capital levelling up funding of £20M for Bootle Strand, work is progressing at pace to develop the first phase of the Strand repurposing.
- The Council will consider late this year the next stage of work involving selective demolition and detailed designs for phase 1 implementation programme. A number of statutory approvals will be required to support delivery and work is progressing to be able to secure the necessary approvals for these currently, with a view to commencing partial demolition work early in 2024.
- A communication and engagement plan are also being developed to support the programme and share the project with key stakeholders including those directly affected and those who currently use the Strand. A unit within the Strand is to be

used for engagement and information sharing on the project as it progresses in addition to media updates and formal consultation stages.

- Discussions with highways and public protection regarding the Strand service road are also progressing for any potential road closures required 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 in 2022.

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. Following planning approval granted in April 2023, Keir construction have been appointed as the main contractor for the site demolition and enabling work which started in Aug 2023.
- Key historic items such as lighting, dance floor and art deco panels have already been safely removed to be used in MLEC.
- Once demolition and enabling works are complete the main works will commence, this is planned for spring 2024.

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 and work tendered on the Chest this summer 2023. Tenders are currently being evaluated with the intention of finalising assessment of submission by the end of September 2023 and starting on site later this year.

Les Transformation de Southport

- The first phase of transportation improvements, focussing on the area around Southport Market – Kings Street, Market Street, East Bank Street.
- Market Street and Eastbank Street is programmed for delivery later in 2023 and early 2024. This exciting project should help transform this area of the town centre and set the standard for other improvements. The programme of work is intended to avoid seasonal disruption.

Building a Better Customer Experience

- New learning modules have now been developed by Southport College and have been rolled out amongst existing and new learners.
- The pilot of the Building Better Customer Experience Training with Southport College has now been completed, in total 68 learners participated in the pilot including existing learners currently enrolled at the college and employees of a local business. The feedback received during and after the pilot programme was exceptionally positive and Southport College are now proposing to roll the course out to larger cohorts to meet demand. Training for volunteers and workless people through Sefton's Adult & Community Learning service is also proposed as part of this pilot programme.

Agenda Item 10

CROSBY

Crosby Town Centre Regeneration

Crosby New and Existing Library at Waterloo

- Sefton Council has announced it is pursuing the futures of both Crosby Village and Waterloo Library as two separate schemes in August 2023.
- Sefton Council is committed to helping secure a successful and robust future for Crosby Village and in addition the Council's Cabinet has given consideration as to how refurbishment of the existing Library in Waterloo can be progressed as separate scheme.

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) following soft market testing that indicated a sufficient level of interest to encourage a formal marketing of the site.
- Sefton is assessing responses received and carrying out further discussion with parties who have expressed an interest as part of ongoing due diligence. Marketing of the site will continue in the interim. 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 2023 Cabinet agreed the next stage of work to bring it into full Council ownership including ongoing negotiations with outstanding owners.
- Cabinet agreed to progress appointing agents to explore the market in the site to support the Council's ambitions for change. Work is ongoing, however initial expressions of interest from the market are positive 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

Events

Southport Food & Drink Festival - 2nd – 4th June

- The 2023 Food & Drink Festival was one of the busiest attendance wise.
- Feedback was extremely positive from both the public and the traders.
- The new site layout was well received again by both the public and traders.
- Booking forms for next year's event will be sent out in November

Southport Air Show - 9th & 10th September

The Southport Air Show took place on the 9th and 10th of September, the event is worth over £1.5m to the local economy with most of the hotels full and increased custom across the town with large of visitors travelling for the event.

Because of a combination of The Red Arrows being advertised s opening the show at 12 (The Council has no control over this), great weather forecasted for Saturday and storms forecasted for Sunday resulted in bumper crowds on the Saturday which unfortunately resulted in large queues. The ground team worked as hard as they could to get people parked and into the event. Advance communication about arriving early and using all forms of transport was communicated leading up to the event.

Unfortunately, The Red Arrows cancelling is out of our control, , but with all air shows the lineups are subject to change at short notice. It was evident that the town's business benefited greatly over the weekend, boosting the local economy by millions. Over 9 months planning the event took place with lots of the tourism team being on site all weekend and the week before from 6am every day, unfortunately Council staff received large amounts of unacceptable abuse from members of the public. With the majority from people from outside the event boundary trying to get in for free using force.

In conclusion the event attracted 40,000 to the event site with tens of thousands more into the town.

The British Musical Fireworks Championship – 22nd & 23rd September

- Event plans are now finalised.
- All infrastructure and event staff have been confirmed.
- All competitors have provided relevant documentation.
- Event set up will commence on Wednesday 20th September.

Destination Marketing

- **Summer Campaign** – The main campaign runs until the end of August. It has included radio (both FM and digital), out of home advertising (37 large format digital billboards across the northwest), website updates, e-newsletter and other digital activity (Facebook and Google PPC).
- **PR** – Media coverage has included MSN, Liverpool Echo, Lancs Live, Birmingham Live, Head Topics and local Reach plc digital media and Dune fm.
- **Visitor Guide** – Work has begun on the 2024 edition; early concepts have been received and approved. Full copy expected in September. Advertising sales are underway.
- **Southport Restaurateurs Association** – The 2024 guide design is about to commence. Guide to be delivered before Christmas for distribution from end of January. Membership currently stands at 20.
- **E-newsletter** - Database stands at circa 52,000 with the addition of 2022/2023 data and regular newsletters are sent to this audience (the latest being as part of the summer campaign).
- **Travel Trade** – Our stand at British Tourism & Travel Show (March 2024) has been booked. We are also attending The Group Leisure & Travel Show in Milton Keynes on 5 October, this will be on a stand-share basis with Liverpool. 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.

Agenda Item 10

- **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 (105 this time last year also).

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 pre-construction service agreement with Kier Construction they will undertake all demolition and enabling works.
- The main enabling and demolition work started in Aug 2023
- Before the enabling works installation of hoarding and utility diversions will need to be completed. Hoarding and compound set up commenced August 2023.
- Key historic items such as lighting, dance floor and art deco panels have already been safely removed to be used in MLEC.
- Once demolition and enabling works are complete the main works will commence, this is planned for spring 2024
- RIBA Stage 4 is due to be completed by the end of September, this will allow further detailed costing before progressing with the main contract.
- Value Engineering is taking place to ensure Stage 4 works remain on budget.
- The project is still due for completion in 2026 with ASM then needing 3 months for final fit out.
- Event attended at English Martyrs Primary School in Litherland – 'Meet The Professionals' organised by Elevate was a 'speed dating' style event for careers. Representing the Visitor Economy on behalf of Sefton and accompanied by Gardiner & Theobald – Project Manager for MLEC. We met with approximately 60 children organised into 12 groups. The event was a fun way to interact and inspire year 6 students to consider careers they are not aware of. The feedback from the organiser was very positive and as a result we will be supporting further events.
- Presented at 'Career Carousel' event at Meols Cop High School Southport for year 9 students. 8 workshops with approximately 25 students in each. In line with the school's theme to 'broker aspirations', by inspiring students with the knowledge of the breadth of opportunities on their 'doorstep', this event was used as a preparation to a larger event which will be held across the trust in November at Southport Market. An overview of Southport's Visitor Economy was presented with an emphasis on the importance of events. On 6th September 180 students attended an event which at Southport Market – 'Career Detectives'. The events will showcase the MLEC information and its importance to the future of the Visitor Economy along with representation from Sefton Regeneration Team, Kier Construction, and various other local business representation.
- Initial conversations for future engagement have also taken place with Sefton Volunteer Service – CVS and with Compassion Acts. As one of their support services Compassion Acts organise the 'uniform hub' for schools and to expand this service we are looking to use the organisation as a conduit to deliver further initiatives such as, 'Back to School' essential kits, 'Suited Up' – interview clothing, and 'Christmas Eve Treat Bundles'.

Southport Pier

Agenda Item 10

- Pier remains closed due to health and safety concerns with further damage to decking after visual inspection.
- A full structural survey has been completed; initial feedback has now confirmed the Pier must remain closed until full refurbishment. The final survey is still awaited.
- External support has been appointed to lead on Cost Management, Project Management, and other key services.
- It is now estimated the full works will be more than £13m, this includes works to the sub-structure including timber joists and steel work. These costs will be further refined though the next few months with a full report being presented to Cabinet later this year with engagement with funding bodies ongoing.

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